

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONINGGOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION★ ★ ★
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

Memorandum

TO: Jamison L. Weinbaum, Director
DC Office of Zoning

FROM: Karina Ricks 
District Department of Transportation

DATE: January 6, 2010

SUBJECT: ZC case 09-17 (Application of DC Public Library)
3660 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

APPLICATION

The District of Columbia Public Library (the "Applicant") seeks an amendment to the Zoning Map of the District of Columbia that would designate the subject property, which is presently unzoned, within the R-5-A Zone District. A petition to amend the text of the Zoning was also received and notice of that hearing is given elsewhere in this volume of the *D.C. Register*. Further, pursuant to the proposed text amendments, the Applicant requests that the Zoning Commission grant a special exception to permit a public library on the subject property with a lot occupancy in excess of that permitted as a matter of right, and with fewer off-street parking spaces than are required for the use in the R-5-A Zone District.

RECOMMENDATION IN BRIEF

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) does not disagree with the Applicant's request for an amendment to the Zoning Map. The public library will extend the reach of public education to the Hillcrest and Anacostia neighborhoods while serving as a community necessity and amenity.

2000 14TH Street, N.W., 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20009
202 671-2730, Fax: 202 671-0617

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

09-17

EXHIBIT NO.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 09-17
EXHIBIT NO. 39

ZC case 09-17 – Application of DC Public Library

DDOT ANALYSIS

The Applicant has not filed a transportation report with DDOT.

DDOT met with the Applicant on December 17 to discuss outstanding transportation concerns raised at the December 3 Zoning Commission hearing. The Applicant has opted not to include private parking for the proposed Francis Gregory Branch Library. This is a laudable action taken by DCPL and will promote the use of more sustainable modes of transportation to the new facility. Since Francis Gregory Branch Library will not have a parking lot, there should be additional safety elements planned for pedestrians and bicyclists arriving to the location via those modes of transportation. The library is increasing in size from 15,407 square feet to 22,503 square feet. There will be an increase in programs and visitors to the library upon its completion.

DCPL has noted that it will plan for DC Metropolitan Police Department to monitor the vehicular traffic on Alabama Avenue. MPD should provide stepped up traffic safety enforcement for pedestrians on Alabama Avenue. The pedestrians currently crossing ~~Alabama Avenue, at 37th Street, to access the Fairfax Village Apartment community,~~ have a difficult experience at this unsignalized intersection. DDOT has received complaints from the community that the 37th / Alabama Avenue 'T' intersection provides little safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Alabama Avenue is a minor arterial and posted at 25MPH. However, the vehicular traffic travels at 37MPH according to the 2006 DDOT Speed Study.

DDOT's six (6) year spending plan is fully committed and leaves no available budget room at this time. There is a need for additional safety along this portion of Alabama Avenue. DCPL has shown a keen interest to have the roadway safety features in place by the time the new library opens its doors. Concurrent safety improvements are essential for the library project to be completely successful.

During the December 3 meeting, DCPL received a number of different options to ensure more pedestrian and bicycle safety beyond the plan for MPD to monitor the Alabama Avenue traffic. Those alternatives include curb extensions that will act as a traffic calming measure intended to slow the speed of traffic, and shorten the pedestrian crossing distance on Alabama Avenue. The curb extensions will reduce Alabama Avenue to 2 lanes in this section which will calm traffic and increase the safety of crossing pedestrians. Another appropriate safety measure for this intersection, is a Rapid Flash Light Emitting Diode (LED) Crosswalk Beacon.

ZC case 09-17 - Application of DC Public Library**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

DDOT strongly believes the library proposal is a great addition to the neighborhood. The site will generate a number of new pedestrian and bicycle trips. DCPL needs to re-think roadway safety strategies, and implementation of those strategies, for library visitors to access the future Francis Gregory Branch Library.

KR:jj