



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting  
February 8, 2024**

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

**Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Janice Kruger (6B03), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Mike Litt (6B05), Jeffrey Menzer (6B08), Joshua Peacock (6B09)**

**DMV Director Robinson Presentation on Department Priorities**

Gabriel Robinson, Director of DC Department of Motor Vehicles, shared a list of DMV priorities and recent accomplishments. The department has updated its website to support armed service members, is improving connectivity with other states so driving history records move from state to state, updated its phone app, and has updated its driver manual so that it is easier to use. He noted that DMV is hiring and has participated in recent career fairs and that the department hopes to open another inspection self-service kiosk in Ward 8.

In response to a submitted question, Director Robinson noted that the department is working to hold individuals with DUI convictions accountable immediately and is working with the DC Superior Court to improve the flow of information following last year's fatal Rock Creek Park crash. There is a mandatory ignition interlock for drivers with DUI convictions. He shared the department's work with MPD and DPW to track down on counterfeit and fake license plates.

Commissioner D'Andrea asked about efforts to ease the transfer of information in different states. Director Robinson noted that there is no barrier between DMVs in collecting information on drivers. Ticket reciprocity refers to Automated Traffic Enforcement only, drivers are required to pay moving violation fines given to them by a police officer regardless of state.

RM Menzer asked about DMV's role in relation to DPW and MPD. Director Robinson shared that DDOT regulates how the road runs. DPW enforces rules (with MPD). DMV educates on rules and adjudicates enforcement of liability.

Chuck Schmoyer asked about DMV's role in identifying and enforcing boot-eligible vehicles. Director Robinson replied that DMV informs DPW on who is boot and tow-eligible.

Commissioner Ryder asked whether DPW shares information on who has already been towed. Director Robinson noted that individuals have to come to DMV to pay fines or release their vehicles from impoundment.

Commissioner D'Andrea asked whether there is anything that can be done to prioritize sharing of boot-eligible vehicles. Director Robinson responded that the Mayor has made investments for more boot crews and an impoundment lot. However, prioritizing certain vehicles would limit the number of vehicles towed overall.

### **Request to Endorse Report on Sidewalk Safety**

Scott Price from Capitol Hill Village returned to ANC 6B to share a report on sidewalk safety following the survey conducted by several ANCs, including ANC 6B. The report makes six recommendations:

- #1 Reduce the Service Level Agreement (SLA) to complete the small repair projects to 30 business days and carry out temporary repairs to mitigate any tripping hazards in the larger projects within the same 30 business days
- #2 Provide adequate funding to implement recommendation #1
- #3 Establish an annual sidewalk monitoring program
- #4 Capture data about sidewalk injuries – via 311
- #5 Make it easier for residents to get reimbursement for the cost of injuries from sidewalk falls
- #6 Study methods to reduce the number of sidewalk problems that need to be fixed and the costs to repair

*Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC pass a resolution in favor of the six recommendations and submit related testimony to the Council. Commissioner Sroufe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Request for ANC Support: Capitol Hill Classic 2024**

Jayne Johnson made a presentation requesting ANC 6B's support for the Capitol Hill Classic, a 10k, 3k, and kid's fun run.

*Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter of support to the Mayor's Special Events Task Group. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Testimony for Council Oversight Hearing on DDOT**

Commissioner LaFortune noted the Council's upcoming DDOT oversight hearing on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Written testimony can be submitted after the hearing for the record. He asked for the committee's support of his draft, including recommendations on TSI prioritization, traffic corridors, sidewalk safety, speed bump bicycle grooves, and dockless bikes.

RM Menzer recommended the addition of stronger language to accentuate key points.

Commissioner Sobelsohn suggested urging the Council to require DDOT to come up with a solution on dockless bikes and scooters blocking sidewalks, potentially including fines and impoundment.

RM Litt suggested noting that the past year was the deadliest for traffic safety in 15 years and to include Vision Zero language.

Commissioner D'Andrea suggested urging DDOT to incorporate design principles to encourage people to drive in a safe manner.

RM Menzer suggested requiring the Mayor to appoint a permanent Director of DDOT.

*Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC submit testimony to the Council for its DDOT oversight hearing. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Letter Regarding TSI at 14<sup>th</sup> and D St. SE**

Commissioner LaFortune shared a letter drafted by Commissioner Mareino urging DDOT to make traffic safety improvements at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and D St. SE.

*Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT regarding the TSI request at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and D St. SE. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Letter Regarding 695 Offramp**

Commissioner LaFortune shared a letter asking DDOT for further information on the re-installation of safety improvements on I St. SE at the I-695 offramp by the Marine Barracks following a Marine Corps infrastructure project.

*Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT regarding the reinstallation of safety improvements on I St. SE at the I-695 offramp. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded the motion. Commissioner D'Andrea asked that he be copied on this correspondence, Commissioners LaFortune and Sobelsohn agreed. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Committee Discussion on Suggestion to Close 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE During Library Reconstruction**

Commissioner Sobelsohn raised two proposals brought by neighbors to improve pedestrian safety during the two-year reconstruction of Southeast Library.

First, to add a protected pedestrian lane on South Carolina Ave. SE. Commissioner Sobelsohn noted that this seemed to have universal support for neighbors.

Second, to close 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE to cars during the period of library construction. Commissioner Sobelsohn shared that he has received several notes of opposition to this approach.

Chuck Schmoyer, a neighbor, highlighted that the most important aspect to him to improve pedestrian safety is the South Carolina Ave. walkway. A large majority of pedestrians are already walking along the north side of the street by the construction site.

Another neighbor named John noted that the perimeter fence of the site cut off pedestrian traffic on three sides. This created a constraint on traffic, compounded by pedestrian traffic. His only concern is two years of increased risk to pedestrians.

A neighbor named Greg stated his opposition to closing 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE due to the bottleneck of traffic on South Carolina Ave. and with no other outlet. He noted the need to provide access on the crosswalk with a pedestrian walkway. Visibility could be improved and it is hard to understand the impact of closing 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE without a traffic study.

Joe Raffetto noted his concern about the impact on parking with the closure of 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE and increased traffic on South Carolina Ave.

RM Menzer raised his concern about cars on Pennsylvania Ave. travelling east, then going down D St. SE and backing up traffic.

RM Kirrane stated that the #1 focus should be on pedestrian safety and visibility, vehicles will learn quickly since this is a two-year project.

Commissioner Sroufe asked whether pedestrian traffic could be moved to the south side of the street. Commissioner Sobelsohn responded that the protected walkway on South Carolina Ave. is bowing to the inevitable that people will be walking on the street already and raised a potential compromise to ask DDOT to conduct on study on the impact of closing 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted that the screen at the construction site causes a southbound visibility issue for pedestrians and asked whether this should be one-way.

Chuck Schmoyer noted that parts of the screening have already been removed.

John suggested that the contractor remove the remainder of the 7<sup>th</sup> St. screening.

Greg agreed that the screening is the issue.

RM Oldenburg said that a pedestrian walkway is a no-brainer.

*Commissioner Sobelsohn moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT urging the installation of a pedestrian walkway on the north side of the 600 block of South Carolina Ave. SE, an analysis on how to make 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE safer for pedestrians during the period of construction, and removal of screens around the library construction site. Commissioner Sroufe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*