

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Introductions & Announcements.

Committee members present: Shaun Lynch (Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Mark Sussman, Paul Angelone, and Patrick Bloomstine.

Commissioners present: Amber Gove (6A04).

III. Old Business.

A. DDOT update on the [Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project](#). Mr. [Peyton Manning](#) updated the committee and community on progress of the Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project. DDOT is currently working on the 1200- and 1300-blocks of Florida Avenue NE but ran into some issues with underground utilities in the area that have slowed progress installing streetlights. They expect another week or two there, and then onto the 1100-block, working their way to West Virginia Avenue NE. Overall, the project is still on track to finish in October 2024.

i. Committee Member Bloomstine asked about the status of the crosswalk at M Street NE. Chair Lynch noted comments from the ANC 6A Commission meeting the week prior that DDOT would not be reinstalling the crosswalk as part of this project; Mr. Manning confirmed this as well.

ii. Commissioner Christy Kwan (ANC 6C01) added that Commissioners have asked DDOT to reinstall the crosswalk at the upon completion of the Florida Avenue project because DDOT has stated they would only install a signalized crosswalk at that location, and a signalized crosswalk was not in the design plans for the project. DDOT's rationale for not including the crosswalk is that they do not believe that westbound cyclists would cross Florida Avenue to get to the NoMa/Gallaudet Metro station via M Street NE when they could simply continue up Florida Avenue NE [to the north entrance of the station].

B. [H Street NE Bus Priority Project \(NOI-24-07-TDD\)](#). Commissioner Gove requested an opportunity to present DDOT's responses to ANC 6A's [Letter of Support](#) for H Street NE Bus/Streetcar-only lanes and for the community to comment on DDOT's response. Project Manager, Mr. [Zack Gambetti-Mendez](#), also provided updates on the project and answered questions regarding DDOT's response. Mr. Gambetti-Mendez opened the discussion by noting that DDOT has not progressed as far in the design (65% design as of February 2024) with this project as they had hoped at this point due to coordination with DC Streetcar operations and the [State Safety Oversight Office](#). "Right-sizing" the mix of short-term and long-term parking on the corridor is the biggest outstanding item that DDOT is working on with the H Street NE businesses. DDOT plans to add raised platforms to all bus stops on the H Street NE corridor.

i. Committee Member Bloomstine asked if any consideration had been given to adding trees to the curb bulb out areas. DDOT Community Representative, Mr. [Abraham Diallo](#), responded that he worked with DDOT's [Urban Forestry Division](#) to address the Commission's questions regarding additional green space, and

that Urban Forestry said that sufficient soil does not exist in the additional curb space to support anymore trees. Commissioner Gove reiterated the Commission's underlying request for more green space in the design, including bioswales, water mitigation, and lower plants/bushes.

- ii. Commissioner Gove acknowledged the significant effort undertaken by DDOT to provide such detailed responses to all of the Commission's questions and noted the Commission's appreciation for that. However, she was disappointed in DDOT's response to a request to remove cobblestone from sidewalks. In addition to being unnavigable by people in wheelchairs, the cobblestones have been used so often to break storefront windows that businesses on H Street are having difficulty getting insurance. Mr. Gambetti-Mendez responded that the cobblestones are part of storm water mitigation.
 - iii. Community Member Frank Nickerson (1200 of block G Street NE) asked where DDOT believes the traffic will divert when H Street becomes one lane in each direction. Mr. Gambetti-Mendez responded that DDOT expects traffic to get dispersed to Florida Avenue NE, Maryland Avenue NE, and New York Avenue NE. He also noted that the Hopscotch Bridge replacement will result in H Street being reduced to one lane in each direction for the entire five-year duration of that project, so that it is already going to be a chokepoint that re-routes traffic. The H Street Bus Priority Project used the detailed traffic analysis conducted by the Hopscotch Bridge project to inform their design.
 - iv. Mr. Nickerson also noted that the curb extensions and bulb outs entirely of cement would only add to the heat sink effect and recommended adding more dirt/greenery where available. Added heat will make the corridor less pedestrian-friendly, which would seem antithetical to the entire purpose of the project. Mr. Gambetti-Mendez responded that the DC Streetcar operations have specific requirements that may be limiting additional greenery in the curb extensions, but that DDOT could consider alternatives adjacent to those areas. Committee Member Angelone also suggested art in those spaces in lieu of the nature-based solutions.
 - v. Community Member, Victor (700 block of 13th Street NE), reiterated a prior request to Mr. Gambetti-Mendez for a more detailed analysis of the traffic impacts of reduced H Street travel lanes to surrounding blocks in the neighborhood, and also noted concern of additional traffic routed through the neighborhoods as a result of no left turns from H Street NE. Mr. Gambetti-Mendez responded that DDOT is already looking into incorporating speed humps and other speed reduction measures down G Street NE and I Street NE] to discourage spillover traffic onto those streets. Commissioner Gove added that DDOT's detailed traffic analysis was included in their May 2023 [outreach presentation](#) to the ANCs.
- C. [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\)](#) Program. DOEE is soliciting input for possible EV charging station locations. Publicly accessible sites that are not restricted to specific tenants, employers, or parking customers are eligible for the most grants and subsidies relevant to DOEE. Chair Lynch noted that any input would not commit a lot owner to any EV charging installation but would simply direct DOEE outreach to the lot owner to gauge interest. Chair Lynch suggested parking lots adjacent the Starburst intersection (H Street NE, Bladensburg Road NE, Benning Road NE, and Maryland Avenue NE). Committee Member Sussman suggested churches, schools, and recreation centers would seem to be the most

