

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

- I. Call meeting to order.
- II. Introductions & Announcements.
TPS Committee members present: Maura Dundon (Chair), Hassan Christian, Shaun Lynch, Caitlin Rogger
ANC6A Commissioners present: Amber Gove (Chair) Brian Alcorn, Keya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Laura Gentile

- III. Old Business

- A. Review and Discussion of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Notice of Intent for North Carolina Avenue NE from 13th Street to 14th Place, including Separated Bike Facilities, Raised Crosswalk, and Parking Changes

The TPS Committee heard from DDOT representatives Will Handsfield and Regina Arlotto about the pending DDOT Notice of Intent (NOI) issued for installing bike infrastructure on the 1300 block of North Carolina Avenue NE (from 13th Street to 14th Place). The NOI proposes to convert the block to westbound one-way and install protected curbside bike lanes in each direction. The NOI includes a raised mid-block crosswalk to increase pedestrian safety.

Chair Maura Dundon began the discussion with a summary of the multiple times this matter has come before the TPS Committee and ANC with opportunity for public comment and discussion with DDOT.

Prior to issuing the NOI last autumn, DDOT presented ANC 6A with several different design options. In October 2021, ANC 6A sent a letter to DDOT with the options listed in order of preference. ANC 6A's top choice was to convert the block into a one-way traffic pattern going westbound, with protected bike lanes on each side of the street in each direction next to the curve, buffered by parking lanes between the bike lane and the vehicle traffic lanes. This solution provided safety for cyclists and pedestrians, matched the bicycle infrastructure pattern in the C Street project.

In March 2022, DDOT published its NOI to make changes generally aligning with ANC 6A's top preference, with some additional changes that reflected the earlier discussion with the community.

DDOT's Will Handsfield presented more information on the design proposed in the NOI.

Community members were given the opportunity to make two-minute public comment and engaged directly with the DDOT representatives.

Community members spoke in support of the changes and protected bike lanes in general. Other community members expressed concerns about the impact of the

construction and changed traffic patterns on community parking and safety, as well as the need to integrate with Lincoln Park safety design. Some community members requested additional pedestrian safety measures. Mr. Handsfield clarified that the mid-block crosswalk is raised and serves as additional traffic calming. Community members also raised the possibility of a “Hawk” signal at the raised crosswalk, which pedestrians could use to stop road traffic to cross. Mr. Handsfield also clarified that the project would require removing parking on the 1300 block for visibility and pedestrian safety, but that there is a net increase in parking due to the new spots on 13th Street. In response to concerns about emergency vehicle access, Mr. Handsfield clarified that the plans had been evaluated and were sufficient for access.

Chair Amber Gove and Commissioner Keya Chatterjee spoke in favor of the NOI. Chair Gove asked about additional pedestrian and cyclist safety measures. Commissioner Chatterjee spoke of the need for such projects to reduce use of fossil fuels. Commissioner Brian Alcorn inquired about drainage at the corner of 14th Street and North Carolina Avenue NE. Committee member Caitlin Rogger spoke in support of the project and noted that it increases public safety.

Commissioner Gove made the motion: *That ANC6A submit a comment to DDOT expressing support for the installation of protected bicycle lanes on the 1400 block of North Carolina N.E. as set out in the DDOT Notice of Intent, with requested modifications to the proposed designs to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety.*

Commissioner Robb Dooling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

- A. Protected bike lanes connecting the 1400 block of Maryland Avenue NE to National Arboretum/Bladensburg Road project.

Will Handsfield from DDOT discussed a potential project to install protected bike lanes connecting the 1400 block of Maryland Avenue NE to the Bladensburg Road project, creating a bicycle connection to a future reopened M Street NE entrance to the National Arboretum. He will keep the ANC apprised of developments.

- B. Traffic calming at 300 block of 15th Street NE.

Commissioner Laura Gentile and community member Maggie Sullivan discussed the need for traffic calming in ANC6A05 in the 300 block of 15th Street NE and surrounding intersections (C, D, and 14th Streets), where drivers routinely go through red lights. Chair Gove discussed a possible approach used in Georgetown to convert traffic lights to all-way stops, which has been documented to reduce crashes and stated that ANC 6A should further study this approach.

Chair Gove made the motion: *That ANC6A send a letter to DDOT supporting traffic calming in the area of C Street NE.*

Commissioner Gentile seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Traffic calming at West Virginia Avenue NE.

Commissioner Chatterjee discussed the issue of unsafe driving in the 800 and 900 blocks of West Virginia Avenue NE. Previously, in June 2021, ANC 6A sent a letter to DDOT requesting protected bike lanes and other traffic calming on these blocks, but

DDOT did not install the bike lanes and only made changes to road painting for safety.

Commissioner Chatterjee made the motion: *That ANC6A send a letter to DDOT reiterating the ANC's request for traffic calming in the 800 block of West Virginia Avenue NE and K Street NE, as set out previously in ANC 6A's June 15, 2021 comment to DDOT in response to the NOI # 21-136-PSD.*

Chair Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Capitol Hill Classic race permit and street closures.

Roberta Stewart, a parent volunteer for the 2022 Capitol Hill Classic race, presented the plans for the race. This race is an important fundraiser for the Capitol Hill Cluster schools. The race will be held on May 15, 2022 beginning at 8:30 am. Pursuant to MPD requirements, the race course has to be cleared of cars. East Capitol Street will be reopened by 12:00 noon. Ms. Stewart requested that ANC 6A send a letter of support to the Mayor's Special Events Task Force. Chair Gove asked whether the roads could be kept open for bikes and pedestrians for a while after the race. Ms. Stewart said she would ask.

Commissioner Chatterjee made the motion: *That ANC6A send a letter of support to the Mayor's Special Events Task Force in support of the permit for the Capitol Hill Classic race.*

Commissioner Dooling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Additional Community Comment (time permitting): None.

VI. Closed session to discuss Committee business, Not held due to time constraints.

VII. Adjourn meeting