

MINUTES
ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting
Public Meeting - All are welcome
Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm

- I. Call meeting to order.
- II. Introductions & Announcements
Committee members present: Maura Dundon (Chair), Jeff Fletcher, Caitlin Rogger
Commissioners present: Amber Gove, Keya Chatterjee
- III. Old Business
 - A. 9th/K Streets NE pedestrian fatality. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Vision Zero team will discuss the fatal car crash that killed a pedestrian in November 2002.
Commissioner Chatterjee led the discussion about the tragic car crash on the 900 block of K Street N.E. that killed Ralph Wilson when he was rear-ended while unloading his car. Commissioner Chatterjee noted that this block has been a longstanding concern ANC 6A has raised to DDOT, due to speeding cars that blow through the stop sign. Commissioner Chatterjee discussed neighborhood requests for traffic calming such as raised crosswalks and lights around the stop sign, but noted that narrowing the street would likely be necessary for traffic calming.

Charlie Wilson from DDOT expressed his condolences for the tragedy and stated that he shares the ANC's concerns. Mr. Wilson relayed that an illuminated stop sign would be installed in the coming weeks. He also noted that a request to lengthen the 6th Street bike lane could be helpful for traffic calming. Commissioner Chatterjee noted that ANC 6A had already supported calming for the entire area, including lengthening the bike lane as well as turning West Virginia Avenue NE one-way as a traffic-calming measure for the area. However, this was declined by DDOT without an explanation. Commissioner Chatterjee wants faster progress, and DDOT are the experts. Mr. Wilson replied that he would "take it back" to DDOT.

In response to a question from the community in the Zoom Q&A, Mr. Wilson explained that the illuminated stop sign could not be immediately installed due to supply chain issues.

Commissioner Chatterjee asked whether a speed camera would be more helpful than an illuminated stop sign. Mr. Wilson stated that both increase "yield behavior" but that the camera results in more full stops. However, he added that traffic calming will require changes to features of the roadway, not just the stop sign illumination or speed camera.

Will Handsfield from DDOT stated that K Street's classification as a minor arterial could be reconsidered due to changed traffic patterns. A different classification could have an impact on the traffic calming measures available.

In response to a Q&A from the public about traffic enforcement, Mr. Wilson stated that he believes road design and automated/self-enforcement measures are more

effective for safety. In response to a Q&A about synchronized stop lights increasing speeds, Mr. Wilson stated that this may not have been a factor since the accident happened mid-block and that the crash did not have speed as a factor. Commissioner Chatterjee stated that she believed speed was a factor, and Chair Dundon asked Mr. Wilson why he believed speed was not a factor. Mr. Wilson replied that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) had informed DDOT that speed was not a factor.

A member of the public commented on the fact that construction on Florida Avenue NE means more bikes will take K Street NE

Commissioner Chatterjee made the motion:

That ANC6A send a letter to DDOT and MPD expressing grief for the loss of our neighbor Ralph Williams to a car crash on the 900 block of K St. NE in November 2022, in an area where ANC6A has repeatedly expressed concerns about traffic safety. ANC6A requests:

- *More information about the incident*
- *A response on DDOT and MPDs short and long-term plans to address the safety issues previously identified by ANC6A*
- *Immediate traffic calming measures*

Commissioner Gove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A member of the public inquired about the enactment of Vision Zero 2020 which set a 20 MPH speed limit, as well as issues related to correct speed signage. Mr. Wilson confirmed that the 20 MPH signage is not yet funded but noted that some arterials have had their speeds reduced.

- B. 1300 block of North Carolina Avenue NE project (traffic calming/protected bike lanes). Will Handsfield from DDOT will discuss final design. Mr. Handsfield presented close-to-final plans for the protected bike lane on the 1300 block of North Carolina Avenue NE. Mr. Handsfield noted that a bid package is out and contracts are being finalized for the work. He did not have a concrete date for when the work would begin, but estimated early spring for a start.

Commissioner Gove requested a written response to the ANC 6A response to the DDOT Notice of Intent, including the ANC request for a mid-block crossing light (HAWK) at the raised crosswalk, which was not included in the design. Mr. Handsfield replied that there will be a written response. DDOT determined that the raised crosswalk and narrowing was sufficient for safety and the HAWK was not necessary. Commissioner Gove also asked that the letter include the DC Fire and Emergency Service (FEMS) "sign-off" on the plans. Mr. Handsfield explained that DDOT discusses projects with the Fire and EMS Department (FEMS), but does not get a formal "sign-off." The DDOT letter will include an explanation of this.

A member of the public asked about Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance of the North Carolina Avenue NE protected bike lane. Mr. Handsfield stated that he could not comment because the member of the public is a plaintiff in an ADA lawsuit against DDOT regarding bike lanes. Mr. Handsfield declined to answer ADA compliance questions from other members of the public for the same reason, but

that questions about legal compliance could be directed to the DDOT General Counsel. Commissioner Gove stated that requests for handicapped parking spaces had been granted for North Carolina Avenue NE.

In response to a question from the public, Mr. Handsfield explained that Residential Parking Permit (RPP) spots were not changing, except for loading spaces that were added. In response to another question, Mr. Handsfield stated that trash pickup will not be impacted.

Mr. Handsfield answered additional questions from the public, including:

- In response to a comment that the new bike lane will not be used because it is not fully connected, that the scope of the project was the 1300 block and that the future could provide more connections.
- In response to a question about EMS/police access, Mr. Handsfield stated that police and EMS effectively get to incidents in DC on similar blocks.
- In response to a question about cost, the costs are not yet available because bidding is not finished.

IV. New Business: None

V. Additional Community Comment: None

VI. Adjourn meeting