

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Introductions & Announcements.

Committee members present: Shaun Lynch (Chair), Caitlin Rogger (Secretary), Jeff Fletcher, Mark Sussman, and Paul Angelone

Commissioners present: Keya Chatterjee (6A01), Roberta Shapiro (6A03), Amber Gove (6A04), Dave Wethington (6A05), Robb Dooling (6A06)

III. Old Business.

A. DDOT update on the [Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project](#). Mr. [Nandlal Gevaria](#) (Project Manager) updated the committee and community on progress on the Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project. Commissioner Chatterjee asked Mr. Gevaria to speak to incidents of basement flooding along the project corridor and to the proposed removal of the crosswalk at M Street NE. Mr. Gevaria responded that the project team heard from a coffee shop owner and that the project team is making various improvements, including adjusting the slope of the sidewalk. As for the crosswalk, Mr. Gevaria had no further update and recommended the committee follow up with DDOT. *[In a subsequent letter to ANC 5D, DDOT stated that the crosswalk at M Street NE will remain for a period of time following the completion of the Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project to analyze continued usage.]* Community member, Pam Hill, raised concerns that the double yellow line in the middle of Florida Avenue had been removed, yielding chaos and confusion as to traffic direction. Mr. Gevaria explained the process for milling the street followed by asphalt markings. Ms. Hill also noted also asked if the water line replacement along the project corridor includes lines to individual homes. When Mr. Gevaria indicated that the lines to individual homes are included, Ms. Hill responded that she had received no information indicating that her water line would be replaced. Mr. Gevaria acknowledged that normally residents would be notified about water line replacement with 48 hours notice, but that this is a DC Water process. Ms. Hill requested that residents be given more than 48 hours notice. The Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project is on schedule for completion in October 2024.

B. DDOT update on the [H Street NE Bus Priority Project](#). Mr. [Zack Gambetti-Mendez](#) presented the 65% design of the H Street NE Bus Priority Project, [NOI-24-07-TDD](#). The NOI was issued in January 2024 with comments due by March 5, 2024. The project starts at 3rd Street NE (the Hopscotch bridge project prevents extension of the bus project any further west). Bus bulb outs will be added, and some bus stops will be moved. New concrete platforms will allow people to board the bus instead of navigating a curb lane. Daylighting will be added at 9th Street, 10th Street and other streets. Regarding parking, Mr. Gambetti referenced feedback that people wanted quick pickup/drop-off parking areas. Several blocks have 10-minute parking areas.

i. Commissioner Chatterjee thanked Mr. Gambetti for the presentation and for being so responsive to community concerns and requests. She asked why raised

bus platforms seem to disappear by 11th Street because many people who use the bus stop at 11th Street often lean out into the street to look for the oncoming buses. She asked if it was possible for the DC Streetcar, in addition to the plans for MetroBus, to be used to enforce parking. She asked if intracity buses will be able to use the bus lanes. She also noted the people want tree boxes and shade and asked about parklets and public bathrooms along the corridor. Finally, businesses want to know if there will be any loading zones on H Street. Mr. Gambetti responded that DDOT has not observed issues with vehicles parking in the 11th Street bus stop. He is not aware of enforcement cameras being installed on the DC Streetcar. He stated that intracity buses would be permitted in the bus lanes, but that they often choose not to use them because they want to keep flowing with traffic and not stop at bus stops. He stated that currently there are no loading zones on H Street, as all loading zones are along the side streets, and there are no plans to change that.

- ii. Commissioner Shapiro had concerns about the removal of two-hour parking zones. Mr. Gambetti responded that the corridor is a mix of different businesses and needs, some which value two-hour parking and some that want ten-minute parking. Dozens of businesses signed a letter to that effect, and the ANCs supported it as well.
- iii. Committee Member Paul Angelone asked if it is possible to prioritize the bus on 14th Street NE (B2) along with H Street. Mr. Gambetti responded that he would look into that.

Commissioner Chatterjee made the motion recommending: That ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of the Bus Priority lanes on H Street, along with comments including more parking enforcement and protection of the bus lanes, additional landscaping, DDOT engagement with businesses regarding parking needs, and additional signage and painting.

Committee Member Sussman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners and Committee Members present voting in favor.

