

JONMARC P. BUFFA

VIA Electronic Mail

Megan Kanagy
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
Megan.Kanagy@dc.gov

Dear Ms. Kanagy,

I am the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 1C-08 and a longstanding homeowner in Adams Morgan. My home is adjacent to the 16th St. corridor. Though I do not speak on behalf of ANC 1C, I thought it was appropriate to share with you the results of my many interactions with my constituents. I am very impressed with the thoroughness of the 16th Street NW Transit Priority Planning Study. I would like to use this opportunity thank you for undertaking this important initiative.

Based on my discussions with my constituents, some common themes have arisen that I would like to share with you. They are:

1. Bus Lanes: Adding bus lanes on 16th St. has proven quite controversial. Many fear the loss of vehicle travel lanes and street parking. Many were concerned that losing a travel lane on 16th St. will force vehicles onto side streets not designed to handle increase traffic load. Further, 16th St does not have a uniform width. The removal of travel lanes will have a pronounced negative impact on travel between Florida Ave. and O St. because there will only be one lane northbound and southbound during the peak hours for cars to use. This will lead to significant congestion. Already entering onto 16th St. from side streets is difficult during peak hours. Reducing travel lanes will make ingress and egress difficult. Many of my constituents are forced to travel by car because their jobs are located in areas that are not metro-accessible and so their ability to use 16th St. will be adversely affected. The consensus of my constituents is to ask DDOT to reject the installation of dedicated bus lanes. This was the most common concern that my constituents raised with me.
2. Peak Hour Parking Restrictions: Many constituents have voiced resounding support for expanding peak hour parking restrictions during both the morning and evening rush hours. Prohibiting vehicles from parking during peak hours will increase the available travel lanes and so significantly improve travel times for both buses and cars. This was one of the most popular proposals.
3. V St. Bus Stops: My constituents have expressed almost universal opposition to the removal of the V St. bus stops both northbound and southbound. The V St. bus stops provide important convenience and access to bus service. For those with limited mobility, walking uphill to Crescent Street or to U St. is a significant burden. As residents who reside closer to downtown, the removal of neighborhood stops would represent a significant loss of service. My hope is to encourage the use of public

transportation, not discourage its use by removing longstanding access to bus service. Access to convenient and accessible bus stops is a key factor in residents choosing public transportation over using a car. I urge you to retain this important bus stop. This was one of the most common concerns that my constituents raised with me.

4. Signal Priority: Employing technological improvements to optimize traffic signals and allowing buses transit signal priority will be a major improvement and will dramatically improve on-time performance of buses on 16th St. This was one of the most popular proposals.
5. S1 Service: Many of my constituents rely on the S1 to traverse the city in a western direction. The S1 is the only western route servicing 16th St and currently has insufficient number of buses as compared to the S2 and S4. Many (including me and my constituents) have called on DDOT to increase S1 service, not degrade it by making it a limited stop service akin to the S9. Many have expressed sincere concerns to me about losing access to this route if so many stops are removed as proposed. Disabled riders in particular suffer when bus stops are spread too far apart. Numerous constituents urged me to request that your team does not limit the stops made by the S1.
6. Bus Lane: Alternative 2 vs Alternative 3: Many have raised concerns about a bus lane being in place from 7 am to 10 pm in Alternative 2. This will impose significant travel restrictions for cars during non-peak travel hours and will likely impair parking options for residents and businesses on 16th St. I urge you, if bus lanes are added, to employ only peak hour bus lanes as described in Alternative 3 as that is when bus use is greatest.
7. Automated Parking Enforcement and Dedicated Towing: Employing automated parking enforcement on buses combined with dedicated towing is very popular. Illegally parked cars substantially delay bus and vehicle travel. The combination of ticketing and then promptly removing illegally parked vehicles from travel lanes is crucial to improving travel times on 16th St.
8. Truncated Service Pattern: I have heard concerns from some about the proposal to truncate service patterns for S1, S2, and S4. Truncating these bus routes will require additional transfers and worsen travel times. This proposed reduction in bus service was very unpopular.
9. W St. Dedicated Turn Lane: This intersection is a perennially problem area because 16th St reduces from 3 southbound lanes to 2 southbound lanes here. Traffic tends to back up as vehicles attempt to merge. Improving signage and installing a turn lane separator will greatly improve traffic flow. This was a popular proposal.
10. Off-Board Payment and All-Door Boarding: Off-board payment and all-door boarding are clever enhancements to expedite boarding. Hopefully, this will not be too logistically challenging to implement.

11. Bus stop amenities and access improvements: Bus stop amenities play a major role in rider satisfaction. Any steps that can be undertaken to better serve disabled riders by adding accessibility enhancements would be welcome.

Thank you for considering the concerns of my constituents. I will continue to urge my constituents to avail themselves of your meetings and online resources. I am confident that your team will work cooperatively with District residents to reach a consensus plan for 16th St.

Sincerely,



JonMarc P. Buffa, Esq.
ANC 1C-08 Commissioner
Email: jonmarcbuffanc@gmail.com