

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
May 16, 2022
Public Meeting - All are welcome
May 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm

- I. Call meeting to order.
Committee members present: Hassan Christian, Maura Dundon, Jeff Fletcher, Caitlin Rogger.
Commissioners present: Brian Alcorn, Keya Chatterjee, Robb Dooling, Laura Gentile, Amber Gove.

- II. Introductions & Announcements.

- III. Old Business
 - A. Interim safety improvements to H Street NE prior to completion of Bus Priority Project.
Previously, the Committee received a briefing from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) about plans for a Bus Priority Project for H Street NE. The project is not slated to begin construction until 2024. The Committee discussed the desire to implement interim safety measures on H Street NE in the near future, given the continuing traffic safety hazards.

Commissioner Dooling made a motion:
That the ANC send a letter to DDOT reiterating its previous requests for traffic calming measures on H Street NE and requesting their implementation by February 1, 2023, including: a westbound speed camera on the 1300 block; sidewalk extensions/bulb-outs at 14th Street, 10th Street, 8th Street, and 6th Street; a midblock crosswalk in the 1300 block of H Street; and a red painted bus-only lane similar to other installations.

Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

 - B. Update on plans for traffic safety improvements to 17th Street and 19th Street (Will Handsfield, DDOT)
Will Handsfield, DDOT Bicycle Program Specialist, presented on the status of DDOT's consideration of traffic safety improvements to 17th Street and 19th Street, from Benning Road NE to Potomac Avenue SE. Mr. Handsfield presented preliminary design options. The options would all provide better protected bike lanes, and would remove a lane of traffic, with the goal of slowing traffic and enlarging the protected bike lane network. Mr. Handsfield noted that the current configuration creates unsafe conflicts at intersections including uncontrolled two-lane one-way crossings, and allows speeding.

Mr. Handsfield noted that separately, DDOT is also working on a road diet north of Benning Road.

Commissioner Alcorn noted that a car had crashed into a residential yard on 17th Street NE the weekend prior to this TPS meeting due to speed. Commissioners Denise Krepp and Alison Horn from ANC 6B spoke to support the project.

Commissioner Alcorn made a motion:

That the ANC send a letter to DDOT supporting the project to increase safety on 17th Street and 19th Street for all users, and provide the opportunity for ANC 6B and ANC 7D to join the letter.

Committee member Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Request for raised crosswalks on 13th Street NE adjacent to Maury Elementary School. Commissioner Gove discussed several requests that DDOT has rejected for raised crosswalks in front of Maury Elementary School. DDOT denied requests made by ANC6A on the grounds of technical barriers to installation. DDOT said it was “not allowed” to install raised crosswalks or a speed hump on the 200 block of 13th Street NE.

Commissioner Gove proposed that the ANC letter of support for Safe Routes to School refer to DDOT’s claimed inability to install traffic calming to ensure the safety of Maury students. (see **New Business**)

- D. Vertical safety improvements installation simultaneous with planned paving projects. Abraham Diallo, DDOT Community Engagement Specialist, discussed coordination between repaving and installation of “vertical safety improvements” (e.g., speed humps) for blocks with TSIs requesting them. Mr. Diallo explained that currently, DDOT cannot coordinate the timing of approved speed hump installation and repaving. It is a good idea, but not feasible, because the two programs have separate DDOT resources and timelines.

Commissioner Gove made a motion:

That the ANC send a letter to DDOT urging coordination between the annual repaving projects and the installation of speed humps/speed tables, including a list of currently open TSIs on blocks scheduled for repaving.

Commissioner Alcorn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Safe Routes to School legislation

Commissioner Gove discussed a Safe Routes to School bill pending before the D.C. Council that would enhance traffic safety measures near schools. Commissioner Gove noted that the bill might require the installation of the raised crosswalks in front of Maury Elementary School that DDOT had previously rejected.

Commissioner Gove made a motion:

That the ANC send a letter to each D.C. Council member in support of the Safe Routes to School proposed legislation. In particular, the ANC supports the bill’s requirement to install vertical safety features in proximity to schools, given DDOT’s recent refusal to install raised crosswalks near Maury Elementary School on 13th Street NE.

Commissioner Chatterjee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Traffic issues related to RFK events

Commissioner Alcorn discussed RFK event traffic.

V. Additional Community Comment

A community member noted that DDOT had placed incorrect 25 MPH speed limit signs on East Capitol Street. He stated that DDOT is aware of the issue and will fix the signs to reflect 20 MPH. He noted that Councilmember Allen had been helpful in obtaining DDOT's commitment to correct the signs.

VI. Adjourn meeting