

Minutes
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Introductions & Announcements.

Committee members present: Shaun Lynch (Co-Chair), Caitlin Rogger (Co-Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Mark Sussman, Paul Angelone

Commissioners present: Amber Gove (ANC 6A Chair, 6A04), Keya Chatterjee (6A01)

III. Old Business.

A. DDOT update on the [Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project](#). Mr. Peyton Manning (Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project Outreach Team) and Mr. Nandlal Gevaria (Project Manager) updated the committee and community on progress on the Florida Avenue NE Streetscape Project. Final repaving on 2nd and 6th Streets should be completed in a couple of weeks. Sidewalk work has moved down to 7th to 9th Streets NE on the south side. Outreach representatives have been out to the affected blocks to address concerns with affected neighbors and have ensured that trash and recycling will still get picked up. North side sidewalks work will continue in January and February 2024. Washington Gas continues working between 9th and 12th Streets NE and should be complete with all work by the end of January 2024. DC Water will be working on water and sewer lines in that area through the summer. The paving teams will continue work from 12th Street to H Street NE in the spring and then finish from 9th to 12th Streets NE after DC Water is complete. The team prioritized paving and marking 2nd to 6th Streets NE because it is heavily used by pedestrians and there are other commercial projects happening in that area.

- i. Co-Chair Shaun Lynch asked about the delays to the sidewalk construction from M Street NE to 7th Street NE. Mr. Manning responded that he expects four more weeks until bio-retention is done, but sidewalks will be complete earlier.
- ii. Commissioner Christy Kwan (ANC 6C 01) asked at what stage the concrete barriers will be installed. Mr. Gevaria responded that there were issues with the design of the concrete barriers as they did not match the approved plans for the avenue. He expects that they will be installed in the next two to three months. Commissioner Kwan also requested the project team update the website announcements page, as it has not been updated since October 2023.
- iii. Co-Chair Lynch also updated the Committee that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) responded to Commissioner Chatterjee separately about the signalization of the traffic lights at K Street NE/12th Street NE/Florida Avenue NE/Montello Avenue NE intersections. DDOT says the signalization complies with federal safety standards, but that they will be adding 3 seconds to the leading pedestrian interval (LPI) at the intersection for vehicles traveling south onto 12th Street NE.

IV. New Business.

A. DDOT updates on the Vision Zero hardening design of the intersection at 11th Street NE/SE and East Capitol Street. Ms. [Emma Blondin](#), DDOT Transportation Specialist,

presented the updated plans for the intersection. The 90% design removes the curb extensions due to extensive engineering and storm water work required. They also made the island much larger and install [Qwick Kurb®](#) posts on East Capitol Street to prevent vehicles from making U-turns. DDOT still intends to install this by the end of the year. Once complete, they hope to provide further input on a broader Lincoln Park traffic study.

- i. TPS Committee Member Mark Sussman noted the new design is a good compromise. He asked if the crosswalks to the island were at grade or raised. Ms. Blondin responded that it is at grade.
- ii. TPS Committee Member Jeff Fletcher asked if there were any other measures available to prevent people from making the U-turns on East Capitol Street. Ms. Blondin responded that the [Qwick Kurb®](#) posts planned for installation are a more robust form of flex post and should prevent the U-turns. She also noted seeing many instances of vehicles making that U-turn on East Capitol Street during site surveys.
- iii. Co-Chair Lynch noted that the 11th Street SE bike lane, south of East Capitol Street, remain unchanged from how they currently exist, which is a change from the earlier design. Ms. Blondin responded that shifting the bike lanes, as was originally designed, would have required other signalization changes that would have delayed the project. It also allowed the island to be larger.
- iv. Community Member Michael Cushman noted that there is no new signage on the north side of East Capitol Street [Lincoln Park]. The existing signs are not easy to see, and do not match the new marking. Ms. Blondin made a note on her design to ensure that is added. Mr. Cushman also asked if it was possible to give cyclists more of a bike lane at the curb on the north side of East Capitol Street opposite the pedestrian island. Ms. Blondin said that the hatched-out area on the pavement is designed to keep the cars out of there around the turn, though she expects they will still run over it. Mr. Cushman suggested a green path over the hatched area. Ms. Blondin said her team would revisit the bike lane in the area.
- v. Community Member D. Smith asked if the 11th Street crosswalk could be wider because it is regularly a congested area. She also expressed concern about reverting to an older traffic pattern regarding the left turn onto 11th Street NE from the north side of Lincoln Park. Ms. Blondin responded that the crosswalk has been widened to twenty feet and noted that signage at the left turn would be key.
- vi. Community Member Deborah Hirtz also noted the confusion of the left turn onto 11th Street NE. Committee Member Sussman clarified that, in this design, the right traffic lane has three options: continue straight through to Massachusetts Avenue NE; turn left onto the far-right lane of 11th Street to continue to the East Capitol Street turn; or turn left onto 11th Street NE and continue south. Existing markings do not facilitate continuing south on 11th Street and this causes last-second confusion for drivers unfamiliar with the intersection and abrupt lane-changing even by drivers who are familiar. Ms. Blondin agreed that the existing signs are very confusing, and agreed to consider adding larger and simplified signage, possibly in more locations.
- vii. Commissioner Amber Gove noted that there are also “No Turn on Red 7:00 am-7:00 pm” signs at that intersection of 11th Street NE and East Capitol Street [north side of Lincoln Park], where traffic cannot ever turn right onto 11th Street NE because it is one-way.

- viii. Community Member Jennifer [*no last name noted*] asked a question in the Q&A about whether the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) had been consulted about the narrowing of the turn onto East Capitol Street from 11th Street NE. Ms. Blondin responded that with the curb extensions removed in the new design it is less of an issue. DDOT does ensure that emergency vehicles, including National Guard vehicles are accommodated by the design, but they do not specifically consult with the National Guard.
 - ix. Community Member Mark [*no last name noted*] asked a question in the Q&A about whether there are other additional measures that can be added to East Capitol Street to prevent drivers from making a U-turn. Ms. Blondin responded that the design as presented includes center line hardening (with the [Qwick Kurb®](#) posts), but that the road is not wide enough to install a center curb.
 - x. Co-Chair Lynch asked how much longer DDOT is taking community comments. Ms. Blondin requested any additional comments by November 28, 2023 to her [email](#).
- B. Lincoln Park Traffic Design. Committee Member Sussman opened a conversation about the West Virginia Avenue NE. Co-Chair Lynch added that this topic has been brought up in several other TPS Committee meetings during discussion of adjacent Notices of Intent (NOIs) and is interested in what (if any) traffic studies have been conducted post-pandemic.
- i. Commissioner Gove requested community members submit [Traffic Safety Investigation \(TSI\)](#) requests to the 311 system regarding Lincoln Park traffic safety issues
 - ii. Committee Member Sussman presented suggested goals of a new design: Dissuade cut-through traffic; Simplify traffic patterns; shorten pedestrian crossings by eliminating traffic lanes; and separate bikes and cars around the entirety of the park.
 - iii. Community Member Cushman asked about what the process is for redesigning this traffic flow and expressed concern that not enough notice or detail was provided about this topic in advance of the meeting. As for any modification to the existing flow, he believes that throttling any existing lanes around the park will ultimately result in cut-through traffic elsewhere in the neighborhood. Co-Chair Lynch responded that this Committee discussion was admittedly early in any process to make changes to the traffic pattern and was added as an agenda item as a matter of discussion specifically because it had been brought up on so many other occasions. No resolution to write a letter to DDOT was intended on being voted on. Mr. Cushman requested the Committee post links to the DDOT traffic and safety studies once they are complete, and recommended DDOT collect information on the “choke points” and traffic flows around the park.
- V. Community Comment.
- A. Community Member Alex Kelly asked a question about the process of the Commission and the Committee distributing information about the meetings and collecting input from the community, and specifically why the October 2023 TPS Committee meeting minutes were not included in the November 2023 ANC 6A Commission Meeting. Co-Chair Lynch responded that the Committee Meeting minutes are due to the Commission at least three days in advance of the Commission meeting, and that the [Agendas](#) link on the ANC 6A website includes separate links to both a simple agenda and to full agenda package. The [November 9, 2023 ANC 6A meeting package](#) did include the October TPS

Committee meeting minutes on page 72 of 111. Commissioner Gove added that the simple agenda includes the consent agenda and is posted a week prior to the Commission meeting, and that the full meeting package gets posted the night before the meeting.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.