



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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August 5, 2020

Mr. Jeff Marootian
Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
jeff.marootian@dc.gov

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Chair, Public Space Committee
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov

RE: Georgetown's District Department of Transportation Priorities and the Proposed Closure of Streets in the Neighborhood for Streateries and Parklets

Dear Director Marootian and Chair Marcou,

On June 29, 2020 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Director Jeff Marootian agreed to attend ANC 2E's virtual June 2020 meeting. We appreciated his attendance as it has been several years since DDOT leadership agreed to attend our ANC meeting. Moreover, it was useful to hear directly from DDOT on potential road and public space permits that will be available and used by DDOT during the city's COVID-19 response.

As shared at the meeting, ANC 2E is thankful for the work DDOT has done over the past year or so specifically around the Georgetown waterfront (placement of needed speed bumps and bike lanes) and the unexpected road repaving within the ANC. This said, the ANC also shared with Director Marootian that the ANC is awaiting feedback from DDOT on several resolutions we issued to DDOT over the past 18 months. Director Marootian stated that no response was given to the ANC on several of these ANC resolutions as DDOT was unclear about the ANC's priorities.

With this letter, ANC 2E resolves to:

- Reiterate our previously stated priorities that are within DDOT's scope of responsibility.
- Highlight some new but related DDOT-related priorities due to COVID-19.

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

- Encourage DDOT to review and respond to 3-1-1 caseload requests that are outstanding from the ANC 2E area.
- Consider new ways to inform ANC 2E of upcoming DDOT work within timeframes that allow us to inform our constituents of the work or be aware of the work before it begins.

Georgetown is a key hub within Washington, DC. Like DDOT, ANC 2E shares DDOT's focus on pedestrian safety, reduction in traffic congestion and pollution, and promotion of urban forestry. With these shared goals in mind, we urge DDOT to partner with the ANC on solutions to the issues we have raised. The ANC would like to have an active partnership between the ANC and DDOT so that the ANC can help support ongoing goals like Vision Zero and the unique challenges and opportunities brought by COVID-19.

To assist DDOT with understanding ANC 2E's detailed rationale behind our below priorities, an Appendix to this letter provides a non-exhaustive list of the resolutions that the ANC previously issued on these topics.

High-Level Summary of ANC 2E Priorities Communicated to DDOT Pre-COVID

- Dockless vehicle program should include:
 - Capabilities and processes for ANCs and others to provide local input and receive a tailored response.
 - Enforcement of policies and public access to track program and contractor enforcement.
- Historic brick sidewalks in Georgetown need:
 - Overdue repairs in multiple spots in Georgetown using proper materials.
 - A transparent DDOT sidewalk restoration lists that includes brick sidewalks needing repair due to tree roots.
 - Clarity and enforcement of DDOT policies surrounding tree boxes.
 - DC's position on protecting our historic area during the installation of new 5G telecommunication equipment.
- Traffic flow and parking in Georgetown requires:
 - Completion of targeted changes outlined in a 2018 DDOT study including parklets, better signage, and adjustments to metered parking.
 - Strategic DDOT traffic study that includes people and package delivery.
 - Improvements to road signage in multiple places to protect pedestrian safety.
- Communications:
 - Outreach by DDOT to ANC 2E that makes the ANC aware – within appropriate timeframes – of upcoming road or public space work.

COVID-Related Priorities

- Sidewalk widening for social distancing:
 - Note: See Appendix for ANC 2E resolutions on this priority.
- Creation of temporary streateries and parklets:
 - Due to COVID-19, ANC 2E is concerned for both the public health of those visiting Georgetown's commercial area and the economic revitalization of our retail and commercial area, which was already suffering before COVID-19.
 - During COVID-19, the city and its businesses and residents need to pursue creative options to maintain safety and employment opportunities. More safe seating is needed; the use of streets and open areas adjacent to M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW could prove very useful. With this in mind, ANC 2E believes that temporary efforts such as streateries and parklets will play an important role in addressing the above-noted concerns about the Georgetown commercial area.
 - We ask that DDOT quickly considers applications submitted for streateries and parklets and conducts outreach to ANC 2E, the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), and Georgetown Main Street as DDOT drafts its application responses. Normal timeframes for review and potential approval of such unique applications need to be fast tracked due to COVID-19. We welcome working with DDOT on these expedited processes.
 - Georgetown-based streateries could be one or several blocks and could be granted the ability to operate during one or more weekends and weekdays depending on the purpose of the streateries. ANC 2E is open to considering a range of options.
 - Should DDOT or ANC 2E find that a parklet is being used for overnight sleeping or should the streateries or parklets cause unintended consequences which negatively impact resident parking, traffic circulation, safety, trash, rodent infestation, or lack of social distancing, we ask DDOT to work with us to quickly address these issues with the applicant. Should the applicant be unable to manage the temporary streateries or parklet, we ask DDOT to quickly shut down these temporary efforts.
 - ANC 2E understands that any parking spaces that would be utilized for these parklets are metered and not residential permit parking (RPP) spaces, and that the majority of the businesses in the area of these parklets have been consulted and support such installations.

ANC 2E looks forward to working with DDOT on these important efforts.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive style.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

APPENDIX:

Non-Exhaustive List of DDOT-Related Communications Shared Within Last 18 months

- ANC Dialog and NOI Responses to DDOT Neighborhood Safety Assessment for Georgetown
 - See DDOT Issues and Opportunities, December 5, 2018
- DC's Proposed Small Cell Guidelines
 - See March 15, 2019 resolution to Matthew Marcou, Chair, Public Space Committee
- Request to Discuss Dockless Vehicles
 - See June 28, 2019 resolution to Director Marootian
- Communications and Prioritization of Historic Sidewalk Repairs
 - See July 1, 2019 resolution to Director Marootian
- Use of Mopeds on Neighborhood Sidewalks
 - See September 11, 2019 resolution to Director Marootian
- District Department of Transportation's Dockless Bike and Scooter Share 2020 Terms and Conditions (T&C)
 - See October 10, 2019 letter to Director Marootian
- Updates to the District Department of Transportation's Pedestrian Master Plan
 - See December 10, 2019 letter to Jim Sebastian, Associate Director, Planning and Sustainability Division
- Comprehensive and Programmatic Review of Tree Boxes in the Neighborhood
 - See December 10, 2019 letter to Earl Eutsler, Associate Director, Urban Forestry Division, and Matthew Marcou, Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Division
- Proposed Changes to DC's Draft Comprehensive Plan (CP)
 - Sent to Andrew Trueblood, Director, Office of Planning on February 14, 2020. The section on transportation language included the following:

ANC 2E believes OP should make it clear what the CP requires of MoveDC or other similar programs (and the role of ANC's in this process) given that so much of the CP is dependent upon the successful roll-out of MoveDC.

ANC 2E recommends that the CP be amended to address the lack of convenient and efficient transit access to and from Georgetown.

Currently, DDOT does not effectively monitor or enforce the Dockless Bike and Scooter Share Terms and Conditions. The dockless programs need to be administered with the interests of all DC residents in mind, not only the interests of users of such means of transportation. Since the dockless vehicle program began, multiple neighbors in various Wards have observed that DDOT has not been effective in implementing awareness, education, safety and enforcement. Moreover, all available data on the program is extremely high-level, thus little analysis can be done by neighborhoods using DDOT-developed data. More data should be made available to ANC's and OP should revise §409.10 to specifically call out the need to address the safety, monitoring and enforcement of this alternative modes.

- Sidewalk Widening for Social Distancing
 - See May 8, 2020 letter to Linda Bailey, Director, Vision Zero Office
- Sidewalk Widening During the Social Distancing Period
 - See June 19, 2020 ANC 2E letter to Director Marootian