



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting
June 26, 2024**

Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Jerry Sroufe (6B02), David Sobelsohn (6B03), Chander Jayaraman (6B06)

Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Janice Kruger (6B03), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Michael McMullan (6B04-Alt), Brian Poochigian (6B06), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Joshua Peacock (6B09-Alt)

DDOT Presentation on 8th St. Bus Priority Project

Andrew Grinberg, a Transportation Planner with DDOT, provided an update on the 8th St. SE Bus Priority Project. He noted that this is the fifth ANC meeting that he has presented to so far in addition to direct community engagement with local business owners. DDOT has recently completed a traffic analysis of its concept plan and is now ready to finalize the concept. A concept selection letter will come out later this summer as well as the start of a curbside regulation process with stakeholder engagement.

Mr. Grinberg noted that the 8th St. corridor will still have 15 buses per hour during peak times following WMATA's Better Bus plan and the expected end of Circulator service. 8,000 total riders currently use buses along the corridor per day, with 1,200 boarding on the stretch of Barracks Row.

There is an expected net change of 46 fewer offpeak parking spots (34 during peak hours). 25 of those are required to bring the corridor into compliance with the latest regulations. 21 stops would be removed for bus lanes and zones. Barracks Row is expected to lose 21 offpeak spots (9 during peak hours). This is an 18.4% reduction.

Mr. Grinberg will meet with Yes Organic Market about the loss of loading zones in front of their store. FEMS is supportive of bus lanes in front of the fire station to reduce double-parking.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked whether concept selection will include the alternatives not selected. Mr. Grinberg responded that sub-concepts have been considered and DDOT will note the discussion of other concepts and reasoning for the final selection.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked about how the ANC can request continued Circulator route coverage. Mr. Grinberg suggested continuing to reach out to WMATA for these routes to be added to the Better Bus plan.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked about scooter parking zones that were referenced in the DDOT materials. Mr. Grinberg confirmed that he is researching how to incorporate safe parking for scooters so that they are not left on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked for clarification on “restricting left turns” in the plan. Mr. Grinberg clarified that left turns would be banned from both blocks of D St. SE onto 8th St., with the potential exception of freight trucks.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked whether DDOT has considered closing 7th St. SE in front of the library. Mr. Grinberg said that they looked at making it one-way when considering reversal of traffic flow on D St. SE but ultimately decided against it.

Commissioner Sobelsohn confirmed with Mr. Grinberg that final completion of this project will be in 2025 or 2026.

Gary Cha, the owner of Yes Organic Market, stated his opposition to the project as this already has the least loading access of any Yes store and he worries about losing customers. Mr. Grinberg responded that the current loading zones are already not accessible and he has observed that four parking spots do not serve the direct survival of any store but confirmed he would look to meet directly with Mr. Cha and see the current parking situation in person.

John Boyle, the owner of Barracks Row Joey’s, said that full service restaurants need parking and suggested that the lot currently used by the Marines under the freeway be opened up for public parking. Mr. Grinberg stated that Marines get an annual permit to use that lot and that the ANC could request DDOT to reject the permit if it wants to. He also noted that the Capitol Riverfront BID is conducting visioning exercises for more welcoming underpasses.

Brian Ready, from Barracks Row Main Street, noted that the parking lots and spaces are related to a combination of patterns and perceptions. For example, the paid 700 Penn lot is full every weekend with shoppers going to Eastern Market.

Commissioner Jayaraman noted that people park on side streets rather than walking further. He asked about data on riders boarding/offloading from buses at specific stops along 8th St. Mr. Grinberg shared specific data points and committed to sending the full dataset after the meeting.

RM Youngblood noted his appreciation for the safety measures in the project.

DDOT Presentation on NOI 24-146: New Jersey Ave & E Street SE Annual Safety Program

Noah Bell, from DDOT, presented on an NOI issued May 24th with comments due July 10th. In February 2024, a pedestrian was struck in a crosswalk at this intersection. DDOT is proposing a quick build curb extension as well as the painting of bike lanes through the intersection.

Commissioner LaFortune noted that Commissioner Avery was not able to attend the meeting but has received several emails from neighbors on this project. He asked RM Youngblood to share a perspective from the SMD.

RM Youngblood requested that the projected be expanded with a pedestrian refuge. Neighbors want more hardening other than paint or flexiposts. He asked why the bike lane is not parking protected and also suggested elevated crosswalks. Mr. Bell responded that more design and analysis is required but that this is now listed as an area of interest for more long-term safety improvements. He noted that additional curb extensions would require the removal of parking.

James Smailes, a neighbor and traffic engineer, asked why so much of the left-turn lane is being removed. Mr. Bell noted that the drawing is not final and that DDOT will consider queuing issues for how much to shorten the lane. Signal timing will also be considered as part of the project.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether delivery trucks from the power plant will be able to make a right turn onto E St. Mr. Bell stated that DDOT has been in contact with the neighboring landowners to coordinate and collect feedback. He also stated that there will not be any parking changes as a result of this project.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT sharing comments on this project, to be placed on the consent agenda. RM Youngblood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Capitol Hill BID Presentation on Memorial Bench for BID Ambassador India Person

McKenna Boyland and Patty Brosmer, from the Capitoll Hill BID, presented their proposal for a memorial bench in Parcel 4 of the Eastern Market Metro Park following the passing of 20-year BID Ambassador India Person.

Commissioner LaFortune noted that public space permits fall under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Committee since they are approved by DDOT and asked Ms. Boyland and Ms. Brosmer how the ANC can be supportive of this project. Ms. Boyland and Ms. Brosmer requested a letter of support from the ANC as they are going through the approval process currently and are shooting for a dedication on September 19th. Capitol Hill BID has already received letters of support from Councilmember Allen's office, Barracks Row Main Street, and Eastern Market Main Street.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT stating support for this project, to be placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner LaFortune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion on Parking Enforcement on 400 Block of 1st St. SE

Commissioner LaFortune noted that Commissioner Avery requested this topic be removed from the agenda as he is working with neighbors in his role as SMD Commissioner.

Committee Discussion on EV Charging Locations

As a follow-up to the June committee meeting, Commissioner LaFortune shared that DOEE is collecting suggestions for charging locations indefinitely. Committee members raised the gas stations in the ANC, the RFK soccer fields, the parking lot under the freeway on 8th St., and the Sport and Health parking lot as potential locations.

Commissioner Sobelsohn suggested that the committee be given until the September meeting to think of additional locations. Commissioner LaFortune agreed to that plan, noting that he would check with DOEE in case there was a specific need for submissions before then.