



Re: 8th St SE Bus Priority Project

Dear Director Lott:

At a properly noticed general meeting on September 12, 2023, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted unanimously to submit the following request to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT).

ANC 6B encourages DDOT to seek the support and advice of the Barracks Row Main Street organization before proceeding with the 8th St SE Bus Priority Project. All of 8th St SE between I-695 and East Capitol St is within ANC 6B. Barracks Row Main Street is an established organization that accurately represents the interests of the businesses along this entire 8th St SE corridor. We thank DDOT for presenting its current plans regarding the 8th St SE Bus Priority Project at our transportation committee meeting on September 6, 2023. At that meeting, it became clear that there are some concrete, practical issues where local businesses and residents could help improve the final project design:

1. The 8th St SE corridor is a major non-rush-hour employment area. Employees are often commuting at times when WMATA and the Circulator are not providing peak-hour service. Employees who drive need parking at times when neighborhood residents tend to have their own cars parked at home. We recommend DDOT incorporate recommendations from Barracks Row Main Street on this project and exchange information about commuting patterns with each other, to help each business plan for the precise needs of each of its employees.
2. DDOT currently proposes to change the 700 block of D St. SE from a single-lane, one-way *eastbound* road to a single-lane, one-way *westbound* road ("road reversal"). This block is entirely commercial and Barracks Row Main Street represents these businesses. We appreciate that DDOT projects that road reversal might reduce gridlock and provide an option for bus turnarounds. The road reversal would have an impact on the businesses on the 700 block of D St SE that DDOT should take into consideration. In the past, the ANC opposed reversing this road because the local businesses opposed it and also because of concerns that it would be more dangerous to pedestrians if the road was reversed. We urge DDOT to do a better job of communicating to these businesses how the road reversal benefits them and how road reversal improves pedestrian safety.
3. At our committee meeting, DDOT stated that it has an existing program of working with delivery apps on "geo-fencing," that is, directing delivery drivers to an alternative location when parking directly in front of the business is inadvisable. We believe several businesses on D St SE and 8th St SE would be interested in learning more about this program, and how they could work with DDOT to improve the efficiency of their delivery operations.

The DDOT representative at our committee meeting stated that he already possesses contact information for Barracks Row Main Street, and that his management would support a dialogue with Barracks Row Main Street. If this is not the case, please inform us immediately.

In addition, some residents stated their opposition to the reversal of traffic of the 800 block of D St. SE from a single-lane, one-way *westbound* to a single-lane, one-way *eastbound* road because of the proximity to the public playground. The ANC has also previously stated opposition to reversing this road. The ANC requests alternate options to be presented with an assessment of their potential safety impacts including and not limited to potential closure of either section or adjacent road.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B