



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting  
April 3, 2023**

**Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Frank Avery, Jerry Sroufe, David Sobelsohn, Frank D'Andrea, Edward Ryder**

**Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Janice Kruger (6B03), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Mike Litt (6B05), Susan Driano (6B06), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Jeffrey Menzer (6B08)**

**Presentation from DDOT on I-695 Offramp and I St. SE**

Abraham Diallo and Rahul Jain presented traffic safety options for the intersection of the westbound I-695 offramp and I St. SE. Mr. Jain, a Sr. Transportation Engineer, outlined the results of a traffic control study at this location that considered several options, including a full traffic signal, a HAWK signal, and signs and markings. The study concluded that criteria were not met for a full traffic signal or HAWK signal. DDOT recommends installing flashing beacons that use passive detection to identify pedestrians and cyclists and enter flash mode to tell drivers to yield. DDOT is also recommending flexiposts to reduce lane width and speeding.

RM Oldenburg asked which way the signals would face and how this would help cyclists on I St., considering the original incident that caused ANC 6B to advocate for greater safety involved a cyclist. Mr. Jain said that DDOT looked at three years of crash data, specifically a scooter in the crosswalk. The signals will face oncoming traffic.

Commissioner D'Andrea said that it was encouraging that pylons and narrowing width will decrease speed and asked if there was any consideration of a raised crosswalk. Mr. Diallo said that rumble strips have also been recommended. Mr. Jain said that the crosswalk will additionally be decreased by 5 feet on both sides.

RM Mezner asked if anyone had asked the Marines about this issue since it is in between Barracks buildings. Mr. Diallo said that DDOT typically conducts safety analysis without direct outreach to neighbors and works with the ANC for outreach but will consider this for the future.

RM Kruger asked how far away from a crosswalk a pedestrian needs to be for the signal to start. Mr. Jain said that they need to be close but also have the option of pushing a button.

Commissioner LaFortune asked when this will occur and whether DDOT requires the ANC's formal support. Mr. Diallo confirmed that DDOT would appreciate a written letter of support.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to write a letter of support, with a clarification from DDOT on the exact measures and timelines going forward. Commissioner Sroufe seconded the motion. The motion carried with all committee members present supporting except for Commissioner Sobelsohn, who abstained due to his attendance for only part of the discussion.

### **Presentation by DPW on Spring Services and Parking Enforcement**

Celeste Duffie and Preston Moore presented on the Department of Public Works' spring services and parking enforcement on Capitol Hill. Ms. Duffie shared that DPW recently posted notices for street sweeping, alley cleaning, ground maintenance, and other services. On Fridays, DPW sends service level emails with links to spring service descriptions.

Officer Moore shared that parking enforcement officers are assigned to different beats and respond to complaints for service. They cover 8500 blocks citywide and try to hit blocks twice a week.

Commissioner D'Andrea asked whether DPW is responsible for enforcing fire hydrants. Officer Moore said that DPW does ticket vehicles in front of fire hydrants but that towing is not guaranteed. DPW does not have contact with fire marshals on a regular basis.

Commissioner Sroufe asked when information would come out about the Pennsylvania Ave. bus lanes. Officer Moore responded that is a question for DDOT.

Commissioner Sroufe asked whether DPW tows idling cars. Officer Moore said yes, there is a maximum of three minutes for idling in the summer, 15 minutes in the winter. This is a challenge because drivers frequently turn their cars off rather than face a ticket. Commissioner Sroufe highlighted Seward Square during the daytime as a hotspot for idling.

RM Menzer asked whether there is a map of the beats. Officer Moore said that officers are assigned the same beat and try to respond within 24 hours to 311 requests. He suggested reaching out to Georgina Watts, the supervisor for Ward 6, for more information.

Commissioner LaFortune asked when a vehicle becomes boot-eligible. Officer Moore responded this occurs after two unpaid citations.

### **Presentation from DDOT on the 30% Design of the I-695 Bridge**

Abraham Diallo informed the committee that the next step in this process is the 65% design and that the project team will add the New Jersey Ave. bridge over CSX to the project.

Commissioner LaFortune said that he will forward materials on the project to the rest of the committee. Mr. Diallo offered to share the presentation.

RM Johnson asked whether there are any concepts about a long-term vision for I-695. Mr. Diallo said he would need to follow up.

### **Presentation from DDOT on Traffic Cameras**

Abraham Diallo shared that DDOT will receive a significant increase in speed cameras in June or July, the exact number still TBD. The automated traffic control (ATE) program is being

transferred from MPD to DDOT. Considerations for locations of new cameras include crash data, speed data, peak hour assessment, the type of camera needed, and considerations of other types of behavior enforcement.

