

MINUTES

ANC 6A Transportation and Public Space (T&PS) Committee Meeting
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
October 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm

- I. Called to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. Introductions
 - A. Committee members in attendance: Omar Mahmud (co-chair), Todd Sloves (co-chair), Hassan Christian, Lara Levison, Jeff Fletcher, Elizabeth Nelson, Andrea Adelman.
 - B. Commissioners in attendance: Matt Levy, ANC6A04.
- III. Announcements - None.
- IV. Community Comment
 - A. Vanessa Cieslak raised a concern about truck traffic on Eleventh (11th) Street SE. Twenty years ago, the street had “no trucks” signs. Now, there is heavy truck traffic, including tractor-trailers, going toward the Eleventh (11th) Street ramp to I-695. There are twenty-five (25) children and a laundromat on her block. Eleventh (11th) Street NE, north of Lincoln Park, is too narrow for trucks. Ms. Cieslak thinks Eighth (8th) and Fourteenth (14th) Streets are designated for trucks. She sent a letter to Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen.
 - i. Co-chair Sloves: There is an application process for “no trucks” signs. We will facilitate and perhaps you can come back to the Committee to seek our input.
 - B. Commissioner Levy: We sent a petition for a stop sign at Eighth (8th) and D Streets NE. Has there been a response yet? Sloves/Mahmud: We will follow up.
- V. New Business
 - A. Public space request related to Rappaport Company redevelopment of H Street Connection.
 - i. Nick Fanelli presented on behalf of W.C. Smith, a DC-based development company that also has a construction subsidiary. Rappaport Company manages shopping centers. The T&PS committee received a presentation on this retail and housing project in August 2015 (see <http://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/TPS0815.pdf> for details). The building will be on H Street NE between Eighth (8th) and Tenth (10th) Streets NE.
 - ii. Still outstanding is the use of public space. The current requests are to do the following:
 1. Change curb cuts: Close the curb cut at Ninth (9th) Street (currently the entrance to the parking lot for H Street Connection) and replace it with residential drop off and pick up. Move and widen the curb cut for the alley on Eighth (8th) and Tenth (10th) Streets NE. The alley is private. The plan is to move the curb cut north a few feet and widen it to handle all loading as well as parking for customers and residents. The alley will be one (1) way from west to east, except it will be two (2) ways at the Tenth (10th) Street end for residents to enter and exit the residential parking garage.

2. Place special pavers at the corner of Eighth (8th) and H Streets NE. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) requires the company to revitalize that corner.
 3. Place awnings at the residential entrances on H Street and on Eighth (8th) Street NE. Ms. Nelson asked that they be cantilevered so there are no poles in the sidewalk. Mr. Fanelli said that is what they plan to do. The Eighth (8th) Street NE entrance will be the entrance for retail parking as well as a secondary entrance for residents.
 4. For the possible café area at the corner of Eighth (8th) and H Streets NE, they will ask for six (6) feet between the seating area and the bus shelter. That said, any future tenant will still have to go through the normal public space request process in order to operate a sidewalk café at that location.
 5. Create a valet parking zone on H Street NE from 5:00 to 11:00 pm. Although the tenant would have to get approval to have valet parking, this is part of the public space request. It would replace two to three (2-3) metered parking places. Valeted cars will be parked in the garage.
 6. Move three (3) parking spaces from the east side of Tenth (10th) Street to the west side to allow for truck turning. These are currently one (1) metered space and two (2) residential spaces. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) proposes three (3) metered spaces instead. Co-chair Mahmud said he will recommend that the ANC push DDOT to maintain the current 2 and 1 breakdown so there is no reduction in residential parking spaces.
- iii. Discussion included the following:
1. The closest neighbor on Eighth (8th) Street asked how they will protect the wall of her house, which runs along the alley serving the site. She also expressed concern about construction and the effect of vibrations over time. Mr. Fanelli said they have a retaining wall planned, with a green screen on top of the wall.
 2. Co-chair Mahmud noted that these new developments should aid in improving security in the area, such as by monitoring the perimeter of the building. He brought it up with Emily Struck at the ANC meeting. Mr. Fanelli: The front desk for the apartments will be manned 24/7 and will monitor the interior and exterior. Mahmud said he would like Ms. Struck to have preliminary thoughts on this security plan when this item is taken up at the full ANC 6A meeting in November 2015.
- iv. ***Co-chair Sloves offered a motion, seconded by Jeff Fletcher, that the committee recommend to the full ANC that they support the following elements of the Rappaport Company's application to the DDOT Public Space Committee, with the condition that the Rappaport Company present a security plan for the perimeter of the building:***
1. ***Close a the curb cut at Ninth (9th) St NE and replace it with residential drop off and pick up zone;***
 2. ***Widen the curb cuts for the alley behind the property to conform with the alley's increased width;***
 3. ***Use special pavers at the corner of Eighth (8th) St NE and H St NE;***

