



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



May 16, 2012

Mr. Ronaldo Nicholson, PE  
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003

*Re: Feedback on the appearance and design of the midline power station*

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

At our regularly-scheduled and publicly-announced<sup>1</sup> monthly meeting of May 10, 2012, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A (ANC) voted 8-0-0 (with five required for a quorum) to provide DDOT with the following feedback regarding the design of the midline substation.

ANC 6A is pleased with the steps DDOT has taken to provide design alternatives and include a CaBi bikeshare station as part of the project. When deliberating the options presented, our Economic Development and Zoning Committee felt that:

1. The southern and eastern facing walls shouldn't be blank as this will attract graffiti.
2. A ticketing kiosk should not be part of the substation because it will be underutilized, as most passengers will use SmartTrip cards or purchase tickets at Union Station.
3. A community billboard will likely become filled with advertisements and will not serve its intended purpose.

After careful thought, our ANC believes that the following design elements are the best alternative for reducing graffiti, minimizing costs and visually tying the midline substation to the H Street Corridor.

1. The northern face should be available for use by the adjacent business (currently Kahn's BBQ) to support its outdoor seating (e.g. menu displays, potted plants, etc). We only ask that the business not be permitted to install backlit signs for advertising itself or its products. Non-backlit signs that advertise the name of the business would be acceptable.

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on [anc6a-announce@yahoo.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahoo.com) and the ANC-6A@yahoogroups.com (not controlled by the ANC) email group, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.

2. On the eastern face, we urge DDOT to incorporate a design of the local street grid into the brickwork. This street grid shown in Figure 1 is the symbol of H Street and it can be integrated by using darker colored bricks for the streets and lettering and raising them in relief to the rest of the brickwork.
3. On the southern face, we recommend that hearty shrubs be used to soften the appearance of the substation.
4. For the roof, we recommend that DDOT solicit a design for a sustainable green roof that can be a showcase for Green Roofs across the City.

Figure 1: H Street NE Street Grid symbol



On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Holmes  
Chair

cc: Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Councilmember