



**Report of the ANC6B Transportation Committee Meeting
June 5, 2024**

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), Brian Poochigian (6B06), Richard Cunningham (6B07), Joshua Peacock (6B09-Alt)

DDOT Presentation on Proposed Safety Actions at 11th/D St SE and 11th/G St SE Intersections

Christine Mayeur, from DDOT, presented on proposed safety improvements at the intersection of 11th and D St. SE and 11th and G St. SE. At 11th/D, DDOT is proposing steps to visually narrow the 11th St. approach and daylight the approach to the intersection of D St. There also may be a future installation of a traffic camera but it will be a few months before DDOT can transfer a camera from another location.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted that concrete hardening at this location would be preferable to neighbors.

Commissioner Jayaraman expressed support for infrastructure hardening near schools and asked why the plans only marked five feet width for areas protected by flexiposts. Ms. Mayeur responded that this is to maintain the minimum lane width for turns by the intersection. She also stated that this location could be added to the Vision Zero Hardening program as a future site.

Joe Howard, a neighbor in the area, shared his request for curb extensions, additional speed humps, and a raised crosswalk across 11th St. He noted that since this street is marked as a minor arterial it is ok to use raised crosswalks with close proximity to a school. Ms. Mayeur responded that DDOT relies on traffic counts, bus routes, and feasibility when considering speed humps.

Claire August asked why DDOT noted speed humps would encourage people to turn right. Ms. Mayeur clarified that this was in reference to vehicles making a 90 degree turn due to flexiposts curb extensions which increases visibility. She also stated that stop light cameras are rotated based on the rate of compliance at a location.

Mark Sussman asked about the planned bike lane flow. There is protected space on 11th St. SE around D and around Pennsylvania Ave. but the rest of the corridor is back next to traffic like a wave. Ms. Mayeur noted that DDOT's bike team could take this on for the 11th St. corridor as part of the five-year strategic plan in development.

Commissioner Jayaraman noted that manhole covers in the crosswalk may prevent it from being raised.

Commissioner D'Andrea stated his support for raised crosswalks on D St.

Commissioner Sroufe asked about the standard for how high raised crosswalks must be. Ms. Mayeur stated that speed tables have a flat top, speed humps like on the G St. NOI do not and are four inches at the top.

Commissioner Sroufe also stated that he did not think this would have much impact on velocity. Ms. Mayeur responded that visual narrowing of the street and corners will slow down vehicles.

Ms. Mayeur then presented DDOT's plans for 11th and G St. SE. There will be no turn on red all-day pre-emptively ahead of that being banned across the District. DDOT plans to move the bike lane to the curb, shorten crosswalks and add a speed hump on G St. In response to a question by Commissioner LaFortune, Ms. Mayeur stated that DDOT will update the 25 MPH sign to 15 MPH as this is a school zone.

Commissioner D'Andrea stated that he is glad to see a speed hump.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked about the minimum lane width for traffic flow. Ms. Mayeur stated that it is 11 feet on 11th St. and 10 or 9 feet on residential streets.

Allison McGill, a neighbor, asked DDOT to add a lighted school zone sign on the corner and a sign telling drivers not to block the box. Ms. Mayeur responded that DDOT has found Don't Block the Box signs to not be effective but that a red light camera assessment is in the cue.

Ms. Mayeur stated that comments are due by June 18th and June 20th for the two locations. Then DDOT will respond on the feasibility of changes, put the projects in the cue for construction, and they will start later this summer or early fall. She also stated that ending two-way left turn lanes are subject to a corridor study and urged ANC 6B to engage with the bike team.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT sharing comments on the two 11th St. projects, to be drafted by Commissioner LaFortune and placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner D'Andrea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Letter in Support of Multimodal Street Design on Major Arterials

Commissioner Adam Prinzo (3C02) shared ANC 3C's experience advocating for the "Concept C" redesign on Connecticut Avenue to eliminate a rush-hour lane and add protected bike lanes. He stated that DDOT has not responded to their repeated support of this project and that the design they and other ANCs supported is no longer being considered.

Commissioner Sobelsohn asked whether the Ward 3 Councilmember is supportive of the ANC's efforts. Commissioner Prinzo stated that CM Frumin ran a campaign that was supportive and backed CM Allen's effort to require any funding for the Connecticut Ave. redesign to include bike lanes. Chair Mendelson removed this from the budget.

Commissioner Jayaraman asked why ANC 3C has not gotten great weight from DDOT. Commissioner Prinzo responded that DDOT has been non-responsive and noted that a Ward 3 biking association received 5,000 signatures in support in three weeks.

RM Youngblood suggested that ANC 6B should compile a list of bike projects before engaging with the bike master plan.

RM Peacock noted that every ANC on the Connecticut Ave. corridor supports Concept C and that Montgomery County commuters spoke in opposition to the plan. He urged ANC 6B to weigh in due to recent experience with the Pennsylvania Ave. bike lane project having positive benefits.

Commissioner Jayaraman spoke in opposition to weighing in on a project in Ward 3.

Claire August stated that 6B's experience with a bike lane project on an arterial gives it a unique perspective. She also said that e-bikes unlock the ability for Capitol Hill residents to travel further and access businesses elsewhere.

Commissioner Ryder noted his support in general for multimodal projects and for weighing in on relevant projects in other parts of the city.

Commissioner Sroufe opposed 6B commenting on a Ward 3 project.

RM Youngblood noted that funding for the Connecticut Ave. project limits opportunities for other work, so supporting good design is critical.

Commissioner Sobelsohn stated his believe that commissioners have an obligation to comment on projects in the city as a whole.

