ANC 6C Transportation and Public Space Committee
Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill Medical Center
700 2nd St. NE, Room G3-G4
Thursday, January 3, 2019
7:00 pm

REPORT

In Attendance
Mark Kazmierczak, chair
Comm. Jay Adelstein
Comm. Mark Eckenwiler
Yancey Burns
Christy Kwan
Elissa McDade

1. Union Station Expansion - Update

A general update on the Union Station Expansion Project from the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation and District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Note: the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is unable to attend due to the federal government shutdown. All three stakeholders will attend a future TPS Committee meeting to discuss the environmental impact study.

Representative: Beverley Swaim-Staley, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation [6C02]

Beverley Swaim-Staley, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, and Sam Zimbabwe, DDOT, attended along with colleagues to give a general update on the Union Station Expansion Project. USRC is the lead agency with the federal NEPA (environmental review) process, which is currently about halfway through. The stakeholders, (FRA, DDOT, USRC, other stakeholders) meet monthly and coordinate on this project. USRC and DDOT have several meetings each month to discuss this and other related projects including the H Street Bridge, Streetcar, K Street intersection and signaling, 1st St Roadway layouts, overall traffic modeling and mitigation.

Planning for this project began in 2015; they are now doing design work and the federal NEPA process. Currently the design is down to 5 alternatives—each one will be included in the environmental impact statement (EIS). FRA received ANC’s letter from last May on the five alternatives, and is planning another public hearing in the spring when the draft EIS comes out (March or April timeframe).

Mr. Kazmierczak mentioned the letter ANC 6C sent to DDOT regarding a need for coordination and regular updates from the stakeholders with the ANC. A major concern is that without sufficient planning and coordination, decisions made on rebuilding the H St. bridge will affect what is possible for the Union Station expansion and the adjacent Akridge development project. Mr. Zimbabwe replied that the H Street bridge project is a largely a structural design challenge—figuring out how the support of the bridge aligns with Amtrak’s plan, and won’t largely affect what is done on the surface.

Commissioner Adelstein asked how the stakeholders suggest the ANC should best be kept aware of the project. Mr. Zimbabwe and Ms. Swaim-Staley responded that the upcoming draft EIS is a major opportunity for engagement, and the parties are willing to continue to attend committee meetings and other public meetings beyond that.

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/.
A resident raised the concern about lack of projection numbers of increase in traffic and that the EIS is only dealing with the railroad portion. He is disappointed in lack of alternatives looking at the reopening of the H Street Tunnel. Mr. Zimbabwe stated they are trying to grapple with those issues and how people will get to the station.

No Motion – parties will return with FRA as soon as possible to discuss details of the project.

Additional Issue – Columbus Circle Traffic Circulation Problems

Commissioner Eckenwiler raised the issue of poor traffic circulation in Columbus Circle and the lack of effort by traffic enforcers to appropriately direct and move the traffic. The ANC sent a letter in May 2017 detailing the specific problems. Traffic control officers are not enforcing rules, which leads to the congestion. E.g., they are not forcing cars stopping in the left lane to continue to move on.

Ms. Swaim-Staley pointed out some efforts Union Station has been doing to attempt to mitigate traffic. The parking garage now has space for kiss and ride, and they have worked with Uber and Lyft to do the pick up / drop off from garage. Information is on their website and hand out cards to drivers.

Motion: Recommend the ANC send a letter to Jeff Marootian expressing disappointment with USRC’s ongoing meaningful action to relieve traffic issues in Columbus Circle, which also affect pedestrian and bicycle safety. (Eckenwiler/Kazmierczak)

Vote: Passed, 6 – 0.

2. M St. and Delaware Ave. NE - Update

Discussion of cyclist/pedestrian safety issues and upcoming and needed safety improvements at the intersection of M St. and Delaware Ave. NE and surrounding area (landmark: REI).

Representative: Emily Dalphy, DDOT [6C06]

DDOT is in the process of instituting a no-turn-on-red restriction from Delaware Ave. at M St. NE. In its response to the NOI for this change, ANC 6C reiterated its concerns for additional safety improvements, primarily prohibiting right turns from east bound M St. onto Delaware Ave. Other considerations include making Delaware Ave. one-way north bound (starting from the Uline arena loading dock), striping the bike lanes under the Amtrak/Metro bridge, and widening and realigning the curb cut at the underpass.

Ms. Dalphy welcomed ideas from the community on safety concerns. She suggested one potential obstacle to converting Delaware Ave. to one-way is the volume of traffic that will be generated by the upcoming development at Central Armature Works—the only access to parking and loading will be at the Delaware and M St. intersection. DDOT has the traffic study from the developers and will use that when assessing the change.

A resident raised the issue at K and 2nd St. that it is hard for cars to turn left onto K from 2nd Street north bound, and suggested the intersection needs to be a 3 lane intersection to fit a turn lane or to change the signal cycle. Ms. Dalphy stated that intersection will be included as a part of the K Street NE project.

