

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)  
July 20, 2009

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:05
- II. Introductions
  - A. Present: Commissioner Nick Alberti, Shane Artim, DeLania Hardy, Ward 6 Transportation Planner Jamie Henson, Sean Lovitt, Rob Stevens (Rosedale Citizens Alliance) and Omar Mahmud (Chair)
  - B. Absent: Lance Brown, Diane Hoover and Marlon Smoker
- III. Community Comment - None
- IV. New Business
  - A. Presentation/Q&A with Jamie Henson, Ward 6 Transportation Planner
    - i. Mr. Mahmud introduced Mr. Henson to the committee and provided a brief overview of the purpose for Mr. Henson's visit. Mr. Mahmud reported that he and Mr. Henson met during the week prior to the committee meeting to go over the transportation, public space and planning issues the committee encounters most frequently.
    - ii. Mr. Henson reported to the committee on the following key issues he discussed with Mr. Mahmud and took back to staff at DDOT to get guidance:
      1. Public Space Enforcement – The committee raised the following specific concerns:
        - a. The process for requesting review and enforcement of possible public space violations is unclear. For example, it is not clear who in DDOT residents should contact about these issues. Mr. Mahmud told Mr. Henson Matthew Marcou has been extremely helpful in the past, but that he doesn't believe requests should be routed through Mr. Marcou as a regular practice. Mr. Henson asked Mr. Mahmud to pass on his last communication with Mr. Marcou so that Mr. Henson could see who Mr. Marcou assigned to research and enforce the reported public space violation.
        - b. Utility boxes installed in public spaces.

- c. Commercial trash receptacles. Who to contact about whether they are on public space or not.
  - d. Who to contact regarding use of public space for construction projects.
  - e. Installation of fences that enclose public space.
  - f. Parking on public space like on wide sidewalks. Apparently, DPW and MPD can write tickets for other parking violations, but cannot write tickets for public space violations. It was suggested that a legislative fix may be required to remedy this problem.
  - g. Mr. Henson agreed to look into these issues further and report back to Mr. Mahmud and the committee.
  - h. Mr. Henson also explained that DDOT is divided into the following five administrations, each of which is responsible for various functions:
    - i. Transportation Policy & Planning Administration (TPPA) – Mr. Henson explained that his office falls under this administration. All development projects go to Mr. Henson’s office where planning issues are reviewed on the front end to ensure the plans do not call for public space to be infringed upon without authorization. The DDOT Public Space Committee also falls under this administration.
    - ii. Infrastructure Project Management Administration (IPMA)
    - iii. Traffic Operation Administration (TOA)
    - iv. Mass Transit Administration (MTA)
    - v. Urban Forestry Administration (UFA)
2. Parking – Particularly in entertainment district. Mr. Henson reported that Damon Harvey of DDOT has received preliminary approval for Residents Only Parking on certain residential blocks adjacent to H Street. Mr. Mahmud expressed his hope that, although this effort will likely provide short-term relief for residents, DDOT also focus on developing long-term strategies to deal with parking scarcity going forward, including enhanced public transportation options and identification of additional parking facilities (e.g. Hechinger Mall).

3. Streetcar and construction of H Street – Mr. Henson pointed out that the DDOT website contains updates on the construction project.
  - a. Mr. Mahmud asked how our ANC could go about requesting a faster construction schedule for the H Street portion of the project, as was recently done for the Benning Road portion. Mr. Henson did not have any recommendations.
  - b. Mr. Henson reported that the underground utility work is almost finished.
  - c. Commissioner Robinson recommended that the committee invite the H Street construction managers to an ANC meeting to provide a comprehensive construction update. Mr. Mahmud pointed out that the committee does not have the authority to schedule invitees on the Commission agenda. The request should come from the Commission. Commissioner Alberti indicated the request could be made at the September ANC meeting.
4. Prioritization process for pending projects.
  - a. Traffic calming requests made by residents’ petition – According to Mr. Henson, the IPMA division looks at the site and determines whether it is a good candidate for traffic calming measures and attempts to identify funding for implementation of such measures.
    - i. Mr. Smoker pointed out that the petition process requires requests be made on a block-by-block basis when many of the problems prompting the request span several blocks.
    - ii. Commissioner Alberti followed up this observation by asking how the ANC can encourage or request “mini studies” for particular areas. Who can the request be directed to? Mr. Henson that it would be best to contact the DDOT Director, Gabe Klein, and Karina Ricks, the Head of Policy and Planning.
      1. Commissioner Alberti also asked Mr. Henson if someone at DDOT can explain where the District is on technology for speed bumps. In other words, what is being done to make them safer, more attractive, etc.