IV. New Business.

A. West Virginia Avenue NE Traffic Safety. Chair Shaun Lynch led a discussion regarding persistent traffic safety issues on the 800-block of West Virginia Avenue NE. Chair Lynch reviewed seven active TSIs at the intersection of 8th Street NE and West Virginia Avenue NE. DDOT has an ongoing signal evaluation at that intersection to determine if one is justified, and is considering a one-way conversion of West Virginia Avenue NE between 8th Street NE and Florida Avenue NE as part of the study. The study is expected to take 120 days. DDOT's traffic signal engineer, Rahul Jair, stated that a traffic signal at 8th Street and West Virginia Avenue would only be considered with a southwest-bound one-way. Mr. Jair also presented traffic data for each direction in AM and PM rush hours that indicated a more balanced impact to surrounding streets with a northeast-bound one-way conversion than with a southwest-bound one-way, and he stated that DDOT could only recommend a northeast-bound one-way as a result. Chair Lynch presented secondary impacts of a one-way conversion on approaches to and egress from the 800-block of West Virginia Avenue and four adjacent streets. The 900-block of L Street NE (itself a one-way, only accessible from West Virginia Avenue NE) would be the most impacted by a southwest-bound one-way, requiring

approaches from the east, west, or south, to come only via southeast-bound Florida Avenue NE. The 800-block of West Virginia Avenue NE would be the most impacted by a northeast-bound one-way, but to a lesser degree. Chair Lynch expressed concern that DDOT has ignored traffic calming requests from neighbors on the 800-block of West Virginia Avenue for nearly a decade due to incompatibility with federal guidelines, but that traffic calming is required here regardless, and wanted to ensure the community was aware of secondary impacts of a one-way if other traffic calming measures are not applied. Kelly Jeong-Olson, DDOT Traffic Safety Branch Communications Manager, acknowledged the concerns of some neighbors regarding the secondary impacts of a one-way conversion. Commissioner Shapiro expressed concern with a one-way causing extra circumnavigation through the neighborhood. Commissioner Chatterjee provided some background on why this block is being considered for one-way conversion, including the decades-long requests for calming, a limited window of opportunity here to narrow the traffic lane, and it being the last remaining gap in the protected bike lanes between K Street NE and those on West Virginia Avenue NE north of Florida Avenue NE. Commissioner Chatterjee also noted that the traffic data provided by Mr. Jair suggested minimal overall impact of overflow to surrounding streets. Community member, Pam Hill, raised concern that DDOT is skipping intermediate steps of fresh asphalt, signage, and road markings that would indicate DDOT cares about this block at all. Ms. Jeong-Olson then reviewed federal guideline reasoning behind DDOT's prior decisions to deny speed humps/tables or raised crosswalks on this block. Chair Lynch noted an impending hardening of curbs at the intersection of L and 9th Streets NE (scheduled for summer 2024) that would be a prime opportunity to add a raised crosswalk on West Virginia Avenue. Several members of the community raised concerns about a one-way conversion and a preference for speed humps and Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) cameras, but Ms. Jeong-Olson reiterated that speed humps are not an option and that ATE cameras are expensive and mobile/temporary.

Commissioner Chatterjee made the motion recommending: That ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting Automated Traffic Enforcement and reconsideration of speed tables and raised crosswalks on the 800-block of West Virginia Ave NE, supporting the signal study at the intersection of 8th Street NE and West Virginia Avenue NE, and further requesting any form of traffic calming measures to this area.

Chair Lynch seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners and Committee Members present voting in favor.

- B. TSIs for Future Consideration. Commissioner Gove discussed languishing all-way stop requests at the following intersections: 14th and A Streets NE; 15th and A Streets NE; 15th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE; 14th Street NE and Tennessee Avenue NE; and E Street NE and Tennessee Avenue NE. She asked if any other commissioners have missing all-way stops in their neighborhood, and Commissioner Chatterjee added 13th and I Streets NE.

Chair Lynch made the motion recommending: That ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting prioritization of longstanding TSIs at the intersections of 14th and A Streets NE; 15th and A Streets NE; 15th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE; 14th Street NE

and Tennessee Avenue NE; and E Street NE and Tennessee Avenue NE and 13th and I Streets NE at the next quarterly prioritization assessment.

Committee Member Sussman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners and Committee Members present voting in favor.

V. Community Comment.

A. Commissioner Gove asked Ms. Jeong-Olson if there was any other way in which the ANC could prioritize the TSIs. Ms. Jeong-Olson replied that the TSI process is the only process, and that the community should provide their input via the 311 system.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.