



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

**Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Jerry Sroufe (6B02), David Sobelsohn (6B03), Frank D'Andrea (6B04), Chander Jayaraman (6B06), Edward Ryder (6B08)**

**Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Jack Johnson (6B01- Alt), Janice Kruger (6B03), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Mike Litt (6B05), Susan Driano (6B06)**

**Capitol Hill Village Sidewalk Survey**

Scott Price from Capitol Hill Village gave a presentation on the results of their sidewalk safety survey. DDOT's 2022 performance plan listed a goal to fix potholes within three days with a 84% success rate with a goal to fix sidewalks within nine months and a 54% success rate.

CHV submitted 256 complaints by Oct 2023. FY21-22 DC government paid \$1.9 million for injuries sustained on sidewalks. Survey respondents reported 263 injuries in the last two years due to falls on public sidewalks.

CHV's goals for the 2024 DC Council DDOT Oversight Hearing:

1. Reduce DDOT's time to implement sidewalk repairs
  - 2025 goal: reduce from 270 days to 90 days
  - 2026 goal: reduce from 90 days to 45 days (requires planning/funding)
2. Increase DDOT budget for sidewalk repairs
3. DDOT study methods to reduce the number of sidewalk problems that need to be fixed
  - Perhaps plant different trees in tree boxes?
  - Use a different planting method?

RM Litt asked about whether DDOT's data could clarify differences within service requests for pothole repairs and sidewalk repairs. Mr. Price responded that there is only one code for each type of request.

Commissioner Sroufe asked about different lengths of time it takes to fix potholes vs. sidewalks. Mr. Price responded that the data they have collected indicate time to begin repair. 50% of the time it takes longer than 160 days to begin sidewalk repairs.

Commissioner Jayaraman noted that DDOT once discussed an initiative to fix parts of sidewalks rather than the whole sidewalk. Mr. Price responded that DDOT has a pavement plan and with brick sidewalks it requires more than just patchwork.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted that he sees the CHV recommendations as something 6B could support and also noted the breathtaking disparity between potholes and sidewalks. He specifically would like to see DDOT take a systematic approach to sidewalk repair.

Commissioner Sroufe indicated that DDOT should repair sidewalks with the same material. Often utilities put down blacktop instead of brick.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked whether CHV noted any specific problem areas in ANC 6B. Mr. Price promised to share the map of all sidewalk complaints.

RM Oldenburg asked whether there is a deadline for utilities to fix sidewalks. Mr. Price promised to look into it.

Commissioner Jayaraman shared his recent injury due to a scooter accident on a brick sidewalk.

Mr. Price promised to share text for ANC 6B to consider including as testimony during the Council's spring DDOT hearings.

### **Committee Discussion on 8th Street Bus Priority Project Focused on the D Street Alternatives**

Commissioner LaFortune introduced the topic by reminding committee members of DDOT's November presentation featuring alternative options for two blocks of D St. SE as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> St. Bus Priority Project. He shared that ANC 6B has the option to take a public position supporting any of the options, opposing any of the options, or take no additional position at all.

Commissioner Jayaraman presented an alternate proposal that would extend the route of the DC Circulator from L'Enfant Plaza to 11<sup>th</sup> St. SE en route to Eastern Market.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted Commissioner Mareino's email supporting the project in part and expressed concern with doing something other than what traffic safety experts recommend.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked about DDOT working with construction at the Southeast Library.

RM Youngblood noted his preference for Alternative 3 (westbound one-way) as the safest option for the 700 block of D St. SE. He also noted that Hill's Kitchen opposes buses laying over in front of storefronts on that block and shared that WMATA's bus redesign will be complete by the middle of next year.

Commissioner Jayaraman presented his plan to extend bus service to 11<sup>th</sup> St. SE in further detail. Andrew Grinberg from DDOT responded that this redesign is not currently under consideration.

Bob Bartolo shared his personal observations that the current bus turnaround on Pennsylvania Ave. causes noise and safety issues.

RM Johnson noted that the bus is the quickest route from the M St. SE corridor to Barracks Row and that extending the route to 11<sup>th</sup> would decrease ridership.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked DDOT for a letter in writing that the plan for D St. would not have an impact on library construction.

RM Youngblood noted his opposition to Commissioner Jayaraman's proposal due to cost implications and frequency of bus service.

*Commissioner Jayaraman moved to recommend that the ANC request that DDOT study alternative plans, including extending the LP-EM Circulator route to 11<sup>th</sup> St. SE as an option to reduce traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE. Commissioner Sroufe seconded the motion. Commissioner D'Andrea noted his opposition as the proposal increases the timing of the route and bus infrastructure is already coming on 8<sup>th</sup> St. SE. RM Johnson noted his opposition. Commissioner Ryder also opposed the motion, while sharing his support for additional bus service on 11<sup>th</sup> St. The motion failed 3-5-0.*

*Commissioner D'Andrea moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter supporting the project as a whole, noting support for DDOT's plan for the 800 block of D St. SE (Alt. 3), and expressing no opinion about the 700 block of D St. SE. Commissioner Ryder seconded the motion. Commissioner Jayaraman offered a motion in the form of a substitute that the ANC take no position on the project. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded. The motion in the form of a substitute failed 3-6-0. Commissioner D'Andrea's motion passed unanimously.*

**(Late Breaking) Concern About the Intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> St. and Independence Ave. SE**

Commissioner Sroufe shared his constituents' concern about the blocks between 4<sup>th</sup> St. SE and 6<sup>th</sup> SE on Independence Ave. being unsafe for pedestrians due to frequent speeding.

Neighbors Allen Haywood and Laura Canfield noted that DDOT has taken steps to improve visibility but that this intersection is still very dangerous with a pedestrian recently struck.

*Commissioner Sobelsohn moved to write a letter urging DDOT to make a four-way stop sign and install raised crosswalks at this intersection and to place the item on the consent agenda for next week's ANC 6B monthly meeting. Commissioner D'Andrea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*