

ANC 6C Transportation and Public Space Committee
Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill Medical Center
700 2nd St. NE, Room G3-G4
Thursday, June 8, 2017
7:00 pm

REPORT

In Attendance:

Mark Kazmierczak, chair
Comm. Mark Eckenwiler
Comm. Heather Edelman
Gary Barbour
Josh Linden
Emily Diamond-Falk

1. NoMa Bicycle Study

DDOT is soliciting preliminary input on how to build out the bicycle infrastructure network from K to N Streets and from 6th NW to 6th NE. The website for the project is <http://nomabicyclestudy.com/> and they have an interactive map where you can draw your preferred routes. They are accepting responses through ~~May 31~~ June 15.

Representative: Darren Buck, DDOT. [6C05, 6C06]

Mr. Buck presented the rationale and history behind the study, the goal of which is to improve east-west bicycle connections. Currently they are collecting information on preferred routes from constituents, by email and by the above link, which will be open through June 15. After data collection, they will prepare concepts that will be shared with the DC Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Councils, then with the public at large. DDOT is intending concepts to rely on protected bike lanes and cycletracks rather than unprotected lanes and sharrows.

The committee did not attempt to identify a consensus preferred route, but did express support for the study.

No Motion.

2. 501 H St. NE | Application #204464

Mixed use building currently under construction. Application to add bollards and railings in the alley to protect the neighboring house from accidental damage from cars using surface parking spots located off the alley.

Representative: Chris Regan, Douglas Development Corp. [6C05]

The applicant presented a plan to install metal posts and a rail (at bumper height) in the alley to protect the neighboring house from potential damage caused by cars using the surface parking spots off the alley. The posts and rails together will not be attached to the house, and will protrude six inches into the

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alley. Also installed will be bollards to protect the front corner of the house and the two corners of the fence surrounding the back yard.

The work described was proposed after complaints from the adjacent property owner, who was not in attendance. The committee felt the proposed work was an acceptable solution and would likely not significantly impede traffic through the alley. The committee suggested having an additional rail at a driver's eye level and/or reflective indicators on the posts to make the guard rail more apparent to drivers. The committee also suggested installing a security camera to help identify drivers in cases of severe damage or negligence.

Motion: Recommend ANC 6C support the application, with the added recommendation of improvements for greater visibility and a security camera.

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

3. Indigo, 243 K St. NE

Continued operation of sidewalk café without a permit. ANC 6C voted to support the initial application (in 2015) but no permit has been issued.

Representative: Dinesh Tandon, Indigo. [6C06]

The committee inquired as to why the permit for the sidewalk café (#10190957, application date 5/22/2015) has not been issued, despite a letter of support provided by ANC 6C (dated July, 2015). The applicant claimed DDOT Public Space is allowing him to operate while he constructs a “summer garden” along 3rd St. NE, at which time a “certificate of occupancy” will be issued for both spaces simultaneously. The applicant provided plans and invoices for building permits acquired from DCRA to construct the summer garden.

Committee members pointed out several inconsistencies in the applicant's statements. First, the term “summer garden” is used by ABRA for outdoor spaces on public property serving alcohol. Second, the proposed “summer garden” is clearly on public space, yet a new sidewalk café application was not produced. In response, the applicant insisted the plans are for a “summer garden” and not a sidewalk café, and are legal. The applicant could not identify the statute covering “summer gardens” upon request.

Other committee members expressed concern that the committee is investigating an issue that is not negatively impacting the neighborhood, and in fact may jeopardize the operation of a valuable neighborhood asset. One resident in attendance spoke in support of Indigo and stated a desire that any action the ANC takes not harm the business.

Motion: Recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT Director Dormsjo inquiring (a) why the Public Space approval has not been finalized for the initial sidewalk café application, and (b) does DDOT intend to process the “summer garden” application without PSC and ANC approval.

Vote: Passed, 3 – 2 – 1.

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4. 301 N St. NE | Application #203998

Traffic control plan and public space construction for new development. Proposed traffic control plan includes closing N St. NE to avoid using residential streets.

Representative: Devin Belnap, Foulger Pratt. [6C06]

The traffic control plan directs truck traffic to enter the work site on N St. NE from 3rd St. NE, and exit from N St. onto Florida Ave. NE. Trucks will not be allowed to travel south on 4th St. NE (a restricted route) after exiting the site. The committee felt this would have minimal impact on the neighborhood and was in support of the plan.

A brief discussion of the public realm plans was also had. The N St. Streetscape includes bays for cars traveling on N St. NE to pull into for passenger loading and unloading. In between these bays are greenery and varied seating elements. Bike racks are provided all around the property in public space. The committee was in support of the public space plan.

Motion: Recommend ANC 6C support both the Traffic Control Plan and the Public Realm design.

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

5. New legislation

Several new bills have been introduced in Council. The committee will allow brief discussion/comments on any or all of the following:

- B22-0275, the Making Rodent Syndicates Flee Restaurants, Interior Settings, Basements and Yards Amendment Act of 2017 (Addressing rodent problem).
http://dcist.com/2017/05/oh_rats_new_bill_wants_to_address_r.php
- B22-013, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Technical Amendment Act of 2017
- B22-019, the Personal Delivery Device Act of 2017
- B22-096, the Electric Vehicle Public Infrastructures Expansion Act of 2017

The latter three bills will be heard by the Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment on June 21, 2017. Hearing summary with links to the bills at <http://dccouncil.us/events/transportation-the-environment-public-hearing>.

Representative: None [District-wide]

Discussion of bill B22-0275 was tabled to allow for more investigation of the issue, given that no hearing has been set.

The committee briefly discussed the remaining three bills and found no substantive issues.

Motion: Recommend the ANC send a letter of support for bills B22-013, B22-019, and B22-096, with a recommendation that the requirement for identification of operators on line 68 of bill B22-019 contain a minimum font size for the identification plaque (recommend two inches).

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

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6. 150 M St. NE (new item)

Commissioner Edelman introduced an issue that M St. NE between 1st NE and Delaware Ave. will be closed to westbound traffic during the day to accommodate construction of 150 M St. The closure begins Monday, June 12, and notification of this closure was given less than one week prior, by email to ANC 6C from the builders, Balfour Beatty. The committee was concerned about the lack of notice to the ANC by DDOT and Balfour Beatty. There were also concerns with the traffic control plan and potential adjustments to request. The committee wanted to be able to discuss the plan with the builders to answer questions and raise specific concerns.

Motion: Recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT objecting to the traffic control plan, as well as objecting to the apparent authorization of the plan without prior notice to the ANC.

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

7. M St. Cycletrack (new item)

Committee chair Kazmierczak raised the issue that construction of the M St. NE cycletrack, which ANC 6C supported in April 2016, and which has yet to be installed. DDOT claims installation will begin in mid-June.

Motion: Recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT Director Dormsjo inquiring as to why the cycletrack has yet to be installed, despite original assurances it would be installed in 2016 before winter.

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

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