

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)  
July 19, 2010

I. Call meeting to order at 7:05 pm

II. Community Comment

- A. Sondra Gilbert informed the committee she was glad this meeting is being held and that it is her belief that her community does not want the ANC taking the lead on discussing the conversion of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE to two-way traffic and that her community wants input on the DDOT “tool bag”.
- B. Michael Harmon informed the committee there are two giant dumpsters behind Maury Elementary School which he alleges have been stored on the sidewalk for years. Mr. Harmon believes this situation poses a safety issue because they block the sidewalk. Mr. Harmon believes the dumpsters belong to Maury Elementary School and he indicated he has reached out to the school and DDOT, but he has not received a response yet.
  - i. ANC 6A Commissioner Nick Alberti informed the committee the principal of the school is aware of this situation, but that she does not seem to have the “sway” to do anything about it.
  - ii. DDOT acknowledged that this issue was identified in the Safe Routes to School program and that it is an issue DDOT is looking to get resolved as well.
  - iii. Mr. Harmon reiterated that the dumpsters have been stored on the sidewalk for years with nothing being done. He is now interested in having the committee and/or the ANC do something about this issue.
  - iv. Mr. Mahmud promised to reach out to the school and work with DDOT to find a solution. If none could be found by the next committee meeting, the committee would then know what proposed action to take to the ANC.
- C. Will Moring, the new Ward 6 representative from the Mayor’s office, introduced himself to the committee and the residents in attendance.
- D. Frazer Walter, President of the Kingman Park Civic Association (now in Ward 7, but previously was in Ward 6), alleged DDOT outreach regarding the Capitol Hill Transportation Study (CHTS) did not include representatives from his ward.

III. Announcements

- A. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he now has a comprehensive set of streetcar plans for the H Street/Benning Road line. Anyone interested in viewing the plans may do so at a committee meeting or by making arrangements with Mr. Mahmud directly.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Discussion with Terry Bellamy of DDOT and other DDOT representatives regarding the Capitol Hill Transportation Study and proposed conversions of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE and 19<sup>th</sup> Street NE to two-way traffic.
- i. Mr. Mahmud explained that DDOT was invited to clarify statements made at the special committee meeting held March 15, 2010 and a community meeting held March 18, 2010 regarding the consideration of future development when developing the initial CHTS recommendations, including conversion of 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets to two-way traffic. Mr. Mahmud further explained that at the March 15 meeting DDOT seemed to indicate future development was considered in developing recommendations for the CHTS while at the March 18 meeting DDOT seemed to indicate future development had yet to be considered and that the study would have to be reevaluated in light of future development.
  - ii. Mr. Mahmud introduced Mr. Bellamy and the other DDOT representatives, thanked them for attending the meeting, and invited Mr. Bellamy to address the committee and residents.
  - iii. Mr. Bellamy explained the following to the committee:
    1. Mr. Bellamy sent a letter to the ANC on May 5 clarifying DDOT's position on the CHTS. Since the study was prepared in 2006, DDOT must go back and figure out whether the information relied on in preparing the study's recommendations is still relevant. Recommendations made in the study had short and medium range recommendations, but a full assessment had not been done at that point. DDOT is now looking closer at pieces from the study to determine if the assumptions behind them are still valid.
    2. DDOT is now seeing that the neighborhood development projects taking place have changed travel conditions in impacted neighborhoods, which requires DDOT to reevaluate the study's recommendations.
    3. People get accustomed to streets being one way and there is usually outrage when you propose a change. The change must be implemented slowly over time.
    4. The goal of the CHTS and actions taken as a result of the study are to improve safety, reduce vehicle speeds and accommodate projected growth.
    5. DDOT is now going into full planning of the CHTS based on the old plan from 2006, but DDOT is committed to having all impacted neighborhoods' participation in the CHTS once DDOT-led workshops begin this fall. DDOT wants to keep all stakeholders involved in the process.
      - a. Committee member Lance Brown asked whether DDOT has yet to come up with a schedule for these fall workshops/meetings. Mr.