Commissioner D'Andrea asked what the process will be for locations being determined. Mr. Diallo shared that the request will be a TSI input and confirmed that TSIs are still applicable for the whole block, rather than a singular intersection.

RM Johnson asked whether traffic cameras are real-time. Mr. Diallo said that if a vehicle has a certain number of tickets, it is impounded but he will follow-up on real-time enforcement.

### **Councilmember Henderson on Traffic Enforcement**

Councilmember Christina Henderson shared her office's thinking behind a bill to update automated traffic enforcement in the District last year. She asked "Can Vision Zero be realistic given changes to enforcement?" Councilmember Henderson said that the District was not doing enforcement in the eastern part of the city and that there are limited booting resources. She asked her staff what other jurisdictions were doing on ATE. ATE does not assess points on a driver's license, just tickets, other jurisdictions combine the two. This was not an attempt to be predatory, but trying to crack down on dangerous drivers especially if the District is moving away from MPD on traffic enforcement. The legislation also would have sent information on drivers to car insurance companies.

RM Johnson asked about other proactive measures, such as tactical towing. Councilmember Henderson responded that her office asked for a list of every vehicle that was boot-eligible and faced resistance due to limited booting resources and a full lot for impounded cars. DC current does booting and towing during the day, Councilmember Henderson said that we need to consider overnight as well.

RM Johnson asked about a program such a citizen reporting in New York City that provides a share of fines accrued. Councilmember Henderson said this has come up with idling in bike lanes but they still need to change behavior, not just have more fines.

RM Driano mentioned that she is worried about violent encounters if the city attempts to boot or tow cars from private residences, especially at night. Councilmember Henderson said they need to be more strategic about how to tackle worst offenders.

RM Kruger asked about the status of the driver in the recent Rock Creek Park crash. Councilmember Henderson responded that right now our system isn't designed in a proactive way, cars currently have to happen to be on the block when a license plate reader is there. She said that we need to clarify who has responsibility for active enforcement of the most dangerous drivers and that some vehicles could be parking offstreet or in a garage. There was pushback on enforcement in private garages when Councilmember Cheh proposed this last year.

RM Menzer asked at what point a person is a danger to the public. Councilmember Henderson made a distinction between parking tickets and speed tickets. She said we need to treat speeding tickets as a means for enforcement and highlighting dangerous areas for a road diet.

RM Menzer pointed out the lack of cooperation between DDOT and DPW on this. Councilmember Henderson responded that in theory she understands the split with adjudication being separated from enforcement but is looking to the Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure and City Administration for action. There is a taskforce that hasn't done anything.

A resident named Michael asked whether Vision Zero has been funded. \$45 million is needed for the Vision Zero Omnibus Act and the Safe Streets for Students Act needs \$10 million. Has the CFO certified that there will be revenues for these? Councilmember Henderson responded that part of the issue is we have tried to fund with revenues from ATE cameras but the CFO would not certify last year. She is happy to add this to her list of questions for DDOT.

Commissioner D'Andrea said that the real bang for our buck comes from with steel and concrete. We need to do infrastructure right. He does not have confidence that DDOT prioritizes this.

Commissioner LaFortune asked whether Councilmember Henderson's office looked into the issue of fake tags. Due to the sophisticated nature of current fake tags, she responded that enforcement requires running the number first and this is the same legwork as booting and towing cars, especially since some are from outside the DMV.

Commissioner LaFortune asked what Councilmember Henderson is considering for this Council period and how the ANC can help. She responded that her office is considering lots of options, including requiring taking the driver's test again to renew license or a vehicle registration with a significant number of citations. Her main point, however, is what will nudge people to change behavior? We need better infrastructure and other triggers.

#### **Letter to DDOT on 6<sup>th</sup> and I St. Intersection**

RM Kruger presented a motion to write a letter to DDOT considering potential work to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and I St. SE. Commissioner LaFortune seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution on Traffic Enforcement**

Commissioner LaFortune presented a draft resolution calling for improved traffic enforcement in the District. RM Diano seconded this motion to put the resolution, with suggested changes from the committee, on the consent agenda for the full ANC meeting. RM Oldenburg suggested adding the phrase "proactive measures" to the resolution as it was used by Councilmember Henderson. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Letter on Electric Vehicles**

RM Cunningham drafted a letter laying out what the committee is seeing on EV policy, including that there are a lot of agencies involved but a lack of ownership by a singular agency. He suggests that EV infrastructure needs someone to own it, likely by licensing an entity to provide the service. He will continue to update the draft letter with input from committee members.