



October 21, 2019

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Mathew Marcou, Chair of Public Space Commission
District Department of Transportation
59 M Street SE
Washington DC 20003

Via: PublicSpace.commtee@dc.gov

Re: Public Space Construction Application #333326 by the D.C. Department of General Services (DGS) on the Eastern Market Metro Park Project (EMMPP) scheduled for consideration at the October 24th Public Space Committee meeting

Dear Mr. Marcou,

At a properly noticed general meeting of ANC 6B on October 15, 2019, with a quorum present, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to inform the Public Space Committee that it opposes the conceptual approval of the DGS EMMP project until such time as the ANC and the community can adequately evaluate the project's transportation study made available only five days ago.

Additionally, we cannot support this project moving forward without a clearly delineated, reliably financed maintenance program appropriate to the sites, green spaces and facilities envisaged in the project's outputs. Details of the maintenance plan up until recently were unclear. The only aspect we knew was that DGS was in discussions with the Capitol Hill Bid as an implementing partner. Last week, DGS informed us for the first time that its current plan is to take direct responsibility for maintenance. We have had limited time to understand this shift and its implications. But, in either option, we still have no cause to be assured that this function, unconditionally essential to the sustainable achievement of this project's goals, has to date been addressed in any predictable and comprehensive way.

The data and the conclusions of the transportation study provide the rationale for plans to substantially alter vehicle circulation patterns in the heart of our neighborhood and indirectly shape design choices on a range of other project components. This leads us to counsel caution against any piecemeal approach of approving individual components of this project in isolation from the "big picture" provided by reviewing the project as a totality.

ANC 6B, in two previous reviews (July 25th, Sept 23rd) has made clear the high importance our community attaches to the success of this project and its timely

completion. We also simultaneously stressed that the reliance of the project's design on the transportation study's conclusions made review of this study a fundamental aspect of the ANC's evaluation of the overall project design. And that that review needed to be driven by an organized, informed consultation with residents followed by a vote by the ANC at a properly constituted meeting as per DC law. These steps we estimated would take 3 weeks. The study was released on October 16th, five days before the deadline for ANC review submission. The decision of the applicant, nonetheless, to move forward in requesting approval by the PSC, a position conveyed orally by DGS to the ANC in our October 15th meeting, leaves us with no alternative but to oppose this project.

The ANC, as the most local tier of DC government, and charged with representing the needs and concerns of all the neighborhood's residents, has the strongest interest in seeing this initiative progress quickly forward to completion. We want it to work. But we live here and are in this for the long haul. We will do whatever we can to ensure that EMMP builds on a sound foundation and achieves sustainable, appropriate results.

Sincerely,



Chander Jayaraman
Chair, ANC 6B

Attachments:

ANC first review of DGS EMMPP, letter to Public Space Committee July 25, 2019
ANC second review of DGS EMMPP, letter to Public Space Committee September 23, 2019

Cc:

Jeffrey Marootian, Director, DOT
Elliott Garrett, Executive Secretary, Public Space Committee, DDOT
Keith Andersen, Director, Department of General Services
John A. Stokes, Interim Associate Director of External Affairs, DGS
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember
Anita Bonds, Councilmember At Large
Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3 Councilmember
Robert C. White, Jr., Councilmember At Large