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Commissioner Eckenwiler raised an issue at the corner of M and 1st St NE, where there are no barriers to prevent cars from going into the two-way cycle-track. He suggested something more substantial to flexposts, e.g., a jersey barrier. All gaps/entrance points to protected bike lanes should have a center post to prevent cars from entering. Ms. Dalphy mentioned jersey barriers are difficult to manage but will look into it.

Commissioner Dooling (6C06) asked about the possibility of raised cycletracks and more painting of the bike lanes. Ms. Dalphy responded that raised things are more difficult and costlier because of drainage. Mr. Zimbabwe pointed out a couple examples of sidewalk-level cycle-tracks in the District (at the Wharf and VA Ave) and mentioned that in a high traffic area people will walk in the cycle tracks.

No Motion – the committee will follow up with DDOT on requests.

3. **Fancy Radish Sidewalk Café | Application #10665208**

   Application for an unenclosed sidewalk café for Fancy Radish restaurant, 600 H St. NE. Redesign from previous application, which ANC 6C voted to oppose.

   Representative: Sidon Yohannes, Veritas Law Firm [6C05]

   The previous design had more tables, including counter-height tables, and extended further from the building. The current design has only four tables (seating 8 people) and leaves 8’ of sidewalk clearance. This more or less aligns with the bay window projection of Hikari Sushi a couple doors done. Because of this, the committee felt the distance from the building was okay and had no major objections. The committee did have some concerns with the potential for tables to creep outwards.

   The café will have two umbrellas with 8’ of clearance and no ropes or barriers. Commissioner Adelstein suggested the applicant start with two tables and add more if successful.

   **Motion:** Recommend the ANC support the application, making sure the tables do not creep out further. (Kazmierczak/McDade)

   **Vote:** Passed, 4 – 0 (Comm. Eckenwiler and Mr. Burns absent)

4. **West Virginia Ave. NE Triangle Park**

   Update on ideas for turning the closed block of West Virginia Ave. NE between K St. and 8th St. into a park. Inclusion of a Capital Bikeshare station is a possibility.

   Representative: Josh Krantz, resident; Aaron Goldbeck, DDOT [6C06]

   Mr. Krantz expressed the residents’ desires for something like a park. He had reached out to a developer (Rappaport) that’s willing to sponsor a park there, and talked to Charles Allen’s office, who’s willing to join the effort. Additionally, there was discussion of adding a bikeshare station to the location, either in the triangle or on a nearby street. Mr. Goldbeck stated this is a good location for a station and would fill a gap in the system.

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The committee liked the idea of both a bikeshare and greenspace. They had no strong opinions on design but look forward to seeing how it progresses. Mr. Goldbeck stated the minimum size for a bikeshare station is 55’ long and 6’ wide. The committee expressed the need to determine the best next steps. Mr. Zimbabwe suggested getting support from a Councilmember to include in their budget.

**Motion 1:** Recommend the ANC write a letter of support to Charles Allen on the concept of a park and request further exploration of the design and funding of the park. (Adelstein/Kazmierczak)

**Vote:** Passed, 4 – 0.

**Motion 2:** Recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT to explore a bikeshare around 8th and K – exact location to TBD. (Kwan/Adelstein)

**Vote:** Passed, 4 – 0.

5. **No Turn on Red Installations | NOI #18-227-TOA**

In support of the District’s commitment to Mayor Bowser’s Vision Zero goal, DDOT will be prohibiting right turns on red at 101 signalized intersections across the city. Five intersection in ANC 6C are included:

- 1st Street NE & K Street NE
- North Capitol Street BN & H Street NW & H Street NE
- New Jersey Avenue NW & D Street NW
- 1st Street NE & New York Avenue NE & O Street NE
- North Capitol Street BN & New York Avenue NW & N Street NE & New York Avenue NE

Representative: Sam Zimbabwe and Emily Dalphy, DDOT [6C02, 6C04, 6C06]

Mr. Zimbabwe, DDOT, stated that the 101 proposed locations around the city were selected because of traffic volume, pedestrian volume, sight distance. When asked about a city-wide ban, he informed the committee that federal law fines any jurisdictions with a blanket ban on right-turn on red.

Ms. McDade asked how the intersections will be enforced. Ms. Dalphy stated DDOT is working with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to highlight hot spots for enforcement.

Ms. Kwan enquired about two additional intersections that need no-turn on red: Florida Ave and NY Ave NE, Louisiana Ave and Mass Ave NE. Ms. Dalphy said they would consider them, and that additional requests can be submitted through 311.

**Motion:** Recommend the ANC support the installations identified in the NOI and emphasize the need for enforcement. The ANC should also request to add the intersections of Florida Ave at NY Ave NE and Louisiana Ave at Mass Ave NE. (Kazmierczak/McDade).

**Vote:** Passed, 4 – 0.