



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting
September 6, 2023**

Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Jerry Sroufe (6B02), Kasie Durkit (6B05), Chander Jayaraman (6B06), Vince Mareino (6B07), Edward Ryder (6B08)

Resident Members Present: Janice Kruger (6B03), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Mike Litt (6B05), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Joshua Peacock (6B09)

8th St. Bus Priority Project

Andrew Grinberg from DDOT shared the Department's draft project plan to update infrastructure in the Barracks Row corridor to improve bus performance. He shared that DDOT has posted information, shared handouts with residents and businesses, and has a [website](#) for public comment that is open until October 10th.

DDOT conducted a needs assessment from May-July which identified that overall bus speeds are too slow, there is a need for greater access to bus stops, and pedestrian/bike safety issues currently exist.

The main features of this project include curb extensions, median refuges, and bus stop improvements. There is a SB offset bus lane from D St. SE to L St. SE and a NB curbside bus lane (E St. to Pennsylvania Ave. SE), as well as reversing one-way traffic to go outbound on both segments of D St. SE away from 8th St.

Commissioner Mareino asked whether any decisions have been made for paving materials. Mr. Grinberg responded that nothing is included in the design. Commissioner Mareino asked about the impact on parking under 695, there will be no changes. He also asked why D St. is being reversed in this plan. Mr. Grinberg shared that the current setup dumps traffic onto 8th St. SE, reversing pulls traffic away, reduces congestion, and improves efficiency for buses. Commissioner Mareino shared that he would prefer for infrastructure hardening to prevent cars from going against the one-way direction.

Commissioner Jayaraman said that he thinks buses turning off of 8th onto D St. SE is a bad idea and asked whether any consideration for moving bus stops north and south of Pennsylvania Ave. SE. Mr. Grinberg responded that both locations are heavily used and there is no desire from DDOT to move them.

Commissioner Durkit asked how the reduction in parking spots is occurring. Mr. Grinberg responded that this will primarily be on 8th St. SE and that parking utilization analysis indicates these reductions (8%) can be absorbed.

Resident Member Peacock noted the pedestrian refuges and bump outs and asked whether there has been any attempt to slow down drivers coming off of 695 because there is not enough time for pedestrians to cross on I St. SE. Mr. Grinberg responded that they are proposing to consolidate righthand WB lanes to slow cars on I St.

Commissioner Sroufe shared that the Eastern Market Metro Plaza was designed to minimize the impact of traffic on experience in the park and noted challenges with bus lanes on Penn. Mr. Grinberg responded that bus travel times have decreased wherever DDOT has introduced bus lanes.

Marian Connolly, a neighbor on the 200 block of 8th St. SE noted a recent increase in traffic on that street and shared her observation that buses are underused, asking whether smaller buses could be used. Mr. Grinberg responded that DDOT is planning for the standard 40' buses in the WMATA fleet management plan. Ms. Connolly asked whether there will be an impact on rush hour traffic. Mr. Grinberg responded that there will be no traffic impact from the bumpouts in the plan. Ms. Connolly shared that delivery services have the greatest impact on traffic. Mr. Grinberg noted that one benefit from reversing D St. SE would be to pull traffic to make pickups on D instead of 8th. Ms. Connolly also noted that she does not want this to adversely impact small businesses.

Brian Ready, Executive Director of Barracks Row Main Street asked whether there will be a time limit on bus lanes. Mr. Grinberg responded that the proposal is for 24 hour bus lanes. Mr. Ready asked whether DDOT would be open to removing restrictions on parking under 695. Mr. Grinberg said they will look into it. Mr. Ready thanked DDOT for having separate meetings with businesses and the fire station since there is a direct impact on these properties. Mr. Grinberg shared that DDOT is open to another meeting.

Clark Mica shared his observation that Penn Ave. bus and bike lanes are underutilized and there needs to be greater education and enforcement of drivers.

James Rowland also shared his observation that there is low ridership on buses at all times of day. Mr. Grinberg responded that an analysis of routes that use this corridor indicate that faster buses would help meet Move DC goals.

Ken Jarboe said that he is dismayed that the D St. reversal is still being considered and DDOT needs to find other solutions to blockage point on the south side.

Alli McGill shared that she is discouraged as a driver when there is less parking but glad that neighbors who use transit will have more opportunity to do so.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether DDOT has considered a traffic light at D St. Mr. Grinberg responded that traffic analysis will consider this but that they are reliant on federal regulations. Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether DDOT could share this traffic analysis. Mr. Grinberg said that they will make this public when it is complete.

Commissioner Mareino made a motion to encourage DDOT to meet again with Barracks Row Main Street and seek the support of the businesses on this project, with a resolution to be drafted

and placed on the consent agenda at the full ANC Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 12th. Commissioner LaFortune seconded. The motion passed 10-1-1, with Commissioner Jayaraman opposed and Resident Member Oldenburg abstaining.

Update on 11th St. Bridge Park

Scott Kratz, from Building Bridges Across the River, shared an update on the nonprofit's largest project, the 11th St. Bridge Park. The project is at a 100% plan, with the city on track to solicit a general contractor by the end of this year and expected opening in 2026. He presented a number of features of the project and other funding efforts that they have been engaged in.

Joanne Hatfield asked about what is included in the \$168m budget that Mr. Kratz shared. She noted that the original plan had a much smaller cost. Mr. Kratz clarified that \$74m is for construction costs, with some increase due to a change of cost of materials, the remainder is privately funded for equitable development projects, a sign that this effort has helped bring non-District funds to the community. Ms. Hatfield shared her concerns about litter from the café in the park. Mr. Kratz responded that they want to be good stewards and are working with Anacostia Waterfront Society on programming, the nonprofit will be responsible for staffing and maintaining the park.

Resident Member Peacock asked if there is a plan for bike parking and Capitol Bikeshare. Mr. Kratz responded that they are working with DDOT's bike team and there will be Bikeshare stations on both sides.

Commissioner Mareino asked how bikes will be managed to make sure bike-pedestrian interactions are safe. Mr. Kratz responded that post people will continue to use the current bike path for cross-river traffic. The pedestrian path is meandering and will primarily used by slow bike rides. They will also include signage. Commissioner Mareino asked about shade in the park. Mr. Kratz noted that the plan has 175+ native trees and the 15' wide path is covered by shade, with overhands at the buildings and under the bridge.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether there is any information on the previously planned helicopter pad near the 11th St. Bridge Park. Mr. Kratz said that the pad will not be going there as a result of community input.

Commissioner Sroufe asked how future costs are planned. Building Bridges will run and manage the park, at no cost to taxpayers. The District will be responsible for checking infrastructure.

Ali Trinterra shared that she is supportive as a Ward 6 resident and asked whether the park will have official hours. Mr. Kratz shared that they have gotten lots of feedback and that most parks do have official hours.

Sladens Court Alley Renaming

Elizabeth Pollitt Paisner presented a proposed alley renaming for the symbolically named Sladens Walk. Since this is not an officially named road, her property is not able to have an address and receive mail. Ms. Paisner noted that they need approval from neighbors and have received petition signatures from most directly abutting properties. The Council has to approve this renaming and typically does so at a December meeting.

Commissioner Mareino asked for clarification on the individual who is being commemorated. Ms. Paisner read a newspaper story about the individual who was “the heart and soul of the neighborhood” and lived on 11th St. SE for many years.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked who has been engaged and whether additional neighbors need to sign the petition. Ms. Paisner shared a map and noted the neighbors directly abutting the property who have signed.

Commissioner Durkit thanked Ms. Paisner for conducting research of what is needed and noted that without an official name, addresses cannot receive mail. Currently the area is called Sladens Walk but would become Sladens Court due to the requirement that alleys be named either Court or Alley. DC Code indicates that this must receive the support of a majority of directly abutting neighbors.

Commissioner Sroufe also noted that the code possibly indicated that a letter from the ANC could make the neighbor petition moot.

Commissioner Durkit agreed that some administrative portions could be waived through an ANC letter. She shared that the ANC 6B Planning & Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday would be another good fact finding meeting and the Commission can discuss a motion during the full ANC meeting next Tuesday.

Eastern High School Homecoming Parade Letter

Commissioner LaFortune shared that ANC 6A is working on a letter of support of the traffic plan for Eastern High School’s homecoming parade.

Commissioner Mareino noted his concerns about closing 19th St. SE.

Commissioner Jayaraman shared that ANC 6A meets in two weeks with ANC 7D meeting next Tuesday. Commissioner LaFortune responded that this topic can be tabled until the October committee meeting in order to respond to any letters drafted by those commissions.

Questions for Director Lott

Commissioner Ryder shared that DDOT Director Lott has a hard stop at 8pm for the next full ANC 6B meeting and that he shared a prepared list of questions with DDOT to help prepare answers. The Director will then also respond to additional questions before he has to drop from the call.

Commissioner Mareino noted a parking issue in his SMD that will be covered at the October committee meeting.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether an additional question could be posed to Director Lott about unlawful parking.

Prior to adjourning, Commissioner LaFortune noted an upcoming Council hearing on traffic enforcement. He will be testifying and Commissioner Sroufe suggested that the full ANC

consider a motion to designate Commissioner LaFortune as the spokesperson for the group. This will be considered at the ANC meeting next Tuesday.