



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting
March 6, 2024**

Commissioners Present: Matt LaFortune (chairing), Jerry Sroufe (6B02), Kasie Durkit (6B05), Edward Ryder (6B08)

Resident Members Present: Jakob Youngblood (6B01), Kirsten Oldenburg (6B04), Mike Litt (6B05), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Joshua Peacock (6B09)

Presentation on DDOT DC Smart Street Lighting Project

Ashley Wells shared DDOT’s progress on installing smart street lights across DC. The department is currently converting lights in Wards 1 and 6 with a target end date in May, after which it will continue to assess the impact and need for further adjustments.

Commissioner Sroufe asked what makes a street light “smart”. Stanislas Mathieu responded that these are LED lights with a node that allows them to be dimmed remotely.

Commissioner Durkit asked about the brightness and color of the new lights and whether neighbors have provided any feedback. Mr. Mathieu responded that the lights are brighter and whiter than previous ones, thought DDOT chose LED lights at the warm end of the spectrum. Neighbors can submit a request for dimming via 311 and DDOT will assess prior to adjusting the brightness of the street light.

Request to Support DC Streetcar Extension

Michael Havlin, from the Friends of the DC Streetcar organization, shared the history of the current H St. streetcar and plans to extend the line to the Benning Road Metro station.

Commissioner LaFortune asked about dedicated lanes for the streetcar and buses. Mr. Havlin shared that the streetcar should move quickly from the current end of the line to Benning Road on a dedicated lane and that DDOT has proposed bus/streetcar priority lanes on H St.

Commissioner Durkit asked about ridership since the DC Council cited low ridership as a reason to delay the Benning Road extension. Mr. Havlin noted that his organization has presented data to the Council that the streetcar’s ridership is back above pre-pandemic levels. Councilmember Allen responded positively to this. Ridership is measured by sensors on the doors.

Commissioner Sroufe asked about the comparison with pre-pandemic ridership and the total number of riders. Mr. Havlin noted that, on a per-mile basis, the streetcar moves more people than buses.

RM Kruger asked whether the streetcar would continue to be free. Mr. Havlin responded that the Council has asked DDOT. There are no current plans to charge riders but that could change if needed.

RM Youngblood noted his support for connecting the streetcar to another Metro station.

RM Litt asked about roadway improvements that are moving forward on this corridor without pedestrian changes and a cycletrack. Mr. Havlin noted that bridge reconstruction is happening over DC-295. Without the streetcar, this will result in more particulate emissions from cars.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC pass a resolution in favor of the DC Streetcar extension to the Benning Road Metro and to place this on the consent agenda at the next monthly ANC meeting. RM Litt seconded. The motion passed 8-0-1, with Commissioner Sroufe abstaining (Commissioner Ryder had not yet joined the meeting).

Resolution on Dedicated Funding for Metro

Commissioner LaFortune noted WMATA's recent proposed budget that would address a \$750M shortfall with major budget cuts, including the closure of certain Metrorail stations.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC pass a resolution in favor of a dedicated funding stream for WMATA, with the stipulation that no DC funds be used for improving the Potomac Yards station in preparation for a potential move by Monumental Sports & Entertainment and to place this on the consent agenda at the next monthly ANC meeting. RM Litt seconded. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Commissioner Sroufe opposed noting his general opposition to resolutions rather than specific action (Commissioner Ryder had not yet joined the meeting).

Letters to DDOT Re: 2024 Q2 TSI Prioritization Locations in ANC 6B

Commissioner LaFortune shared a letter drafted by Commissioner Vince Mareino making specific requests for the TSI locations within ANC 6B prioritized by DDOT as part of its quarterly process.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT urging specific actions at the locations of the prioritized TSIs and to place this on the consent agenda at the next monthly ANC meeting. RM Ryder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter to DDOT Re: No Parking Sign on Ives Pl SE

Commissioner LaFortune shared a draft letter in response to neighbors' request to remove a no-parking sign in front of an immovable fence on the 1400 block of Ives Pl. SE.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT urging the removal of this no parking sign. RM Sroufe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.