

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

REPORT

In Attendance:

Mark Kazmierczak, chair
Comm. Karen Wirt
Josh Linden
Kate Kemmerer
Emily Diamond-Falk

1. DC Streetcar Program Update

DDOT will present the latest updates on projects within the DC Streetcar program, including progress on the Benning Road Extension and the Streetcar Storage and Maintenance Facility Needs Assessment Study. At the Benning Extension Meeting, DDOT shared the potential locations evaluated, which include sites in ANC 6C. DDOT will share the evaluation with the committee for comments.

Representative: Raka Choudhury and Christine Mayeur, DDOT.

Ms. Choudhury provided an update on several aspects of the Streetcar program:

- Benning Road Extension – The environmental study is currently in progress, expected to complete in early 2018. Construction will occur around 2022-2023. This extension will need 4 additional cars, which can be accommodated in the existing car barn.
- Georgetown extension – approximately 5 years behind the Benning extension. Will require 15 additional cars and a new car barn. Currently identifying sites.
- One potential site is in ANC 6C – Union Station. Will require lots of coordination with Amtrak and developers. Another potential site (in 6A) is the Hechinger Mall, which also would require coordination with developers looking to improve that site. The committee felt that both nearby locations were potentially acceptable as they were commercial rather than residential.

A public meeting will be held the week of January 22 to discuss the environmental study for the Georgetown extension.

No Motion.

Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

The full Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 6C) usually meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. and will vote on all committee recommendations. Non-voting items from this committee meeting may be omitted from the full ANC agenda. Commission meetings are held at the Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE. For a complete ANC schedule and agenda, see <http://anc6c.org/>.

2. MBT Wayfinding Project

NoMa BID continues its design study to improve the Metropolitan Branch Trail through better signage and other features that aim to make the trail easier to use and better connected to surrounding neighborhoods. NoMa BID will present the latest design concepts and placement plans for signage and other elements.

Representative: Galin Brooks, NoMa BID. [6C06]

Ms. Brooks presented the key aspects of the design effort for improved wayfinding and branding of the MBT:

- Signage: more visible and clear, added color, larger. Existing signage will remain.
- Kiosks: vertical information posts with maps and nearby attractions and destinations (4 new ones)
- Pavement markings: at most entrances to the trail, including M St., N St., Union Station, Elevation building, and R. St.
- Implementation ideally in summer 2018

No Motion.

3. 226 Massachusetts Ave NE

Massachusetts Avenue Properties, LLC plans to develop the site of the former Armand's pizzeria on Massachusetts Ave NE, next to the Heritage Foundation building. Work is already underway at the adjacent property.

Representative: Harold Bingham, MGAC [6C02]

The applicants presented their plan for improving the public space in front of three buildings—208, 214, and 226 Massachusetts Ave. NE—the latter of which is being redeveloped to be incorporated into the others. The plan has been updated to address comments from DDOT and HPRB, including:

- The public parking area should better relate to the sidewalk
- Fences and piers must be 42” in height or less
- Paved terraces must be reduced in size
- Provide more access to landscaped space
- Reduce height of seat walls around terraces
- Provide more bike parking

The overall design consists of fencing typical of the Capitol Hill neighborhood—iron bars with stone piers. A single entrance to the building is in front of 214 Massachusetts Ave, with the fencing curving up toward it. The fencing ends approximately half way to the building allowing access to the public parking. Landscaping along the fence is low to allow visual access to the entire area. The applicant provided a letter of support for the project from Capitol Hill BID.

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The committee largely liked the open landscaping plan. One committee member objected to the public parking being closed off with fencing. Substantial discussion occurred around this point—the objection being that public space should be open to all, while those in support argued that it was unfair to hold the applicant to a different standard than most other properties in Capitol Hill.

Motion: Recommend the ANC support the application.

Vote: Passed, 4 – 1.

4. Storey Park (1005 1st St. NE)

Proposed new mixed-use development at L and 1st St. NE. The project has changed ownership since it was first proposed, and a redesign will be presented.

Representative: John Camera, Perseus Realty [6C06]

Mr. Camera presented a design for the Storey Park public space application. Discussion mainly focused on two aspects:

1. Loading entrance. The building has a single loading entrance, off L Street. No entrance is permitted on 1st St., and would be undesirable due to the cycle-track. The entrance is a 35' curb cut which is necessary because of the sharp angle of the ramp (due to the train tracks that are immediately next to the building and loading entrance). There is a pedestrian refuge marked but not raised, to allow trucks to cross it. The committee reviewed turning diagrams showing the necessary paths of trucks entering and exiting through this curb cut. Committee members recognized the constraints of the space and felt this was acceptable. It was suggested the builder including lighting and mirrors to improve visibility.
2. Lay-by for hotel entrance. A single car lay-by is proposed to ease loading and unloading for hotel guests. The committee felt this was a good idea that would ease traffic backups.

Motion: Recommend the ANC support the proposal, specifically the loading curb cut and the lay-by, and request mirrors and lighting to enhance visibility around the loading entrance.

Vote: Passed, 4 – 0. (Comm. Wirt not in attendance)

5. Zipcar

Discuss the possibility of moving the Zip car spots at 4th and M St. NE to a spot north of Florida Avenue (ANC 5D).

Representative: TBD [6C06]

The committee did not discuss this item as Commissioner Edelman (6C06) was attempting to reach Zipcar. Subsequently, it was revealed Zipcar will remove the spots and not relocate them until changes to the streets have stabilized.

No Motion.

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