

## AGENDA

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting  
Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G Street NE  
May 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm

- I. Called meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. Introductions (5 minutes)
  - A. Committee members in attendance: Chair Todd Sloves, Elizabeth Nelson, Jeff Fletcher.
  - B. Commissioners in attendance: Amber Gove (6A04), Sondra Phillips-Gilbert (6A07), Calvin Ward (6A08)
- III. Announcements
  - A. ANC 6A is seeking volunteer committee members.
  - B. Item V-C relating to On the Rocks will be postponed to next month because the applicants are not ready to present.
- IV. Community Comment (5 minutes) - None.
- V. New Business
  - A. Presentation from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) regarding progress of Seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Street NE redesign project - 30 minutes
    - i. Mike Gales of RK&K, the construction manager for the Seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Street project for DDOT, gave a brief overview of the status of the project. The project is on track for completion the July 24, 2018 contractual end-date. The entire project is at 85%. Washington Gas must finish their work by mid-June in order to stay on schedule.
    - ii. All that is really left in ANC 6A is installation of raised crosswalk at A Street NE, traffic signal upgrades, lighting poles, and a few sections of paving.
    - iii. They will re-do an island at the E Street NE intersection to make it smaller. Drivers have trouble getting around it. They will also put up signage lowering the speed limit at the turn to 15 mph from the current 20 mph. The existing tree and planted area will not be affected.
    - iv. A neighbor on the 200 Block of Seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Street NE asked if the paving will be done all at once.
      1. Mr. Gales responded that that was unlikely, and that they will need 2-3 weeks to finish the paving. Technically, they cannot contractually require subcontractors to do anything prior to the end of the contractual date of July 24, 2018. Until then, subcontractors can set their own schedule.
    - v. A neighbor asked about the LED lighting and whether the fixtures would be similar to the ones on Benning Road.
      1. Mr. Gales said he was unsure, but probably more akin to the newer ones around Capitol Hill.
    - vi. Commissioner Amber Gove said that there were currently two sets of traffic signal poles and that in some cases they were making it hard to see the pedestrian signals. She asked when the old signals will be removed.

1. Mr. Gales said they need Pepco to come and swap the power to the new signals, and that the old ones would be removed once that happened, likely sometime in June 2018. Also, if any road signs are blocked, call 311, but note that they usually do not trim trees until the fall because it is bad for the tree.
- B. Consideration of ANC 6A recommendations regarding C Street NE Rehabilitation project - 30 minutes
- i. Chair Sloves introduced Sam Zimbabwe with DDOT. He directed residents to raise their initial concerns, and then Mr. Zimbabwe will walk through the status of the C Street NE project and why certain changes were made.
  - ii. Mr. Rick Trumbull, 1500 block of C Street NE, said the new version of the C Street Rehabilitation plan was a step backward. He opposes adding a lane of traffic back, he opposes the removal of parking and the removal of curb bump-outs. DDOT should also do traffic calming at the Fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) Street and C Street NE intersection sooner.
  - iii. Commissioner Calvin Ward said the original plans were much better than the revised version. Additional traffic on Nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) Street NE is a concern. Safety is the biggest issue.
  - iv. Mr. Zimbabwe gave an overview of how DDOT came to revise the plan. They said after presenting the 65% designs in February 2018, they identified problems with the original traffic modeling data. They thought at that time that removing a lane of traffic would be okay, but with the new data, they had serious concerns regarding the amount of congestion it would create. The high volume of right turn lanes creates problems for a protected bike lane; in the wake of new guidance released on this subject, they decided there needed to be a separate traffic light phase to allow for bikes to cross. All that being said, in the wake of recent public meetings, DDOT has heard very clearly that these changes went too far in the opposite direction. They will bring back a revised plan and seek to present to the community in mid-June 2018. They will let us know what the process is and provide the revised plans to ANCs ahead of the meeting so residents can review it beforehand. They will likely restore the bump-outs, reduce parking loss on the 1600 and 1900 blocks of C Street NE, and make other changes.
  - v. One neighbor said having red right-turn arrows with dedicated turn lanes would not prevent drivers from making the right turn anyway. He has seen drivers disregard it and turn through the red arrow anyway. Bikers would not actually be protected. The only way to protect bikers is through bulb-outs that force drivers to make slower turns.
  - vi. Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert asked for confirmation that the plans would be put out to the community prior to the June 2018 meeting. Mr. Zimbabwe confirmed that would be the case.
  - vii. A neighbor asked about plans to eliminate north-bound traffic on Twenty-First (21<sup>st</sup>) Street NE. Mr. Zimbabwe clarified that they were not eliminating the traffic, rather making some changes to traffic patterns to improve safety.
  - viii. Anders Pedersen with ANC 7D pointed out that the changes that were made to the plan based on these new assumptions run counter to two prior multi-corridor studies, and DDOT needs to justify those

contradictions before moving forward. He also said that at the 65% meeting, everyone thought they were ready to go with the plan, so the fact that DDOT came back with something drastically different is what has provoked outrage.

- ix. Commissioner Gove said she had concerns regarding obligations under the federal Safe Routes to School program and wants to know how this revised plan meets goals and slows down turns. She added that all of the city's assumptions for transportation projects are based on fewer car usage in the district, but this revision does not prioritize that goal. She added that the process by which this revision was carried out eroded public trust.
  - 1. Mr. Zimbabwe countered that because their initial assumptions about the data were flawed, DDOT had to make revisions in order to *maintain* the public trust in the process.
- x. Ms. Elizabeth Nelson raised the need to get a system that can enforce stopping in the crosswalk and the intersection when there is congestion.
  - 1. Mr. Zimbabwe recalled a plan to do this a few years ago, but the technology was not quite there and the contractor had overstated its effectiveness.
- xi. A neighbor asked when the new right-turn data was collected and over how long of a period. Mr. Zimbabwe said it was from early 2018, but did not have specifics on the process and would get more information on that.
- xii. A neighbor asked about the possibility of widening I-295 in order to alleviate congestion. Mr. Zimbabwe said there were no plans to do that.
- xiii. Another neighbor pointed out that it seems the bottleneck along the C Street corridor is moving farther east. Mr. Zimbabwe pointed out that two (2) through lanes will still be a challenge. The reality is that there will be congestion due to the volume of traffic.
- xiv. A neighbor, Ms. Rogger, asked if the various teams at DDOT working on sustainability initiatives and if those working on specific redesigns are working together. Mr. Zimbabwe said he works on all of this, so, yes, they are coordinated.
- xv. ***Recommendation: Commissioner Gove moved that the Committee recommend ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT asking them to alter their plan for the C Street NE Rehabilitation project to revert it back as much as possible to what was presented to the community in February 2018. The motion was seconded by Chair Sloves and passed 6 - 0 with the support of Commissioners Gove, Phillips-Gilbert, and Ward.***

- C. Request by On the Rocks (1242 H Street NE) to offer valet parking - 20 minutes
  - i. Applicants asked to postpone to the June 2018 meeting.

VI. Additional Community Comment (time permitting)

- A. Ms. Nelson recommended the Committee look into encouraging bikers to use available bike lanes rather than sidewalks, when available.

VII. Adjourned meeting at 8:18 pm.