2. Commissioner Robinson pointed out the need to: a) figure out how to deal with a proliferation of traffic calming requests; b) determine whether speed bumps being installed are the most appropriate ones to be installed for a particular location (best design, safest, most aesthetic, etc.); and c) improve the approval process. Mr. Robinson would like to know who weighs in on the speed bump design that is chosen? Are ANC's given an opportunity to provide input? Mr. Henson recommended these questions be sent to DDOT Director Gabe Klein and copy him.
  - iii. Prioritization of areas to be studied and recommendations to be implemented.
    1. Mr. Henson pointed out that senior DDOT staff consider which studies should be conducted and decide which construction projects to pursue on a year to year basis.
    2. Mr. Henson also confirmed that there is room for the ANC to provide input on prioritization of projects in our ANC. The ANC can make recommendations via a formal resolution.
- b. Mr. Henson also briefed the committee on other projects in our ANC in the current pipeline, including:
- i. NOMA circulation study – Will evaluate how to get people in and out of NOMA once it gets built out and transportation capacity for the area. The study will also find ways to promote bike access, transit access, east west access to the NOMA area.
  - ii. C Street Study – Meant to evaluate the traffic caused by motorists traveling down E. Capitol from across the river and merging onto C Street NE. The study will focus on effective traffic calming measures for this area.
  - iii. Construction projects.
    1. Conversion of 19<sup>th</sup> Street from one-way traffic to two-way traffic. Mr. Henson

indicated that conversion of 17<sup>th</sup> Street to two-way is not under design yet while 19<sup>th</sup> is. Mr. Henson also told the committee he is currently trying to figure out why 17<sup>th</sup> is not ready for engineering design like 19<sup>th</sup> is. Mr. Henson later admitted to being uncertain which conversion is being planned first and promised to get back to the committee.

- a. Mr. Lovitt asked for further information about the status of the conversion projects. Mr. Henson indicated he believes the first project is almost ready to go out for bid. It takes at least a year for completion of the design phase and then construction should begin shortly after that. Some of the work includes signal design work, street re-striping, and street reconstruction.
2. Crosswalk striping effort around Lincoln Park is currently underway.
3. Mr. Mahmud asked about re-striping crosswalks and installing additional pedestrian crossing signs at 10<sup>th</sup> and Maryland. In response to complaints our ANC has received from residents about pedestrian safety at that intersection, our ANC has previously submitted service requests and a letter to DDOT. Mr. Henson told the committee he would follow up on this request.
  - a. Mr. Henson informed the committee that there is discussion within DDOT regarding a Maryland Ave. corridor-wide study. Mr. Henson does not know how long it will take to get the study done. Our committee should coordinate our efforts to promote this study with ANC 6C. Commissioner Alberti recommended following up with DDOT on this issue every six months or so.

- iv. Study regarding the X line Metro buses – Mr. Henson informed the committee that it can pass on any concerns it has to him since he goes to monthly meetings regarding this study.
- v. Bike lane striping along G Street and I Street NE in the next year.
- iii. Commissioner Alberti asked about getting public space application notices sent to the ANC. Mr. Henson indicated we would need to have a policy pronouncement on this issue.
- iv. Commissioner Robinson asked whether the ANC could have a chance to opine on requests to apply for loading zone designations and requests to change loading zone hours at curbside parking spots. Mr. Henson indicated he doesn't know, but that he'll look into it and get back to the ANC.

B. Proposal to convert portion of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE from one-way traffic to two-way traffic

- i. The committee discussed this matter and decided it needs clarification on exactly what the 17<sup>th</sup> Street conversion recommendation is in the Capitol Hill Transportation Study (CHTS) before it can make a recommendation. There is confusion regarding whether the recommendation in the CHTS called for all of the street within the study area to be converted to two-way traffic or just that portion up to E Street.
- ii. What are the implications of converting just this one block? Has a traffic flow study been considered?
  - 1. Mr. Lovitt asked what the benefit of the one block conversion would be. Mr. Mahmud indicated the chief benefit would be traffic calming.
  - 2. Commissioner Alberti proposed the committee obtain more information before making a decision.
  - 3. Mr. Henson suggested asking for the infrastructure (street signals) to be put in place now while the Benning Road construction is taking place, even if the actual conversion of the street does not take place until later.

C. Discussion of C Street NE transportation issues with Rosedale Citizens Alliance

- i. Rob Stevens of the Rosedale Citizens Alliance (RCA) summarized the group's request that the ANC send a letter of support for its C Street transportation initiatives.

1. Mr. Stevens informed the committee that RCA proposes eliminating one lane of traffic on C Street between 21<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and limiting the weight of trucks using the road.
2. Mr. Stevens passed out a presentation that went over the following points:
  - a. Too much traffic currently travels down C Street. The street is like a highway going into the heart of Capitol Hill.
  - b. C Street's current configuration creates spillover effects for traffic heading into Capitol Hill.
  - c. The goal is to transform C Street from a minor arterial into a "Green Collector."
  - d. RCA hopes to push the bottleneck that occurs each day back to 21<sup>st</sup> Street by reconfiguration the street. RCA is calling for a redesign of C Street (e.g. widen median, re-time lights, etc.). According to RCA, the street is too wide and it allows for too much traffic to enter neighborhoods. There are 4 westbound lanes and 3 eastbound.
3. Mr. Henson confirmed that no DDOT projects are currently planned for this corridor other than the study he mentioned earlier.
  - a. The study will address the design and implications of removing a lane on C Street.
4. Mr. Mahmud pointed out that Commissioner Schultheiss communicated a concern to him about recommending specific C Street solutions before DDOT releases the C Street study. Mr. Henson confirmed that he does not believe the proposed recommendations will conflict with any finding in the study.
  - a. ***A motion was made to recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT supporting elimination of one lane of traffic and heavy trucks on C Street. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.***

V. Additional Community Comment – None.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.