



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



May 15, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Marootian, Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M St SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Re: ANC6A Extended Sidewalk and Slow/Healthy Streets Requests

Dear Director Marootian:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on May 14, 2020, our Commission voted 8-0-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that DDOT evaluate the below ANC6A locations for sidewalk extensions for safe operation of essential businesses and to allow local restaurants additional outdoor seating space once the Mayor's Stay at Home Order is lifted. In addition we request that your agency work with our Commission to select pilot routes for slow/local traffic only circuits to allow residents to engage in healthy, distanced outdoor exercise.

Sidewalk extensions have been deployed in limited locations in DC, including Giant Food at 300 H Street NE. Our Commission is requesting that DDOT evaluate the feasibility of additional locations for essential business operations now and begin permitting for extended outdoor seating areas for restaurants once takeout-only restrictions are lifted. Essential businesses, including restaurants in the H Street Corridor require additional public space now to allow for safe queueing during pick up of take-out orders. Once restaurants are permitted to serve on-site, they will require additional outdoor seating space, including conversion of parking lots and curbside spaces to dining areas; the cities of Tampa and Cincinnati have already authorized extended outdoor seating space for restaurants.² Struggling local restaurants will need the added space to safely serve patrons and generate enough revenue to stay open; curbside spaces that can accommodate one private vehicle can instead serve several patrons, increasing economic activity and tax revenue. Lastly outdoor transmission rates of COVID-19 appear to be substantially lower than indoor transmission rates³: even after restrictions are lifted, until a vaccine is widely available it is likely that patrons will be reluctant to share indoor spaces. We have identified the following corridors in ANC6A for potential conversion of on-street parking to pick-up drop-off only (PUDO) or permitted parklets for outdoor seating adjacent to restaurants. We also welcome the opportunity to discuss additional locations with DDOT.

- 800-1400 blocks of H Street NE (consider converting all curbside parking in this stretch)
- 1500-1900 block of Benning Road NE

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

² <https://barredindc.com/2020/05/11/how-dc-can-help-keep-its-bars-and-restaurants-aliv/>

³

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/494348-new-study-finds-few-cases-of-outdoor-transmission-of-coronavirus-in-china>



Our Commission is also interested in piloting slow/local traffic only “healthy streets” routes to help with reducing crowding in parks and allow for safe outdoor exercise. This could be piloted by placing simple barriers and signage at cross streets along the route. Resident volunteers could assist with managing and placing cones/temporary barriers and signage. As just one example, Seattle created more than 20 miles of “Stay Healthy Streets”⁴ that are closed to thru-traffic and have reduced speed limits, but allow residents, essential workers, emergency service providers, delivery providers, and garbage and recycling collectors to continue to have vehicle access.

As our April 14, 2020 letter requesting DDOT establish slow streets has not yet received a response, we are offering the following routes as possibilities for pilot testing in ANC 6A and adjacent areas (please see the attached route maps). We welcome the opportunity to discuss these and other locations with your staff through our Transportation and Public Space Committee and/or Commission meetings.

<p>Route A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Unit-600 blocks of 12th St NE● 1200-1600 blocks of F NE● 100 to 600 blocks of 16th NE● 1300-1600 blocks of A NE● Sidewalk to get to 12th St via North Carolina and East Capitol Streets	<p>The map shows a route starting at the intersection of 12th St NE and F St NE, heading east on F St NE for 1.00 km to 16th St NE, then south on 16th St NE for 1.50 km to A St NE, then west on A St NE for 2.00 km to 12th St NE, then south on 12th St NE for 2.50 km to East Capitol St NE, and finally west on East Capitol St NE for 2.90 km back to 12th St NE. A yellow shaded area is shown at the top left of the map.</p>
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<p>Route B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1000 block of K St NE● 600 to 900 blocks of 11th St NE● 1000 block of F St NE● 600 to 900 blocks of 10th St NE	
<p>Route C (includes areas outside of ANC6A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 200 to 1300 blocks of I St NE● 700 to 900 blocks of 13th NE● 200 to 1300 blocks of G St NE● 700 to 900 blocks of 2nd NE	

As we noted in our letter last month, other jurisdictions in the US, including Denver, Philadelphia, Seattle and New York have successfully opened streets to non-motorized users during this period of necessary social distancing. London⁵, Paris⁶ and other global capitals have enacted even more ambitious permanent plans to ensure residents can continue to have healthy, safe options for

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<https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/london-to-transform-streets-to-prepare-for-increase-in-cycling-and-walking-5258>

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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carltonreid/2020/04/22/paris-to-create-650-kilometers-of-pop-up-corona-cycleways-for-post-lockdown-travel/#40ae30c054d4>



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transportation once restrictions are lifted.⁷ We ask that DDOT actively plan for a future that does not result in greater personal vehicle traffic, and associated increased pollution and health risks which will disproportionately affect our most vulnerable residents, as commuters avoid public transportation for fear of transmission.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at AmberANC6A@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Copy to:

Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Mary Cheh

MOCR Tyler Williams

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<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/05/03/business/bc-eu-virus-outbreak-cycling-out-of-lockdown.html>