Minutes

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm Virtual Meeting via Zoom

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.
- II. Introductions & Announcements.

Committee members present: Caitlin Rogger (Secretary), Jeff Fletcher, Mark Sussman, Paul Angelone, and Patrick Bloomstine.

Commissioners present: Amber Gove (6A04), Dave Wethington (6A05), and Robb Dooling (6A06).

III. Old Business.

- A. DDOT update on the <u>Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project</u>. This business item was deferred, as no one from the project team was present for tonight's meeting.
- B. H Street NE Bus Priority Project (NOI-24-07-TDD). Mr. Zack Gambetti-Mendez, H St Bus Priority Project Manager, and Mr. David Lipscomb, DDOT Curbside Manager presented updates on parking regulations. DDOT hosted a survey from July 25 to August 11 regarding parking regulations on H Street NE, and DDOT's proposal has been informed by this survey along with the joint letter from ANC 6A and 6C earlier this year. Survey responses were not generally supportive of 10-minute parking spots, but DDOT added such locations where they had been specifically requested by businesses or the community. This included 10-minute parking along the north side of the 400-block, north and south side of the 600-block (west of the signalized mid-block crosswalk), north side of 800-block, half the south side of the 900-block, approximately 5 spots on the north side of the 1200-block centered around the signalized mid-block crossing, and the entire south side of the 1300block. There is no parking on the south side of the 1400-block, which is how it is currently marked, despite vehicles consistently parked there. DDOT has been coordinating with DC Streetcar operations and the State Safety Oversight Office, which took longer than expected, but the 90% design is due out any day now. The project expected to break ground as one of the first DDOT projects in 2025. Mr. Lipscomb presented data on pick-up/drop-off (PUDO) zones that began as a pilot in Dupont Circle in 2017 as well as the Short Term Parking Program. Data recorded for DDOT by curb Flow found that 90% of PUDO usage lasted 15 minutes or less, and that double parking was the most frequent unsafe behavior among multiple surveys. DDOT is hoping to provide increased enforcement of the PUDO zones, and they are moving toward automated enforcement.
 - i. Commissioner Gove as for clarification of a "fully signalized crosswalk." Mr. Gambetti responded that it includes a traffic light with red, yellow, and green lights such as at every vehicular intersection.
 - ii. Committee Member Mark Sussman asked what the process would be for reevaluating the parking once the project is complete. Mr. Lipscomb replied that DDOT would have to discuss that internally, and that with projects like these DDOT continually monitors them through informal and formal means. The curbside team will survey the site in person, and they also receive feedback from the community and the ANCs. Mr. Lipscomb added that the 10-minute

- parking will be mobile payment only, and that the team will be regularly monitoring activity with that. The 10-minute parking is moving on from being a pilot program to a more formal program. The best tool for feedback will be direct from the community.
- iii. Mr. Sussman also asked about the bike lane on 14th Street NE and its interaction with the bus stop at the intersection with H Street. Mr. Gambetti responded that he does not have any updates because it had to go back to traffic analysis, but it is still being worked on.
- C. Traffic calming on 11th Street NE from East Capitol Street to Florida Avenue NE. The DDOT community liaison was not available to provide an update.

Commissioner Gove made the motion recommending: ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting urgent action along the corridor and then clarify their plans for traffic calming along 11th Street NE between Florida Avenue NE and East Capitol Street Committee Member Bloomstine seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all commissioners and committee members present voting in favor.

- D. Signage at the intersection of 11th Street NE/East Capitol Street/Massachusetts Avenue NE. Commissioner Gove noted that she and Commissioner Velasquez had met previously with DDOT at this location about traffic flow and configuration. Commissioner Gove expressed disappointment that DDOT was not present at tonight's committee meeting to provide an update and suggested they should be invited to the full commission meeting in October.
- E. Request for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue NE and 14th Street NE. Commissioner Wethington presented background on the issues at this intersection, where near misses on vehicle collisions are commonplace.

Commissioner Wethington made the motion recommending: ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue NE and 14th Street NE.

Committee Member offered a friendly amendment to the motion: also requesting repainting of the bike lane on 14th Street NE between E Street NE and Tennessee Avenue NE, following repaying that had occurred last year.

