

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Call-in Conference via WebEx
Monday, August 17, 2020

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

II. Introductions:

Committee members in attendance: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Marc Brumer, Maura Dundon, Jeff Fletcher, Hassan Christian

Commissioners in attendance: Amber Gove (6A04), Mike Soderman (6A03), Sondra Phillips-Gilbert (6A07)

III. Old Business

Andrew DeFrank from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) updated the Committee on outstanding ANC 6A traffic calming issues. He addressed the H St NE Corridor, and a traffic calming request for 1200-1500 blocks of C Street NE, submitted in June 2017.

Mr. DeFrank stated that there are no plans to comprehensively redesign the H Street corridor so he is instead trying to handle the issues raised through individual service requests. For C Street NE, the plan is still for a contractor to be brought on in the fall of 2020 and construction to begin before the end of this year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Gove, Mr. DeFrank clarified that a Traffic Safety Assessment request is the best procedure for a specific block or intersection. DDOT is currently encouraging requestors to focus on key blocks and intersections, rather than entire corridors.

IV. New Business

A. Slow Streets Program. Feedback on Signage and Requests to Expand

Slow Streets are currently installed on:

- 12th Street NE (from Lincoln Park to K Street NE)
- G Street NE (from 2nd Street to 15th Street NE)
- Gales Street NE (from 15th Street NE to 21st Street NE)

The Committee discussed that there are models of signage that may be improvements over the current signage (e.g., the Portland signage at end of document). Mr. Brummer and Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert said that the current signage is confusing to drivers.

Mr. DeFrank acknowledged that DDOT has received requests for better signage but stated that currently DDOT is not changing the signage, but also has not made a determination about what it can or cannot do yet.

Commissioner Sondra Phillips-Gilbert stated that she felt that DDOT had not properly informed the community or considered impacts on street traffic. She said her constituents are confused about where they can park. She requested that DDOT hold off on the Gales Street installation in the Rosedale neighborhood. The streets are too narrow, and community feedback was not solicited.

Chair Elizabeth Nelson asked about flyers that DDOT could provide for distribution door to door. She said she had not seen many people using the streets, so they need to be encouraged or else it is not worth the inconvenience to drivers.

Mr. DeFrank stated that he sent an email to ANC Commissioners in June 2020 notifying them of additional Slow Streets pilots. On June 30, 2020, DDOT announced possible Phase 2 locations, including Gales Street, and solicited feedback. One reason the installation is happening now is that DC Council has passed legislation requiring installation of the selected routes by Sept 1, 2020. Mr. DeFrank said that Gales & Rosedale were chosen because they are local, narrow, with no bus traffic, and connect communities/places of interest. Narrow streets were chosen because cars are accustomed to using caution. This makes it easier for people to go into the roadway to maintain physical distancing. These closures are specifically for the pandemic when traffic volume is already low. DDOT chose low volume routes so there is not much traffic that will be displaced.

Mr. DeFrank stated that DDOT wants feedback on Slow Streets. Feedback can be submitted via the QR code on the door hangers, by email to andrew.defrank@dc.gov, or online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScysW_U_fpkjxZXX9bkPPEoKFB0VUnaYdUV1Ueg_v0itFMr9w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1.

Commissioner Mike Soderman shared feedback from constituents asking why 12th Street was chosen. Some on 9th Street would love to be part of it; some on 11th Street say that they are getting semis on that street; and some on 10th Street believe they are getting a lot of cut-through traffic during the pandemic.

Commissioner Phillips-Gilbert requested flyers from DDOT to distribute within her SMD.

Commissioner Amber Gove stated that the biggest issue is signage for drivers. She has gotten positive feedback from her constituents and requests for more Slow Streets.

B. Consideration of additional pedestrian/traffic safety issues as suggested by commissioners and community members.

Commissioner Gove noted that the list discussed at this meeting is a new list identifying traffic safety concerns raised by Commissioners and community members. The public should refer to the ANC6A website for locations that have already been the subject of pending or resolved requests by ANC6A.

1. There was consideration of a specific request for letter of support for 20-00105420, speed humps in the 1600 and 2000 blocks of D Street NE. Chair Nelson noted her preference for raised crosswalks over mid-block speed humps, which she perceives to be less effective at traffic calming given that pedestrians are expected to cross at crosswalks. Additionally, the vibration from large vehicles going over speed humps can damage homes.

Commissioner Soderman made the motion that TPS recommend that ANC6A send a letter of support for the request 20-00105420 for speed humps on the 1600 and

2000 blocks of D Street NE. Ms. Dundon seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-1, including the three commissioners present with Chair Nelson opposed.

2. Making Acute Angle Intersections Safer. The Committee discussed the problem of the acute angle intersections and the possibility of raised crosswalks as an alternative to speed humps. It was Commissioner Gove's understanding that DDOT will not install raised crosswalks; Mr. DeFrank said he thought that they might. He will report back to the Commission prior to the September 21, 2020 TPS meeting. Intersections reported by Commissioner Gove include 1300 block of A Street NE, 1100 and 1200 block of F Street NE, 1300 block of G Street NE, south of Maryland Avenue NE.

3. Crosswalk Striping

Commissioner Gove noted a list (below) of proposed crosswalk striping requests that she made, and that she would like to receive additional community suggestions. Commissioner Soderman noted that the ANC 6A has pending striping requests that have not been fulfilled yet:

- D Street at each intersection from 9th to 14th Street, plus 16th and 19th Street
- 12th Street at C, D & E Streets, Wylie Court and I Street
- I Street from 8th Street to Florida Avenue NE
- 13th Street at D, E & F Streets NE

The Commission agreed to solicit additional proposed striping requests via social media.

Commissioner Soderman made the motion: That the TPS Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting striping at a list of intersections to be assembled by the TPS, with opportunity for community input prior to the September 2020 ANC meeting. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0 including the three Commissioners present.

4. Other items

Adding bike lanes with missing segments to a priority list will be considered at a future TPS meeting.

Commissioner Gove noted that all pending requests need to be reviewed with Mr. DeFrank item by item to learn the current status.

Commissioner Soderman noted that he will follow up on the 200 block of 9th Street NE.

Committee member Marc Brumer suggested identifying speed humps with missing paint as a priority. After some discussion, it was agreed that he would begin developing a list of problem humps. Chair Nelson noted that any new requests can be sent to an ANC commissioner and cc'd to her.

- V. Community Comment

Maureen Benitz, a resident of ANC 6A07, stated she is concerned about increased traffic onto Kramer Street from the Slow Streets closure. She felt very surprised by the Slow

Streets installation, and does not recall any outreach. She also does not know if people are actually going walk on the roadways when there is still traffic on the street.

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Example of more-informative street sign (Portland)

