

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
November 15, 2010

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:05 pm
- II. Introductions - Committee members Marlon Smoker and Omar Mahmud (Chair); Ali Shakeri from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT); Margaret Gentry with Mactec; Commissioner Gladys Mack; and Commissioner-elect Adam Healy, Mark Busby, Marie-Claire Brown and Katie Bohri. **The committee met without a quorum.**
- III. Community Comment - None
- IV. Announcements
 - A. Mr. Mahmud announced that the City Council is holding a hearing regarding the DDOT Streetcar plan on November 17 at 2:00 pm and informed attendees that written testimony regarding the plan may be submitted to the committee by 5:00 pm the day of the hearing.
- V. New Business
 - A. Mactec Update Regarding H Street/Benning Road Construction Project - Mahmud
 - i. Mr. Mahmud introduced Ms. Gentry and Mr. Shakeri and thanked them for agreeing to provide a presentation and update on streetscape construction.
 - ii. The following H Street construction schedule update was provided:
 1. The north and south center lanes from 3rd to 13th Street NE have been completed.
 2. Streetcar track on the north side of the street has been completed.
 3. Intersections spanning 3rd to 13th Street NE have been completed.
 4. Construction team and DDOT worked closely with H Street Main Street to get 7th to 14th Street NE in shape for the H Street Festival this summer.
 5. Current work (November to December) is focused on 3rd to 7th Streets NE, including installation of streetcar tracks on south side. Hope to be in the 400 block of this span by early next week, with one block a week completed assuming good weather.

6. High power electrical conduits are being installed from 7th to 13th Streets NE. Hope to be done with this by end of December.
7. The Starburst Intersection (where H Street, Benning Road, Maryland Avenue and 15th Street meet) is nearly complete. Street furniture and trees need to be installed. The murals are in place, but they are still covered. A Capital Bikeshare station has been installed as well. Hope to be done by early December.
8. After December, weather permitting, the goal is to pour concrete for sidewalks from 7th to 13th Streets NE.
9. The original contract end date was in July of 2011. The contract has been revised to reflect an end date in October 2011 to account for lost work dates due to weather over the last two years.

iii. Questions from those in attendance:

1. Mr. Mahmud asked when if benches, trees, planters, bike racks, etc. will start being installed along the portions of the street already completed. Mr. Shakeri indicated he would ask the contractor when these items will be installed, but that he believes they may begin installation on sections of the sidewalk already finished on the north side of the street.
2. Mr. Healy asked where he could find information about the types of benches being installed. Mr. Shakeri indicated this information is in the plans, but that he could forward on more information to the committee.
3. Mr. Mahmud asked whether there are significant changes to the original plan, beyond what we've already heard regarding the new end date. Mr. Shakeri responded that there aren't any at this time, but that WMATA's decision to combine and relocate certain bus stops has prompted some minor changes. Mr. Mahmud asked whether plans to eliminate bus stops along H Street have been finalized yet. Mr. Shakeri indicated he didn't know since he is only aware of plans to relocate bus stops. For instance, he knows of a plan to move a bus stop one block and he doesn't know of any stops being eliminated at this time. Mr. Shakeri promised to send an update to the committee if this changes.
4. Ms. Brown asked if the street benches are divided or not since she is concerned about people sleeping on the benches once they are in place. Mr. Shakeri indicated he is not sure since he is not on the team choosing benches, but that he could follow up with the committee. If the benches are not to the community's liking and depending on where the city is at in the ordering process,

Mr. Shakeri indicated there may be an opportunity to modify the design.

- a. Commissioner Mack informed the committee she recalls there being input from the community before about not having benches people could sleep on. She believes the benches are slanted with middle arm rests, which would make sleeping uncomfortable.

5. Mr. Mahmud asked whether a final decision had been made on the location of the streetcar transformer. Ms. Gentry indicated DDOT has decided to move it to the sidewalk adjacent to AutoZone, but that she is not sure if the transformer will be above ground or below ground, or on public or private land. Ms. Gentry promised to send the committee the names of DDOT people who can answer this question.

- iv. Mr. Mahmud thanked Ms. Gentry and Mr. Shakeri for coming and asked them to get back to the committee on outstanding items.
- v. Ms. Gentry wrapped up by informing the committee a weekly report is generated every Friday, and that anyone interested in receiving it should let her know. Also, Ms. Gentry has received complaints that someone has painted the base of one of the new lamp posts gold. She will follow up.

B. Location of Construction Fence Surrounding Capitol Hill Oasis (12th Street NE and Florida Avenue NE)

- i. Mr. Mahmud introduced Commissioner-elect Healy and asked him to summarize the issue for the committee.
- ii. Mr. Healy provided the following information to the committee:
 1. The construction fence surrounding this property goes past the curb on the east side of 12th street, which blocks the sidewalk. The fence has been this way for years even though there doesn't seem to be any reason for the fence to block the sidewalk given exterior construction has been completed.
 2. Currently working with DDOT and the Mayor's office to address this issue. Mr. Healy recently got a letter from DDOT indicating DDOT would move the fence. Mr. Mahmud asked Mr. Healy to provide a copy of the letter.
 3. This past weekend the construction fence along the Florida Avenue side of this property was moved back so Mr. Healy hopes the other fence may move back soon as well.
- iii. Mr. Healy presented a draft letter regarding this issue to the committee for consideration.

- iv. Mr. Healy will inform the committee if the fence gets pushed back prior to the next ANC meeting. If so, the proposed letter will no longer be necessary.
- v. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send Mr. Healy's letter regarding removal of the construction fence from public space along the 12th Street NE side of the Capitol Hill Oasis project. Mr. Smoker seconded the motion, which passed without objection (no quorum).***

C. Consideration of Recommendation Regarding Circulator Planning Study

- i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee that the study currently recommends a circulator line which would service the H Street corridor, and link the corridor with other neighborhoods such as U Street and Adams Morgan.
- ii. This proposed route would provide a more direct bus route between H Street businesses on the east end of the corridor and these other communities than the 90/92 bus lines.
- iii. In addition, until the streetcar line is in place and fully implemented, the proposed Circulator route will further help promote the corridor's economic viability.
- iv. Mr. Busby asked which streets the line would travel along. Mr. Smoker pointed out that the exact streets have not been figured out, but that the approximate route will hit the neighborhoods mentioned by Mr. Mahmud.
- v. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send a letter of support to DDOT regarding a proposed Circulator line to serve the H Street corridor. Mr. Smoker seconded the motion, which passed without objection (no quorum).***

D. Consideration of Recommendation Regarding WMATA Proposal to Eliminate Bus Stops

- i. Mr. Mahmud explained that he received a notice that WMATA plans to eliminate some X2 bus stops along the H Street corridor and that he is concerned that eliminating bus service along H Street isn't wise given ongoing construction and efforts to promote economic development.
- ii. Mr. Smoker countered that eliminating some stops, particularly the eastbound stop at 13th Street NE, probably makes sense given the length of the line and that some stops seem to be bunched together.
- iii. Mr. Healy proposed asking WMATA to attend a community meeting to present data and explain how it arrived at this decision.

- iv. Commissioner Mack indicated she attended a WMATA meeting and was told the X2 route is currently too long.
 - v. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send a letter to WMATA protesting the elimination of X2 bus stops along H Street in our ANC. The motion failed for lack of a second.***
- VI. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he would recommend to the ANC that the December committee meeting be canceled.
- VII. Additional Community Comment - None
- VIII. Adjourn meeting at 7:56 pm.