

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street, NE)
June 15, 2015 - 7:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00 pm
- II. Introductions
Committee members present: Co-chairs Omar Mahmud and Todd Sloves, Elizabeth Nelson, Jeff Fletcher, Lara Levison, and Andrea Adleman.
- III. Announcements
- IV. Community Comment
 - A. Two representatives of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) announced that the streetcar companies (Midtown Group and McDonald Transit) had laid off eight (8) workers for engaging in union activity and encouraged attendees to sign a petition.
- V. New Business
 - A. Application from Ben's Chili Bowl (1001 H Street NE) for placement of statue on public space
 - i. This item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. Frank White represented Ben's Chili Bowl in asking for support of placement of a statue—a fiberglass panda or something similar—outside their restaurant on H Street NW. Topics discussed: the degree of setback (more than the required seven (7) feet), possibility of vandalism, whether there would be enough space for pedestrians to pass by without crowding, and whether DC law/regulations allowed setting a time limit on the placement of the statue.
 - ii. ***Co-chair Omar Mahmud offered a motion that the ANC send a letter of support to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for placement of the statue with a condition that Ben's Chili Bowl would be willing to discuss relocating the statue if the ANC receives complaints about blocking pedestrian traffic.***
 1. ***Ms. Nelson offered an alternative motion for the ANC to support placement of the statue for a period of five (5) years. There was no second.***
 2. ***Second for the original motion: Fletcher. Voted yes: Adleman, Levison, Sloves, Mahmud, Fletcher. Voted no: Nelson. The motion was adopted (5-1).***
- VI. Update from Streetcar Team
 - A. Ralph Burns, Deputy Associate Director of DDOT, and Manager of the streetcar project, gave the update:
 - i. Mayor Bowser and the DDOT Director are committed to continuing the project. The focus is on the East-West segment, Georgetown to Benning Road. The segment from the Langston Hughes golf course to the Benning Road metro is in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase, i.e. environmental review and planning. The Union Station to Georgetown segment is also in the NEPA process.
 - ii. The Mayor and Director asked the American Public Transit Association (APTA) to do a complete assessment; found no fatal flaws; made eighteen (18) recommendations, 50% of which are now complete, and the others have a work plan. From the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) readiness review, only two (2) open items remain (schedule, fares?). To resolve the problem of the streetcars scraping platforms, some construction

is needed on three to five (3-5) loading docks to trim them back, and alterations to cars are needed as well.

- iii. Safety campaign: Doing outreach to schools (nine (9) assemblies - toolkits to the other schools); outreach team working to get people to park inside the white lines, and pedestrians to take care crossing and stop jaywalking.
- iv. Next: Three (3) weeks of final pre-revenue operation service, including 54 exercises.
- v. Q&A topics
 - Doing outreach to cab drivers via an email blast. Co-Chair Sloves recommended doing the same to Uber and Lyft.
 - They have an operator under contract for this segment: Rap Dev McDonnell Transit - a European company (runs parts of London Tube) and a Virginia company (as Tucson contract) that will operate and maintain.
 - DDOT sets the fare.
 - Using an IPT (integrated premium transit) approach that includes design, build, operation, and maintenance all in one contract is not likely for the other segments.

VII. Returned to New Business

- A. Presentation from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and DDOT on changes to 96 bus route
 - i. Presenters were Spring Wirth, DDOT bus planner, and Dave Arian, WMATA. The 96 bus will be rerouted starting Sunday, June 21, 2015 from East Capitol Street to Massachusetts Avenue. The agency presented the proposed changes to ANC 6C at their meeting, and ANC 6C's Transportation Committee worked with them on bus stop site selection. A map showing the stops was provided. A bikeshare station may be added at one of the stop locations.
 - ii. Background

This is one of the longest bus routes (three (3) hours round trip). The goal is to shorten the route, avoid congestion, and stop using the circuitous route around the Capitol that began after the 9/11 street closings. They did a study, held a public hearing, and the Board of Directors approved the change.
 - iii. Concerns raised
 - WMATA could have let people on Massachusetts Avenue know that the bus was coming back.
 - Congestion may not be better on this route - it is slow getting around Stanton Park, and getting into Lincoln Park.
 - There is a dangerous corner at Massachusetts and Tenth (10th) Streets NE.
 - ANC6A did not receive notice of the route change.
 - Will there be a formal evaluation? WMATA evaluates bus routes every year. Co-Chairs Mahmud and Sloves requested that WMATA get back to the Committee with the review.
- B. Application from Mia's Coffeehouse (1500 A Street NE) for placement of sidewalk café on public space
 - i. Jeff Diaz spoke for himself and his wife, Jenohn, about their new coffee house and their request for seven (7) tables (fourteen (14) seats) outside. The hearing is July 23, 2015. Q&A included trash storage; which parts of the area are actually in public space; the proposed hours of business (Monday-Thursday, 6:00 am-6:00 pm); trash will be collected by a staff person/busboy; possibility of early morning noise; no indoor seating under current certificate of occupancy—they are seeking a change to this; no amplified sound or music planned.

- ii. Two (2) neighbors spoke in support of the café. The owners have done great outreach. The previous market was a problem; we are begging for this—really excited. Another neighbor expressed some concerns about trash. Commissioner Calvin Ward expressed support for the café also. Co-Chair Mahmud stated that trash cans have to be on private space, not public space. Mahmud said he would send the owners a set of conditions that can then be presented to the full ANC.
- iii. ***Co-chair Mahmud offered a motion to lend support to Mia’s Coffeehouse for a public space permit, including conditions similar to those that the ANC has requested for other cafes using public space. Second: Sloves. Motion passed (6-0) with no opposition.***

C. Application from Tony’s Breakfast (1387 H Street NE) for placement of enclosed garbage containment area on public space

- i. Justine Choe, owner, presented her request. She does not yet have an application for use of public space. She has had complaints about the appearance of the exposed trash cans and wants to build an enclosure for them. The trash is collected every day. The cans are currently stored on public space. The landlord is very unhelpful regarding other storage options. Ms. Choe is here because ANC Commissioner Stephanie Zimny called her about this issue a couple of weeks ago.
- ii. Co-Chair Mahmud noted that, technically, Tony’s Breakfast needed permission to put the trash cans there in the first place. He does not recall ANC support for an application to store trash on public space and thinks Matthew Marcou, Chair of the DDOT Public Space Committee, would not approve it. Chupacabra Taqueria had to find a place to store their trash across the street. Mr. Mahmud advised Ms. Choe to look into other options and update the Committee in July 2015.

D. Consideration of and community input on opportunities for using H Street Performance Parking Funds in ANC 6A

- i. Limited time available for this discussion. Co-Chair Sloves will ask Commissioner Toomajian about the timeline. What are the boundaries of the area for using these funds? Ask the residents for ideas?

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.