

DC Department of Transportation:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B wishes to thank DDOT and the leadership of the Pennsylvania-Potomac Avenue Pedestrian Safety Study for the community meeting held on January 31, 2013. The two conceptual options presented at the meeting for addressing pedestrian safety, as well as the clearly stated purpose and needs for the project, gave the community helpful information upon which to base constructive comments and questions during the hour devoted to Q&A. This open format allowed all present to hear the concerns and suggestions of others.

This letter is to share the Commission's support with the guiding principle of this project. Pedestrian safety is of the utmost concern to the neighbors and community that traverse Pennsylvania Avenue. As the process moves forward, the Commission plans to stay involved at all stages of the study by participating in the public meetings and providing oral and written comments. We will also continue to inform our constituents on the progress of the study and urge them to be fully involved.

At this early Scoping stage, the Commission requests that the following principles be among those selected to evaluate in the various alternatives:

1. Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian safety is our number one concern in the vicinity of these intersections. The combination of residences, a school, retail, Metro, and a high volume bus hub, make this area a critical pedestrian corridor. During the public meeting, DDOT made clear that they understand the pedestrian needs at this intersection and we support the decision to making this a top priority.

2. Minimize the effect of proposed changes on existing nearby residences

Important points that have been brought to our attention include questions regarding the possibility that the study will accomplish traffic calming by bringing the flow of Pennsylvania Avenue traffic closer to the homes on 14th Street. This would be of major concern to those who live on the aforementioned block. Consideration should be given to the potential risk to residents whose homes face Pennsylvania Avenue, as well as those who face East on 14th Street, SE. All efforts should be made to maintain or increase the green space buffers that exist between vehicular traffic and residences.

3. Creating usable green space

We understand that the green space located in the median between Potomac Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue is Federally controlled, but we are hoping that the District and the National

Park Service can work together to bring a usable and sustainable green space to our neighborhood. This area is prime for handsome walkways, shade trees, and (benches?), as well as potential usable green space as a result of the reworking of the traffic pattern, and appropriately placed crosswalks and signage for pedestrians and motorists.

At the next public meeting, planned for Spring of 2013, the Commission expects more detailed analysis of various alternatives and how the study team plans to move forward from these results.

4. Alternatives for disruption during construction

The Commission looks forward to learning about specific plans for development, construction, and any other information that involves the disruption of normal flow of street and pedestrian traffic. We hope that DDOT makes it a priority to avoid significant disruption to pedestrian traffic during the construction of this project and that multiple alternative to said disruption are considered.

Sincerely,