

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
December 15, 2014

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. Introductions - Committee members in attendance were J. Omar Mahmud (Co-Chair), Todd Sloves (Co-Chair), Jeff Fletcher and Andrea Adleman,). Also in attendance was ANC6A Commissioner Calvin Ward.
- III. Community Comment
 - A. Mr. Sloves announced that he attended a meeting with stakeholders on historic preservation issues concerning the Maryland Avenue redesign and streetscape project.
 - B. January and February 2015 committee meetings are being moved to the second Monday of the month because the MLK and Presidents' Day holidays fall on the third Monday of those month.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Update from DC Streetcar officials regarding the final stages of the project and commencement of revenue service - Mr. Sloves introduced Thomas Perry from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) streetcar team and thanked him for attending. Mr. Perry provided the committee the following information:
 - i. The temporary maintenance facility along Benning Road (on the Springarn site) has been completed. DDOT continues to obtain approvals and move forward with construction of the permanent facility on this same site.
 - ii. The streetcars and operators are still undergoing testing. Vehicle certification has been ongoing and the DDOT safety certification package is being reviewed now, but Mr. Perry believes there is still an opportunity to have service begin by end of the year.
 - iii. A firm date for passenger service has yet to be established.
 1. Mr. Mahmud asked about plans for expansion east and west of H Street/Benning Road given his belief that future success for the streetcar will depend on it being a viable east/west transit option across the city. Mr. Perry responded that DDOT is moving forward with plans to extend west to Georgetown and east to Benning Road or to the Minnesota Avenue Metro. DDOT is currently in the federal environmental impact study phase (begun in December 2013), which is necessary before DDOT can become eligible for federal funding for the project. DDOT is hoping to get a FONSI (Finding of No Substantial Impact) for the east and west extensions by end of 2015 or early 2016. DDOT still needs to hire a design/builder for the east/west extension projects, for which DDOT will advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) once the FONSI is obtained for both lines.
 - iv. A resident asked about the cost to ride the streetcar and the planned headways. Mr. Perry responded that cost has not been determined yet, but that he anticipates it being comparable to current Metro fares. Mr. Perry also anticipates there being a ten (10) minute headway per car based on the current number of streetcars available for this line.

- v. A resident asked about how the streetcars are interacting with parking and traffic now. Mr. Perry responded that there have been some minor vehicle incidents, but thankfully none involving injuries. DDOT is happy with where things are concerning incidents, but it continues to pursue a public education effort to ensure the public is aware of how to safely interact with streetcars (motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians).
- vi. A resident asked whether the streetcar will augment or replace existing bus lines like the X2 which run along the same route. Mr. Perry responded that there is no current plan to remove any bus lines which run along the same route as the streetcar, especially considering the line opening now is only 2.2 miles long, but that DDOT will continue to evaluate service needs in the future and make a determination about changing service as needed.
- vii. A resident asked about hours of operation for the streetcar line. Mr. Perry indicated he believed the hours to be 6:00 am to 12:00 midnight Monday to Thursday, 6:00 am to 2:00 am Friday and Saturday, and 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Sunday. Mr. Sloves pointed out that the hours are set in the current streetcar regulations, which he believes indicate service ends at 1:00 am on the weekends.

- B. Request from residents for traffic calming on Fifteenth (15th) Street NE near Miner Elementary School. Mr. Sloves introduced resident Ben Cain, a resident of Fifteenth (15th) Street NE and a member of the Miner Elementary School (ES) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Mr. Cain provided the following information:
- i. Traffic on Fifteenth (15th) Street NE in our ANC is a serious concern, particularly right by Miner ES since many children and families frequent the area. Traffic regularly speeds and runs the stop sign at Tennessee Avenue NE, which makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross Fifteenth (15th) Street NE when visiting the school.
 - ii. A traffic calming petition is currently being circulated to impacted residents, which is about 60% completed. Mr. Mahmud advised Mr. Cain to go ahead and submit the petition once it is complete and to send a copy to Mr. Sloves and himself so that the ANC can weigh in with support as well. Mr. Cain indicated he has also reached out to Councilmember elect Charles Allen, which Mr. Mahmud agreed was a good idea. Mr. Cain agreed to send the ANC the petition once it is completed.
 - iii. A resident on Fifteenth (15th) Street reported that he has also witnessed speeding along Fifteenth (15th) Street.
 - iv. Commissioner Ward indicated he believes there is also a stop sign concern at Fifteenth (15th) Street NE and F Street NE, right near the intersection with Tennessee Avenue NE. Three parked cars have been totaled near this intersection in the last couple of years, which he believes is because of speeding due to the width of the street.
 - v. Mr. Cain also thanked the ANC for a grant given to the Miner Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Mr. Mahmud told Mr. Cain that this Committee was not involved in approval of that grant, but that he would pass on Mr. Cain's thanks to the ANC and specifically the ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee.

- C. Request for pedestrian safety measures at Sixteenth (16th) Street NE and North Carolina Ave NE. Mr. Sloves introduced resident Genevieve Fugere, a resident of Sixteenth (16th) Street NE. Ms. Fugere provided the following information:
- i. Ms. Fugere described the location and passed around photographs showing the intersection, which is the point where C Street NE meets North Carolina Avenue NE.
 - ii. The crossing conditions for pedestrians are quite dangerous because there are several lanes of traffic that need to be navigated (as many as six lanes on North Carolina and C Street). There are no signs indicating motorists should slow down for pedestrians (similar to the signs that pop up from the roadway that are typically seen in other dangerous intersections). Ms. Fugere reports excessive speeding and that motorists are not slowing down for pedestrians. She believes at a minimum there should be pedestrian crossing signs in the middle point of the crosswalk.
 - iii. Ms. Fugere believes that, in the long term, it would be helpful to get better lighting installed and possibly lights that flash in the crosswalk to warn motorists to slow down for pedestrians. Mr. Mahmud commented that he has not seen something like that in the District before, but that we can always ask that DDOT consider the safety measure.
 - iv. ***Mr. Sloves made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fletcher, that the ANC write a letter to DDOT requesting additional pedestrian crossing signage at the intersections where Sixteenth (16th) Street NE crosses C Street NE and North Carolina Avenue NE. Mr. Mahmud made a friendly amendment that the letter also request that DDOT consider the crosswalk lighting Ms. Fugere requested. The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.***

V. Additional Community Comment

- A. A resident asked about getting DDOT to also look at the 1400 block of G Street NE since the street is extremely narrow and difficult for two-way traffic to navigate. A petition was submitted to DDOT last year to switch this street to one way, which DDOT denied. Mr. Mahmud indicated he was not surprised given that DDOT was not open to this idea back in 2006 when he engaged DDOT on this issue. Mr. Sloves pointed out that DDOT is hesitant to make any changes along the streets near Maryland Avenue NE until the redesign project is finished. DDOT may be worried about changing the way the street interacts with Maryland Avenue now.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.