

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Public Meeting - All are welcome

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order.

II. Introductions & Announcements

Committee members present: Shaun Lynch (co-chair), Caitlin Rogger (co-chair), Paul Angelone, Mark Sussman

Commissioners present: Amber Gove, Roberta Shapiro, Robb Dooling.

III. Old Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) camera request for westbound H Street NE.

Commissioner Dooling introduced this item by highlighting several safety issues on the 1300 block of H Street NE, noting that a previous District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Director had committed to installing traffic enforcement cameras in both directions but that only one had been installed on the eastbound lane. Commissioner Dooling stated that he requested an update from DDOT on this specific request, included in ANC 6A's June 12, 2022 letter to DDOT Director Lott. Related TSIs for Future Consideration include 22-00061187 (dated February 6, 2022) and 22-00255464 (dated June 2, 2022), and is aware of or has submitted multiple Traffic Safety Investigation and 311 requests.

Abraham Diallo (DDOT) responded that a DDOT colleague leading on the traffic safety enforcement program had confirmed that an ATE camera would be deployed on the 1300 block of H Street over the summer once the camera supply had been received but was unable to give further details concerning timing of installation.

Commissioner Gove asked Mr. Diallo to provide data on any infractions caught by adjacent cameras at the next meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Traffic on the 1400-block of G Street NE.

Commissioner Dooling requested a discussion of ongoing traffic issues on the 1400-block of G Street NE, noting that several residents of that block were in attendance to participate in the discussion.

Residents cited longstanding safety concerns, commenting that recent improvements such as safety humps have provided some relief but that congestion and traffic risks still persisted. Co-Chair Lynch noted that it had been ten years since the last traffic safety study concerning that block and that a new study might be appropriate to identify potential solutions. Following discussion of measures such as making the street one-way, the Committee opted not to pass a motion at that time to allow for Commissioner Dooling to further discuss issues with residents, in order to inform a potential future action.

B. Illegal parking within the H Street NE corridor.

Commissioner Dooling led a discussion concerning longstanding issues with local business employees and visitors parking in front of residents' garages within the H Street NE neighborhood. Various potential solution areas were discussed, including better signage or engagement with the Department for Public Works on appropriate booting and towing actions, as Mr. Diallo commented that booting and towing was not in the purview of DDOT. Co-Chair Rogger inquired as to whether DDOT could support residents by reviewing the signage, to which Mr. Diallo agreed. A few "trouble spots" were identified such as Lyndon Court/Place and the alley behind the 1300 block of H Street NE.

C. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)request for TSIs closed as a result of TSI 2.0 implementation.

Commissioner Shapiro led a discussion about a FOIA request she has submitted to DDOT for a listing of all TSIs closed out as a result of the January 6, 2023 implementation of TSI 2.0, to include TSI #, location, problem cited and resolution requested, and any subsequent action. Commissioner Shapiro observed that transparency seemed to be a challenge for DDOT as a general matter, noting that specifically it was unclear what had happened to TSIs filed over the years or since the process was changed in January. Commissioners agreed that they should not be required to pay for FOIA requests as representatives of a government agency, and that without the information it was not clear if they could perform their roles effectively.

Commissioner Shapiro made a motion for ANC 6A to send a letter to DDOT to disclose certain data regarding the nature and disposition of the pre-January 6, 2023 TSI requests; and that a FOIA request be made regarding the component parts scoring, and the ID and availability of data used to compute scores, for the TSIs submitted since January 6, 2023; and if the information is not made available; and if the information was not made available within a "reasonable" period of time, then ANC 6A would submit a FOIA request. Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

D. FOIA request for Sidewalk Risk Management Data.

Commissioner Shapiro led a discussion about a FOIA request for Sidewalk Risk Management Data for DC by ward for the last three years, to include the dollar amount and number of claims paid by the District related to sidewalk conditions. Commissioner Shapiro noted that sidewalks in bad repair put residents at risk of falling and injuries, and that repairing sidewalks tends to be more expensive in Capitol Hill on account of the bricks. Commissioner Shapiro suggested submitting a FOIA with respect to claims made against the city for damages due to sidewalks being in bad repair. Committee member Angelone queried whether this information could be requested initially, rather than moving immediately to FOIA. Commissioner Shapiro suggested that ANC 6A ask the Office of Risk Management in the first instance. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion that ANC 6A write to DDOT or an appropriate entity within DC government to request data concerning numbers of claims and disposition of claims related to sidewalk safety issues in 6A; and that if the information was not made available within a "reasonable" period of time, then ANC 6A would issue a FOIA request. Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The

motion was passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner Shapiro agreed to draft the letter.

E. Sidewalk Experience Survey.

Commissioner Shapiro introduced a Sidewalk Experience Survey she drafted to collect input from ANC 6A residents on overall sidewalk conditions in the neighborhood. Co-Chair Lynch inquired whether Commissioners would send the survey out to their lists, or if it should be published on the ANC website; Commissioner Shapiro noted it could be sent out and shared beyond ANC 6A into adjacent neighborhoods.

F. Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project Permit Enforcement.

TPS Committee Co-Chair Lynch discussed conditions of the Florida Avenue NE bike lanes during construction related to the Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project, specifically ongoing permit enforcement challenges with Washington Gas contractors performing work on a pipes main and service pipe replacement program (Job/BCA ID #281515). Co-Chair Lynch noted several safety issues, for example contractors moving barriers and not replacing them, leaving cyclists and pedestrians exposed to risk, and that these could be expected for up to two years of the project. After discussion, Co-Chair Lynch proposed ANC 6A compose a letter to DDOT and Washington Gas, requesting that all barriers be re-installed along the entire Florida Avenue bike route (seconded by Commissioner Shapiro). The motion was passed by unanimous vote. Co-Chair Lynch agreed to draft the letter.

V. Additional Community Comment

Community member Michael Cushman registered concerns that more information had not been made available earlier concerning late changes in the design of the 1300 block of North Carolina Avenue, echoed by community member Alex Kelly. Commissioner Gove agreed that the timing of the notification had not been optimal, and that DDOT's decision to widen the road to 14 feet (when the community had requested 10 - 11 feet) would be less safe than the previous design. Commissioner Gove commented that it would be helpful to understand why the Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS) had weighed in at such a late stage for this block and not other parts of the project; but noted that the ANC's role in providing input for this project had been completed.

VI. Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned.