

Resolution Supporting 17th & 19th Street Safety Improvement Project Recommendations

WHEREAS, thousands of commuters use 17th and 19th Streets SE daily to travel from I-295 to the Southeast/Southwest Freeway;

WHEREAS, vehicles frequently speed on these two residential streets corridors, creating an extremely dangerous situation for pedestrians crossing these streets to access St. Coletta of Greater Washington, the Stadium Armory Metro plaza, Spielberg Park, Payne Elementary School and Historic Congressional Cemetery;

WHEREAS numerous accidents involving speeding vehicles along these two corridors have caused significant property damage, particularly to parked vehicles;

WHEREAS, for the last decade, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B has been urging the District Department of Transportation to implement traffic calming measures along 17th and 19th Streets SE;

WHEREAS, in June 2012, DDOT announced the 17th & 19th Street Safety Improvement Project, and proceeded to hold four public meetings, including two charrettes in July, to get feedback from residents on how to improve safety along the corridors;

WHEREAS, DDOT did not include the 700 & 800 blocks of 17th Street SE in the scope of the project, and ANC 6B sent a July 10 letter to DDOT urging the agency to include these blocks in the project;

WHEREAS, the project's final recommendations for 17th Street SE, from East Capitol Street SE to Potomac Avenue SE, include narrowing the street from two lanes to one lane, adding a dedicated bike lane, installing curb extensions on the west side of the street at each intersection, repaving the street and painting new crosswalks, and installing new permanent electronic speed display signs and new speed limit signs along the corridor;

WHEREAS, under the project's recommendations, 17th Street SE would maintain two lanes of traffic between E Street SE and Potomac Avenue SE, creating a potentially dangerous situation for pedestrians crossing the intersection of 17th & E, particularly if the turn lane is used as a passing lane;

WHEREAS, the project's final recommendations for 19th Street SE, from East Capitol Street SE to Potomac Avenue SE, include installation of a shared bike lane, re-painted and improved pedestrian crosswalks near the Stadium-Armory metro plaza, new speed limit signs along the corridor and a commitment to consider potential impact of Hill East Waterfront development when implementing recommendations;

WHEREAS, DDOT plans to begin implementation of the project recommendations in spring of 2014;

WHEREAS, DDOT has secured a portion of the funding necessary to implement the project's recommendations but will need to secure additional funding in the DC FY2014 budget;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 6B strongly supports DDOT's 17th & 19th Street Safety Improvement Project recommendations and urges Mayor Gray and the Council of the District of Columbia to fully fund the recommendations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission requests that DDOT include the 700 & 800 blocks of 17th Street SE when implementing the project's 17th Street SE safety recommendations, particularly the installation of curb extensions and enhanced pedestrian crossings at the intersections of 17th and G Street SE and 17th and H Street SE;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission requests that DDOT install a raised crosswalk at the intersection of 17th Street SE and E Street SE to discourage drivers from using the turn lane as a passing lane;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission applauds DDOT and its consultant, McKissack & McKissack, for listening to and involving residents in the project and for keeping to the original project timeline.

Adopted by a vote of _____ at a duly-noticed public meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B on November 13, 2012, with a quorum present of ____ commissioners.

[Name], Chair

Name, Secretary