Bellamy indicated the first workshop is planned for early to mid September. The workshops will include visual aids so people can see how all proposed changes will look.

- b. A resident asked how many workshops/meetings are planned. Mr. Bellamy estimated five or so meetings would be held.
  - c. Ms. Gilbert most graciously offered to host all meetings concerning the CHTS at the Pilgrim AME Church in Rosedale.
  - d. Mr. Walter asked why Mr. Bellamy stands by the results of the 2006 version of the CHTS in his May 5 letter. Mr. Bellamy indicated that the 2006 study contained medium to long term recommendations which may still be implemented, including the conversion of streets to two-way traffic.
- iv. Rob Stephens of the Rosedale Citizens Alliance proposed residents have a separate meeting outside of the DDOT workshops where differences over the study's proposals could be hashed out. Mr. Bellamy indicated this is what typically happens in communities. Mr. Mahmud pointed out that the ANC has provided this sort of forum in the past both for the CHTS and other city proposals.
  - v. Ms. Gilbert reiterated that she does not want her community left out of the process and gave an indication she believes the committee is not part of the community. Mr. Mahmud reminded Ms. Gilbert the committee is made up of volunteers from the ANC 6A community, not paid employees from DDOT or any other city agency.
  - vi. A resident suggested DDOT consider implementing other short term recommendations from the CHTS while the remaining recommendations are being evaluated. Solutions in the short term would include signal timing to deal with traffic. Mr. Bellamy indicated DDOT has looked at implementing signal timing along the corridor and will make some initial changes soon. Signal timing locations will be sent out soon.
  - vii. Veronica Ragler, ANC Commissioner for ANC 7D01, explained that she doesn't understand why Ward 7 is not part of the study outreach. She indicated she did not receive word from DDOT that there was a meeting impacting her neighborhood. She would like to know what official notification is being proposed for initiatives like this going forward. Mr. Bellamy indicated that DDOT typically notifies impacted ANCs when evaluating proposals impacting their communities. Ms. Ragler indicated she wants more information on the C Street project prior to the next project workshop.
  - viii. Mr. Stephens indicated he understands why she would want to be involved in the C Street project process. He also indicated there needs to be a way to have all concerned residents come together to have a discussion about how to make traffic conditions safer for impacted neighborhoods. He wants to have a third

party bring impacted residents come together. Mr. Mahmud again indicated the ANC has served that role in the past.

- ix. Committee member Sean Lovitt informed attendees that he lives on 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE and that he is extremely concerned about vehicle volume and speed along 17<sup>th</sup> Street. This condition makes it unsafe for pedestrians to cross the street now. He wants to know what DDOT can do to alleviate this problem in the short term. Mr. Bellamy responded that a safety team is looking at this issue now in order to come up with short term solutions. Mr. Bellamy anticipates the team will present recommendations to deal with this issue in the next several weeks, including solutions from the DDOT “tool box”. Mr. Lovitt stressed that motorists speed even more excessively late at night.
- x. Mr. Alberti asked whether residents in ANC 6B, the area south of E. Capital, would be included in the CHTS outreach effort. Mr. Bellamy indicated DDOT will reach out to all affected ANCs and give residents a way to provide feedback on all proposals. Mr. Alberti encouraged DDOT to let residents in other ANCs know the workshops are upcoming.
- xi. A resident indicated there is a lack of trust in the room because of the presentation given by city officials.
- xii. Ms. Gilbert alleged that Mr. Alberti indicated at the last committee meeting that 17<sup>th</sup> Street would have to be converted to two-way traffic before the C Street project could move forward and that he’s trying to pull in people from outside her community to impact her community’s decisions. Mr. Alberti denied these allegations.
- xiii. ANC 6A Commissioner Gladys Mack asked whether mobile MPD speed camera vans could be used to slow down traffic along 17<sup>th</sup> Street. She also indicated that parked cars on both sides of the street would slow traffic down as well, which would make removing parking restrictions sensible.
- xiv. Ms. Ragler asked a question about a livability study. She indicated that far northeast across the river be included in the northeast livability study and that her single member district should be included as well. Mr. Bellamy indicated that DDOT studies are not tied to wards, they are tied to transportation networks, which often span across wards. He encouraged Ms. Ragler to find out where her area falls in the livability study zone, which is on the web.
- xv. A resident asked where the proposed conversion of 17<sup>th</sup> Street would span from. Jamie Henson of DDOT indicated it would run from Benning Road to Potomac Avenue. The resident opined that this will cause a lot of traffic along that route.
- xvi. Ms. Gilbert again asserted that the 17<sup>th</sup> Street conversion must take place for the C Street project to move forward. DDOT indicated that is not the case.
- xvii. A resident stressed that vehicle speeds must be slowed down now since it is a matter of “life and death.”