Committee Member Bloomstine seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all commissioners and committee members present voting in favor.

IV. New Business.

A. Request for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue NE & E Street NE. Commissioner Dooling presented background on the issues at the intersection. Community Member Gimbiya spoke of a recent accident she had at this intersection because drivers cannot see cross traffic down Tennessee Avenue without moving into the intersection. Committee Member Sussman added that all modes of traffic fly down the hill at that intersection, and that it is a game of chicken all the time and an accident waiting to happen.

Commissioner Dooling made the motion recommending: ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue NE and E Street NE.

Committee Member Sussman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all commissioners and committee members present voting in favor.

- B. Consideration of converting 1400-block of G Street NE to one-way. Commissioner Dooling opened the discussion by noting that neighbors have been advocating conversion of this block to a one-way configuration since he became a commissioner. DDOT has stated they will not conduct a study unless the community supports a specific direction of the one-way. Commissioner Dooling noted that he has not supported a specific direction but has asked for community input to guide the direction. So far he has received input from individual constituents, five of whom supported a one-way, and three who do not, but he noted there's time to get input in until the October 10, 2024 ANC 6A meeting. He reviewed the history of the community process of converting the 1300-block of North Carolina Avenue NE into a one-way, but that it has made the street safer.
 - i. Committee Member Bloomstine believes that a one-way conversion would make the street much safer, and added that the committee should consider any letter on the topic include converting to a pocket park the short segment of the 1300-block of G Street NE between Maryland Avenue NE and 14th Street NE because vehicles too often veer off of Maryland Avenue and roll through the stop sign at 14th and G Streets NE. Commissioner Dooling suggested a pocket park should be a separate discussion.
 - ii. Community Member John Jones expressed concern of converting the block to a one-way as it would result in directing traffic through the alleyway, potentially endangering neighborhood children.
 - iii. Community Member Dom Cirincione greatly supports a one-way conversion. There is a significant burden on this street due to traffic volume, including from Chick-Fil-A, and he believes pedestrian safety is of great concern.
 - iv. Community Member Felix G agreed with Mr. Cirincione wholeheartedly. He also noted concerns of the recent influx of motor scooters picking up delivery from Chick-Fil-A.
 - v. Community Member Kasey Ferrell expressed concerns about the one-way, and noted prior DDOT study (of an eastbound one-way) that did not recommend conversion.
 - vi. Community Member Gimbiya asked how long such DDOT studies take and if it's worth DDOT revisiting this block under possibly new traffic conditions. Committee Member Rogger noted that these studies can take a while, and that DDOT rarely revisits former areas of study, but that with changes in traffic patterns due to PUDOs and food delivery vehicles is enough of a change to make a new study worthwhile. Commissioner Dooling reiterated that DDOT is not going to do another study without a specific direction recommendation from the community.
 - vii. Mr. Cirincione clarified that the previous DDOT study was from 2013 and only considered an eastbound direction to flow into Gales Street NE on the other side of 15th Street NE. He understands that the rationale for why DDOT did not recommend an eastbound conversion was an excessively complicated westbound egress back onto Maryland Ave NE for those residents living between

14th Place NE and 15th Street NE. DDOT did not study a westbound one-way on the 1400-block of G Street NE. He acknowledged the inconvenience that would be put onto some neighbors with a one-way, himself included, but that the impact on public safety would be worth it.

Commissioner Dooling made the motion recommending: ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT requesting conversion of the 1400-block of G Street NE to a one-way westbound. Committee Member Bloomstime seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with all commissioners and committee members present voting in favor.

- C. Restoration of raised crosswalk at 14th and E Streets NE. Commissioner Wethington presented background on this issue, and noted that it will be addressed in a previous approved letter to DDOT for an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue NE and 14th Street NE.
- D. Public Space Permit application #453622. Commissioner Wethington stated that the permit is for a USPS mailbox in the public right-of-way in front of new construction at 423 13th Street NE. There have been several new buildings construed in this area, and that a mailbox here would not be inconsistent with other construction in the city.
- V. Community Comment. None.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.