



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

July 25, 2016

Matthew Marcou
Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Administration
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street, SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
Matthew.Marcou@dc.gov

RE: Removal of the Protected Bike Lane on the 1500 Block of L Street NW as a Result of Construction at 1100 & 1150 15th Street NW

Dear Mr. Marcou:

At its regular meeting on July 13, 2016, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (9-0-0):

WHEREAS, Carr Properties and Clark Construction are developing 1100 & 1150 15th Street NW into a mixed use residential and commercial building,

WHEREAS, the construction will take approximately 24 months to complete and during the majority of this time the area will experience lane closures to enable staging for construction equipment and supplies,

WHEREAS, DDOT approved a traffic management plan for the 1500 block of L Street NW that allowed the closure of 2 of 4 lanes of traffic and the removal of the adjacent sidewalk and protected bike lane,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports DDOT, Carr Properties and Clark Construction’s efforts to complete construction as quickly as possible,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B and residents of ANC 2B are concerned about the removal of the protected bike lane and the safety of bicyclists and accommodation for pedestrians with major road closures due to long-term construction. In particular, we are concerned about the safety of cyclists merging from a protected bike lane into a shared lane with vehicular traffic at 16th Street NW,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B was a proponent for and helped craft language for the Bicycle Safety Amendments Act of 2013 and contributed to the formulation of regulations to implement that act,

WHEREAS, DCMR Section 3315 provides for safe accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists when construction closes sidewalks and bike lanes and anticipated this exact situation,

WHEREAS, regulations require that when construction closes a bike lane or sidewalk, an alternative route is provided to those road users, which “ensures an accommodation through or around a work zone that is equal to the accommodation that was provided... before the blockage.” (DCMR Section 3315.3),

WHEREAS, the purpose of that definition is to ensure that a cyclist protected by a separated bike lane prior to construction closures has access to an equally safe route during and after those closures,

WHEREAS, DDOT approved plans in the spring of 2016 to adequately accommodate 15th Street NW pedestrians and cyclists impacted by this project, but not L Street NW users. Construction staging on the 1500 block of L Street NW occupies half of the lanes of traffic and is scheduled to last another two years, and

WHEREAS, DDOT’s own regulations note that there are three options to prioritize before a shared vehicle / bike lane is implemented, including what has been successfully implemented on 15th Street NW.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that DDOT exercise authority under DCMR Section 3315.8(c) to revoke and amend the public right-of-way occupancy permit in order to protect the public safety and welfare so that these unsafe conditions do not result in harm or the loss of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B recommends that only one lane of the 1500 block of L Street NW be used for construction staging and that lane number two be changed to a protected sidewalk and bike lane for the duration of construction, as has been done on 15th Street NW.

Commissioners Noah Smith (noah.smith@dupontcircleanc.net), John Kupcinski (anc2b07@gmail.com), and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Mann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair