

ANC 1C resolution soliciting public input to improve the 18th Street corridor

Proposal:

Effective community outreach and considerable community feedback is the first step to improving the 18th street corridor in Adams Morgan. The Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 1C) wishes to continue to convene meetings that engage the community on steps to address this challenge.

ANC 1C should continue to schedule, publicize and convene regular public meetings in order to solicit feedback on solutions that improve the 18th street corridor. The proposed meetings are outlined as:

- 3/7– ANC Meeting. Promulgation of draft online survey.
- March– Kalorama Citizens Association meeting
- March– Adams Morgan Partnership Business Improvement District (AMPBID) meeting
- 4/4– ANC Meeting. Approval and opening of online survey
- 4/21– Weekend special forum
- April– Community/Citizens group meeting
- 5/2– ANC Meeting.
- 5/8– Weekday special forum
- 5/16– ANC Committee meeting.
- 6/3– Closing of online survey.
- 6/6– ANC Meeting.

Possible Options

ANC 1C welcomes community discussion and study of measures to improve the 18th Street corridor. While there is no silver bullet for tackling the complex array of challenges in the 18th Street corridor, these options offer the wider community an opportunity to weigh-in and address challenges step-by-step. ANC 1C also notes that this serves as an opportunity to make the 18th Street corridor safer, more accessible, and more economically vibrant.

The Community has proposed a number of options to improve the 18th street corridor. The list of Community proposed options are outlined below and is not exhaustive.

- Pedestrian zone
 - Designate a section of 18th street bound by Columbia Road to the north and either of Kalorama Road, Belmont Road or Colonial Parking Lot 462 to the south for pedestrians and cyclists only; limited to busy days and times of the week (i.e. Friday, Saturday evenings between 8pm and 4am). Concurrent geofencing of ridesharing vehicles to facilitate passenger pick-ups that do not congest neighboring streets.
- Create pick-up and drop-off zones all along 18th Street
 - Designate as many as five parking zones along 18th street between Columbia Rd. and Florida Ave. for the exclusive use of passenger vehicles for quick drop-off/pick- up on

Friday and Saturday nights from 8pm to 4 am. On the block between Columbia Rd. and Kalorama Rd., two zones would be located on the eastern side of the street and one on the western side. On the block between Kalorama Rd. and Florida Ave., there would be one zone on each side of the street.

- Reserve an area of 18th street parking for pick-up and drop-off
 - Designate a section of 18th street bound by Columbia Road to the north and either of Kalorama Road, Belmont Road or Colonial Parking Lot 462 for the exclusive use of passenger vehicles for quick drop-off/pick-up on busy nights from 8pm to 4 am.
- Geofencing of rideshare vehicles
 - Restrict rideshare vehicle pick-ups to higher capacity streets, like Columbia Road, to allow for less traffic on 18th street and side streets. For reference, similar geofencing restrictions are put in place around the Capital One arena, and Nationals stadium.
- Sidewalk widening
 - During busy nights and along crowded stretches of 18th street, increase the width of sidewalks into the parking lane.
- Reroute transit buses
 - Reroute 18th street transit bus lines 90, 96 and X3 to utilize Columbia Road, T Street and Florida Avenue.
- Traffic calming, safety and streetscape improvements
 - Implement a combination of rumble strips, bike lanes, lower speed limits and lighting improvements.
- Alcohol checkpoints

During busy nights, Implement sobriety checkpoints around Adams Morgan to identify potential drunk drivers who are entering/leaving the area.

Background

18th street in Adams Morgan is very crowded with pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists— all in potential conflict. The Metro's declining infrastructure has led more people to look for alternate means of transportation in the DC area. Meanwhile, services like Uber, Lyft, and bike-sharing have increased the number of transportation options in the DC area, and Adams Morgan residents and visitors use these services to get to/from the neighborhood.

Improving public safety and easing congestion are important to the neighborhood. In an attempt to mitigate safety issues, DDOT and MPD frequently close the southbound travel lane and restrict vehicular access/flow on and around 18th street during busy nights.

In ANC 1C meetings after the hit-and-run incident in early June 2017, MPD representatives informed the ANC and the community that the greatest impediment to vehicular flow on 18th street during weekend evenings is ride-hailing cars that block traffic on 18th Street while they wait for pick-ups and/or drop-offs.

Goals

This proposal hopes to address numerous community concerns about 18th Street. ANC 1C supports the following goals:

- Increased public safety: Make safety for drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, buses, and city officials the top priority for the community.
- Improved access as well as vehicular and pedestrian flow: Ensure that residents, visitors and city employees – including emergency response vehicles – can access Adams Morgan more easily and with less disruption.
- Improved access for residents and visitors: We support Adams Morgan residents and visitors who wish to have easier and more efficient access to Adams Morgan businesses.
- City agencies can focus on other efforts: As vehicular and pedestrian flows improve, MPD and DDOT officials posted to 18th street can focus their attention on other important issues, including maintaining a safe environment and addressing crime in the area.
- Improved livability: We want to encourage resident and visitor patronage of the neighborhood shops and restaurants along the 18th Street corridor. We also want to encourage new and different businesses to settle in the currently empty buildings on 18th Street so that our residents and visitors can enjoy a more diverse set of businesses and activities.
- Improvements for the business community: A safer neighborhood with easier access to business in Adams Morgan will help our small businesses and our entire community.

Conclusion

ANC 1C welcomes community discussion and study of measures to improve the 18th Street corridor. Robust, inclusive discussions that engage the entire community are necessary to find a solution that creates a safe and enjoyable environment for all of Adams Morgan. This proposal is the first step in continuing to improve the 18th street corridor in Adams Morgan.