appropriate. Chair Lynch added that gas stations in the neighborhood would be appropriate for DC Fast Charging stations, while surface lots at schools would be more appropriate for Level 2 chargers given the lengths of time during the day where the spaces would be occupied by employees. Committee Member Angelone added that School Within School already has some Level 2 EV chargers in their parking lot.

IV. New Business.

- A. [Arts in the Right-Of-Way \(AROW\)](#) project at 15th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE. DDOT has selected [Joel Bergner](#), a local, District-based artist, to design and install the ground mural. Commissioner Gove introduced the AROW program as a DDOT-funded program that will paint art into curb extension spaces, such as inside flex-posted areas. She also added that we have asked multiple times for an all-way stop at this location. She recommended that, given the proximity to the Capital Candy Jar business on the corner of the intersection, a candy-related design be considered. Committee Member Sussman concurred that may be the only design that would make sense.

Commissioner Gove made the motion recommending that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of the Arts in the Right-Of-Way project at 15th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE and reiterating a long-standing request for an all-way stop at this location. Chair Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with all commissioners and committee members present voting in favor.

- B. Maury Elementary School PTA, in collaboration with Hill Family Biking, sought a letter of support from ANC 6A for an Art in the Right of Way installation at Maury Elementary School in the crosswalk across the 200-block of 13th St NE at the intersection with Tennessee Ave NE. Committee Member Mark Sussman presented details of the request in his capacity of Hill Family Biking representative. The project will consist of a 2-foot color banner on both sides of the existing crosswalk and will follow DDOT guidelines. Hill Family Biking is working with local street artist, [Chalk Riot](#), to design the installation. This would be the first permanent crosswalk installation in DC. They are working permitting with DDOT in July 2024, planning installation in August 2024 and a ribbon-cutting on Hill Family Biking's Back to School ride over Labor Day weekend. The installation would involve a one-day temporary roadblock.

Committee Member Bloomstine made the motion recommending: ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT in support of an Arts in the Right-Of-Way installation at Maury Elementary School in the crosswalk across the 200 block of 13th Street at the intersection with Tennessee Avenue. Committee Member Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-2, with TPS Committee Members Lynch, Fletcher, Angelone, and Bloomstine voting in favor, and Commissioner Gove and Committee Member Sussman abstaining.

V. Community Comment.

- A. Committee Member Angelone suggested that, in the context of the arts discussion, that the community consider art [in projects such as DDOT's AROW program] to help bring together the Maury Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, and

- Eliot Hines Middle School cluster of schools. Committee Member Sussman noted that Hill Family Biking does have a plan for a similar crosswalk banner installation at Miner Elementary School in the future.
- B. Commissioner Gove announced that A Street NE between North Carolina Avenue NE and 17th Street NE will be designated [Blue and White Marching Machine Way](#) likely in coordination with the Eastern High School Homecoming on September 27, 2024

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.