Commissioner Ryder also believes it is not inappropriate to do so.

Commissioner D'Andrea stated his belief that ANC 6B has a duty to weigh in on city-wide issues and opposition to giving in to a vocal minority rather than backing the local ANCs.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT and CM Allen stating support in general for multimodal projects due to the experience of the Pennsylvania Ave. redesign as well as to urge DDOT to give "great weight" to the ANCs impacted by a Connecticut Ave. redesign, to be drafted by Commissioner LaFortune. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded. A proposed amendment to strike the second part of the motion related to Connecticut Ave. by Commissioner Jayaraman (Commissioner Sroufe seconded) failed 2-10-0. The motion passed 10-2-0, with Commissioners Jayaraman and Sroufe opposed.

Committee Discussion on WMATA Better Bus Base Network

Commissioner LaFortune introduced this topic by stating that WMATA has released its Better Bus Base Network and that the ANC has resubmitted its previous letter last year expressing support for the continuation of the current 96 bus route along Massachusetts Ave. SE.

Commissioner Ryder stated that after the DC Circulator sunsets, WMATA intends to take over Circulator routes and that he would support a letter urging the continuation of the Eastern Market-Union Station route.

Commissioner D'Andrea noted the differences between this map and the Better Bus Visionary Network, which would require more funding. WMATA has constraints and this creates a tradeoff between service and coverage.

RM Oldenburg stated that as a frequent transit user, she wanted to confirm that the proposed D14 bus would connect Eastern Market and Union Station.

Commissioner Jayaraman noted the gap of coverage in ANC 6B around Lincoln Park and Hill East.

Commissioner Ryder stated that the Base Network does not include the 96 bus route and that he would support a letter urging the continuation of that route and that more frequency is needed for the bus from Eastern Market to Union Station (currently scheduled for “every 30 minutes or better”).

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to WMATA sharing comments on the Better Bus Base Network, urging the continuation of the current 96 route and increased frequency of the planned D14 route, to be drafted by Commissioner LaFortune and placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Jayaraman seconded. The motion passed 11-0-1, with Commissioner Sroufe abstaining

Committee Discussion on Proposed EV Charging Locations

Commissioner LaFortune introduced the topic by noting that DOEE has created a questionnaire to recommend EV charging locations. This questionnaire includes an option to submit locations officially as an ANC: <https://chargerrecommendation-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Commissioner Sobelsohn recommended that Commissioner LaFortune send an email message urging Transportation Committee members to circulate with their constituents and collect locations. This message should include suggestions for what makes a good location, such as where cars can park legally. Commissioner LaFortune agreed to take this action.

(Late Breaking) Committee Discussion on Next Scheduled Meeting

Commissioner LaFortune noted a concern raised by Commissioner Sobelsohn that the next scheduled Transportation Committee meeting would fall right before the July 4th holiday.

Commissioner LaFortune asked whether the committee would be open to rescheduling for Wednesday, June 26th.

Commissioner Ryder noted that the ANC needs to post an agenda seven days in advance of the committee meeting.

Commissioner Sobelsohn said that this could be accomplished by posting a tentative agenda online early.

Commissioner Jayaraman said that the full agenda does not need to be published and that this is an exceptional situation due to the holiday and calendar congestion.

Commissioner LaFortune moved to recommend that the ANC reschedule the July Transportation Committee meeting for Wednesday, June 26th at 7pm. Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(Late Breaking) Committee Discussion on 8th St. Bus Priority Project

Commissioner Jayaraman introduced the topic by noting that several business owners on Barracks Row has requested a one-year delay of the 8th St. Bus Priority Project.

Mary Quillian said that the latest DDOT presentation on the project is not posted on the website and that the community needs more time to consider.

John Boyle shared that DDOT presented at a meeting in February and the presenter noted a net parking loss.

Commissioner D'Andrea clarified that the February meeting was with Barracks Row Main Street.

Commissioner LaFortune said that the ANC has not seen any updated plans and that DDOT has committed to returning to meet with the Transportation Committee when plans are updated.

RM Youngblood noted that the Circulator going away will not change bus congestion at 8th St. and that the project also includes pedestrian safety measures.

Commissioner D'Andrea said that the project is also trying to rationalize where loading zones go.

Commissioner Sroufe stated his support for engagement with DDOT to gain an understanding of the current project status.

Commissioner Jayaraman believes the plan will cause greater safety issues.

Commissioner Ryder noted the timeline of the project: DDOT has engaged with businesses per the ANC's request and is completing the final concept, after which there will be an opportunity for comment. He also shared that WMATA is planning to pick up the Circulator routes and that WMATA buses move 3,000 people a day along this corridor. He also believes in prioritizing and updating the entire corridor safety and supports more parking enforcement.

Commissioner Sroufe said that the ANC needs to invite DDOT and businesses to discuss the latest plans.

Commissioner Tucker Jones (1B09) shared that this project impacts 1B as bus lanes go up to the U St. corridor and transit headways matter. He asked that the ANC continue working with DDOT to make sure concerns are addressed without a moratorium on the project.

Mary Quillian stated that the loading zone problem on Pennsylvania Ave. is continuing and that businesses need to be included. She is not opposed to bus lanes if the project does not create other problems.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved to recommend that the ANC write a letter to DDOT highlighting the importance of posting the latest project plans on its website, conducting more outreach to businesses, adding more signs for the parking area under the highways, and presenting data that substantiates its proposed actions, to be drafted by Commissioner LaFortune and placed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Jayaraman seconded. The motion passed 11-0-1, with Commissioner D'Andrea abstaining.