



**ANC 6B**  
*Capitol Hill / Southeast*

January 14, 2018

921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE  
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6B@anc.dc.gov

Mr. Jeff Marootian, Director  
DC Department of Transportation 55 M Street SE  
Washington DC 20003

VIA email: jeff.marootian@dc.gov

RE: ANC 6B Comments on SE Boulevard & Barney Circle Study

Dear Director Marootian:

At a properly noticed meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B with a quorum present on January 9, 2018, the Commission voted 6-1-0 to send the Department of Transportation (DDOT) the following comments on the SE Boulevard and Barney Circle study, based on DDOT's presentation and materials provided at its December 11, 2017 public meeting.

In general, the Commission supports the SE Boulevard & Barney Circle project, as currently envisioned. Since 2013, ANC 6B has considered this important project as one that will benefit the city as a whole but needs to be carefully designed in a way that maximizes benefits and manages impacts on the local community.

At this point in the study process, the Commission needs more detailed information on the proposed bus facility, Barney Circle design, and the Boulevard and its grid connections. Some of this information will hopefully come from an expected traffic study.

- The final Environmental Assessment, to the extent possible, should place equal emphasis on motorized and non-motorized transportation modes.
- To improve community analysis, all maps and charts should include connections and travel times for all modes of travel.
- Pedestrian and bicyclist safety should be prioritized over vehicle travel times.
- The traffic study should also include a focus on reducing spillover traffic to residential streets in the triangle between 11th Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and the SE Boulevard
- With the upcoming 11th Street Bridge Park at the foot of 11th Street SE, DDOT should add a Circulator bus stop at the corner of O and 11th Streets SE. This would require the Union Station/Congress Heights bus to use the local, rather than the freeway, 11th Street Bridge.

SE Boulevard

The ultimate design of a 4-lane road should minimize the size of the Boulevard roadway and public right of way to maximize the excess right of way between SE Boulevard and L Street SE.

- The Commission has some difficulty with understanding the implications affecting movement flow considering the many variables of right and left turns for vehicles between the Boulevard and reconnected grid streets.
- All intersections along SE Boulevard should be fully signalized for pedestrian crossings. Hawk signals or any similar options should not be considered.
- The Commission does not see the need for and, thus, does not support a 12th Street connection between M Street SE and the SE Boulevard.

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SE Boulevard (cont.)

- Pedestrian/bicycle connections between the SE Boulevard and M Street should be at 13th, 14th, and 15th, not just a subset of the three.

Barney Circle

- The Commission generally supports the circle design for Barney Circle over the signalized intersection but feels refinements are needed. Pedestrian/bicycle crossings at street level, connections to the river, connections to the Sousa Bridge, and ensuring connections to the Anacostia River Trail should be a priority of any design.
- DDOT should continue to include the option of filling in the loop under Barney Circle as part of its study. The sunken roadway creates a physical and visual barrier for easy connections across any redesign of Barney Circle.

Bus Facility

Many details (design and operation) of a bus facility are yet to be provided by DDOT making analysis challenging at this time and causing community concerns, some of which may be difficult to overcome. The Commission expects to revisit this aspect of the study carefully in the next update of the study. In the meantime, the Commission states that:

- To reduce both noise and emissions and other neighborhood concerns, the bus facility should be limited to electric buses, regardless of the operator of the bus route.
- Without any specific details or plans regarding midday usage and to minimize impact on commuter traffic, the Commission requests that the bus facility be accessible only before morning rush and after afternoon rush.

The Commission appreciates that DDOT is taking more of an urban planning approach to the current design of the SE Boulevard and Barney Circle and looks forward to the next public meeting. The Commission thanks Jonathan Rogers, DDOT's project director, for his helpful participation in its January 3, 2018, Transportation Committee meeting.

Please provide the Commission with an acknowledgement of receipt of this letter. If any clarifications are needed, please contact Commissioner Kirsten Oldenburg at [Kirsten6b04@anc6b.org](mailto:Kirsten6b04@anc6b.org) or 202-546-8542.

Sincerely,



Daniel Ridge  
Chair, ANC 6B

cc:

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Councilmember Charles Allen  
Councilmember Mary Cheh  
Jonathon Rogers, DDOT