



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting
November 10, 2023**

Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Frank Avery (6B01), Jerry Sroufe (6B02), David Sobelsohn (6B03), Frank D’Andrea (6B04), Chander Jayaraman (6B06), Vince Mareino (6B07), Edward Ryder (6B08)

Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Jack Johnson (6B01- Alt), Janice Kruger (6B03), Brian Kirrane (6B03- Alt), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Jeffrey Menzer (6B08), Joshua Peacock (6B09- Alt)

DDOT Presentation on Pedestrian Crossings at 14th/D/Kentucky SE Intersection Near Safeway

Rahul Jain from DDOT met with committee members to discuss options to improve pedestrian safety at the recently-updated six-way intersection near Safeway on 14th St. SE.

Commissioner Mareino shared concerns about pedestrian safety at the location and make suggestions for improvement. Mr. Jain responded that a Barnes Dance is not feasible due to ADA consideration. DDOT has installed all-pedestrian signals to allow crossing at two streets in one cycle and will install two crosswalks east-west on D St. SE after a PEPCO project finishes.

Commissioner Mareino pushed back on the need for the current width of streets at the intersection. He noted that currently the lights are set up to have 70% of the time for cars and only 30% of the time for pedestrians.

Commissioner Avery suggested flexiposts to limit turns at excessive speeds.

Commissioner Sroufe expressed support for planters to limit the size of the intersection.

RM Peacock asked if it would be possible to change timing of the light for more pedestrian crossings.

RM Johnson asked about alternative designs such as a small island or rotary.

Commissioner Mareino moved to ask DDOT to respond with options to improve pedestrian safety including daylighting and/or a rotary. Commissioner LaFortune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DDOT Presentation on D Street Alternatives for 8th Street Bus Priority Project

Andrew Grinberg from DDOT shared updates on the department's community outreach and alternatives to the original plan shared for two stubs of D St. SE in the 8th St. Bus Priority Project.

Commissioner LaFortune asked about how the library construction will impact potential bus use of 7th St. Mr. Grinberg shared that DDOT regularly works with construction schedules.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted that a pedestrian island on the north block of 8th St. SE would help pedestrians and expressed support for a bulb out to reduce lane width. He also stated that if FEMS supports reducing D St. to reduce response times, that is something for the ANC to take into consideration.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked about installing a traffic light at 8th and D St. above Pennsylvania Ave, Mr. Grinberg responded that DDOT will consider this or a flashing beacon in the traffic analysis.

Commissioner Jayaraman noted the original vision to connect the SE Library to the Metro plaza and expressed concern that the turning radius of a bus would endanger children crossing. Mr. Grinberg shared that the library plan moves the main entrance onto South Carolina Ave. and that there would only be 6-8 buses crossing here per hour.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked about the congestion of left turns on D. St. and considering the impact of the closure of slip lanes. Mr. Grinberg shared that the first priority would be restricting non-bus turns and that DDOT will conduct its traffic analysis. Slip lanes created pedestrian space and are outside the scope of this project.

Commissioner Sroufe made a number of points including questioning the rationale of reversing D St. on the north side since it does not involve the bus and the angle of the right turn onto Pennsylvania Ave. from 7th St. SE. Mr. Grinberg responded that DDOT is now agnostic on the direction of the north stub of D St. and that they mainly want to restrict left turns.

Commissioner Sroufe queried how DDOT calculated the actual time for buses to turn around and make the loop from 8th to D to 7th and back onto Pennsylvania Ave, noting the amount of pedestrians at many times during the day that would impede a quick turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue from 7th. RM Kruger also mentioned the impact on residential streets if 7th Street, even for one block, was made one way northbound.

RM Cunningham expressed support for stopping left turns on the north stub of D and keeping buses moving by reversing the south stub of D. He also noted the difficulty of turning 7th St. one-way due to south-bound traffic by residents.

Commissioner Mareino asked why federal regulations would prevent additional crosswalks. Mr. Grinberg responded that regulations are not just about safety but also traffic flow.

RM Johnson expressed support for the project due to long-term increase in bus traffic. He asked if DDOT has looked into bus/Metro redesigned station. Mr. Grinberg responded that finding locations for turnarounds and layovers is a major challenge with capacity.

RM Kirrane expressed preference for closing traffic on D St. SE with controlled bollards for delivery.

Brian Ready asks that DDOT review bus priority projects after a year to study positive impacts and any unintended consequences.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted the need to consider the larger transportation system in this project.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether the bus turnaround could be on 11th St.

Traffic Concerns Near Watkins Elementary

Commissioner Mareino introduced the topic, noting that the Watkins Elementary principal moved pick-up/drop-off to the football field, parents must park and walk to pick up kids. The amount of parked cars has quadrupled plus additional pedestrian traffic. The school is not using the designated DDOT drop-off.

Brian Flanagan shared that DDOT zones are along 12th St. Issue isn't just at 3:30 but double-parking on E St. also at 4:45-5 pm.

Meg Krause said that it is frustrating to work with a school that is ignoring DDOT-developed safety plans. She is concerned about blocking bike lanes and traffic for emergency vehicles.

Nathan Paxton said that he is pessimistic that double-parking will be enforced due to a similar situation during football practices.

Commissioner Jayaraman suggested that DDOT add flexiposts around the school to improve safety.

Commissioner Mareino moved to write ask DDOT to analyze school safety and make proposals around Watkins Elementary and to also write to DPW, Principal Berkowitz, DCPS, SBOE Rep. Brandon Best, Councilmember Allen, and Council Chair Mendelson noting how the changes in pickup/dropoff has increased double parking and idling, asking to reverse changes, and asking DPW to be at the school to proactively prevent violations. Commissioner LaFortune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution on Parked Dockless Scooters and Bikes Impeding Sidewalk Access

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved to write a letter to DDOT about dockless scooters and bikes impeding crosswalk access. Commissioner LaFortune seconded. Commissioner Jayaraman suggest designating dockless bike areas in no-parking zones with flexiposts. Commissioner Ryder noted the issue with using bike racks for dockless bikes and blocking access for other bicycles. The motion passed unanimously.