- xviii. Mr. Stephens indicated there is no link between the C Street project and the proposed 17<sup>th</sup> Street conversion. Ms. Mack alleged the proposed conversion is in the options presented in the C Street project plans. Mr. Stephens indicated all parties are interested in reducing speed and that all should come together to have a process where there is an objective discussion of the facts.
  - xix. Mr. Frazier indicated he believes the main problem is that the DDOT does not include MPD in the discussions. Without enforcement there can be no real change. Mayor's office needs to include police dept.
  - xx. A resident indicated data showing how many tickets are being issued is not available. The city needs to improve communication going forward.
  - xxi. ANC 6A Chairman Kelvin Robinson asked DDOT whether it has presupposed what the solution is and is now just designing around it. Mr. Bellamy responded that this is not the case, and that DDOT is chiefly concerned with safety. Mr. Robinson then asked for a commitment from DDOT for immediate recommendations to address safety issues. Mr. Bellamy promised to return to the September committee meeting with immediate recommendations.
  - xxii. Ms. Mack asked that a list be circulated so residents could sign up for notification of future meetings held by DDOT. A list was circulated, which was retained by DDOT.
  - xxiii. A business owner on Benning Road informed the committee that a business associate of his was murdered a few days ago. He believes the perpetrators left the scene of the shooting via Benning Road where the lights are synchronized. He is concerned that nobody has mentioned the excessive speed on Benning Road since there are terrible accidents on that road as well. It was pointed out to the gentleman that this meeting concerned the CHTS, which does not cover Benning Road.
  - xxiv. Mr. Mahmud wrapped up this discussion topic, thanked DDOT for attending the meeting and thanked all in attendance for their participation and for taking an active role in the process.
- B. Request for residential parking permit (RPP) restrictions on G Street NE and 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE adjacent to Sherwood Recreation Center.
- i. Mr. Mahmud asked DDOT for an update on this matter. James Cheeks of DDOT indicated that the community may need to circulate a petition to impacted residents. Mr. Bellamy suggested dealing with Damon Harvey on this issue. Mr. Henson indicated he has already brought this matter to Mr. Harvey's attention. Mr. Mahmud reminded DDOT that these blocks have already been designated for RPP and that the signs just have not gone up yet. Mr. Henson promised to get back to the committee on this issue

V. New Business

A. Consider requesting that DDOT extend Visitor Parking Permit Pilot to ANC 6A.

- i. Mr. Mahmud explained that DDOT has launched a visitor parking permit pilot in parts of the city that allows residents to give visitors a temporary parking permit without having to obtain one from MPD each time a guest is expected. He would like DDOT to explore extending this opportunity to residents in ANC 6A as well.
- ii. Chairman Robinson indicated Damon Harvey supports including our community in the program and said he would include Ward 6 in the pilot program going forward.
- iii. Mr. Henson indicated the program works pretty well, generally speaking.
- iv. Mr. Mahmud indicated the ANC should indicate whether it supports including the program in 6A.
- v. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT asking that ANC 6A be included in the Visitor Parking Permit Pilot. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion, which passed without objection. Mr. Mahmud offered to draft the letter.***

VI. Additional Community Comment - None

VII. Adjourn meeting at 8:55