4. *Place cantilevered awnings at the two residential entrances that will not obstruct pedestrian traffic;*
 5. *Include a café zone on the Eighth (8th) Street NE side of the property that will provide six feet of space between the existing bus shelter and the café zone, [AMENDED: and that will provide buffer space between neighboring property to the south on Eighth (8th) Street NE.]; and*
 6. *Create a valet parking zone on the H Street side of the property.*
- v. Discussion of the motion: This motion should not be interpreted as support for any specific application for a café. Neighbor Gretchen, who has lived near the site for fourteen (14) years, noted that it is already very congested, and an information kiosk or public restroom would be preferred. Co-chair Mahmud said this is a transformative approach for this corner; it takes away loitering space.
 - vi. *Co-chair Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Jeff Fletcher, to amend the motion, to shorten the area for café seating, so that it would not go as far down Eighth (8th) Street. The motion as amended passed unanimously.*
 - vii. *Co-chair Mahmud offered a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Nelson, that the ANC should support the plan to move parking spaces to accommodate truck turning, and that the spaces should remain as currently designated: two for residents and one metered. The motion passed unanimously.*
- B. Request for support of traffic calming assessment for 1200 and 1300 blocks of Constitution Avenue NE.
- i. Amber Gove, neighbor in the 1200 block of Constitution, presented the topic. They have enough signatures (seventy percent (70%) of households) from the 1200 block, but not yet from the 1300 block, for their petition for a traffic calming assessment and are seeking a letter of support from the ANC. Stop signs have improved the situation, but accidents continue at each corner, including a recent, fatal hit-and-run of a dog in a crosswalk. Maury Elementary School is at Thirteenth (13th) Street and Constitution Avenue NE, and the Appletree School is nearby.
 - ii. Discussion of the hazards of the intersection of Constitution Avenue, Thirteenth Street (13th), and Kentucky Avenue NE led to the suggestion that we ask DDOT to study how to improve the intersection. Commissioner Matt Levy will draft the letter for support and request to study the intersection. He will also provide the application and petition for submission with the letter.
 - iii. *Co-Chair Sloves offered a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Nelson, that the committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter to DDOT supporting a request for a traffic calming study on the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Constitution Avenue NE and ask DDOT to assess the intersection at Thirteenth (13th) Street NE, Tennessee Avenue NE and Constitution Avenue NE. The motion passed unanimously.*
- C. DDOT presentation on bike lane project for Eleventh (11th) Street NE and Thirteenth (13th) Street NE
- i. Mike Goodno from DDOT presented the project. It will be similar to the recent improvements around Stanton Park and will complete the network of bike lanes

around Lincoln Park, plus add a contraflow bike lane on Eleventh (11th) Street between Massachusetts Ave and Constitution Ave NE.

- ii. Discussion included the proposal to add a “sharrow” for the 100 block of Thirteenth (13th) Street approaching Constitution Avenue NE. This is the same confusing intersection discussed in the agenda item above. The Committee also discussed and disagreed on the contraflow proposal for Eleventh (11th) Street NE, a narrow section of the road where vehicles drive quickly to catch the short light. Four committee members opposed the contraflow proposal for that block, and four were undecided.
- iii. ***Co-chair Sloves offered a motion that the Committee recommend that ANC 6A send a letter of to DDOT in support the bike lane plan with the exception of the contraflow lane on 100 block of Eleventh (11th) Street Seconded by Jeff Fletcher.***
- iv. ***Co-chair Sloves offered an amendment to his previous motion, specifying that in its letter of support ANC 6A ask DDOT to examine, for that block, which would be safer: a dedicated southbound lane or a contraflow lane. The amendment was seconded by Lara Levison and passed 5-3. The motion as amended then passed unanimously (8-0).***
- v. Co-chair Sloves will write the letter. Mike Goodno said that DDOT would probably pull that block out of the project and reconsider it later, since DDOT wants to get this project done before Thanksgiving 2015.

VI. Additional Community Comment - None.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.