



July 9, 2024

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Ms. Sharon Kershbaum
Director
Department of Transportation
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VIA EMAIL: sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov

Re: ANC 6B Feedback on NOI 24-146-TESD (New Jersey Ave & E Street SE)

Dear Director Kershbaum:

At a properly noticed general meeting on July 9, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 8-0-0, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the Department of Transportation (DDOT).

We write about an Annual Safety Improvement project within ANC 6B: New Jersey Ave & E Street SE (NOI-24-146-TESD).

First, ANC 6B would like to thank Director Sharon Kershbaum and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen for prioritizing this intersection following recent neighbor testimony where a mother was struck by a vehicle at this intersection. Her daughter witnessed the incident, and her daughter has personally advocated for improvements to this intersection, following a long history of advocacy by neighbors for much needed improvements to a complex, multimodal, and highly-utilized residential intersection. This incident follows at least 3 other incidents reported to the SMD 6B01 Commissioner and Councilmember since 2023, including a winter 2023 incident where a Metropolitan Police Department officer struck a child with their vehicle. We appreciate the new Director's decisive prioritization and the initial response from DDOT by issuing NOI 24-146-TESD.

During the June 26, 2024 meeting of our Transportation Committee meeting, DDOT presented updated plans for this intersections, following initial feedback from neighbors and the SMD 6B01 Commissioner, and DDOT responded to questions from neighbors. ANC 6B urges DDOT to incorporate the suggestions into its project plans as discussed, **in addition to** the enhanced improvements presented at the June 26, 2024, ANC 6B Transportation Committee meeting.

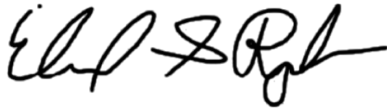
Hardening at All Corners: The current NOI is limited to only the "left turn pocket at 1st and E St SE" and the "southeast corner of New Jersey and E Street SE." As neighbors noted, this is insufficient. ANC 6B urges DDOT to expand its initial Annual Safety Improvement interventions to cover all corners of the intersection.

Use of Flexposts, Curb Extensions, and Bulbouts: The initial NOI solely included restriping. As part of the updated plans, DDOT confirmed limited use of flexposts to assist with additional safety improvements. However, this is insufficient as they still appear solely focused on the initial turn pocket noted in the NOI. ANC 6B urges DDOT to utilize flexposts, curb extensions, and bulbouts **for all corners** of the intersection to assist with slowing the turning speed of drivers and increasing safe harbors for pedestrians, cyclists, and scooter commuters who regularly commute through the intersection. There is extensive precedent for this in ANC 6B at similar complicated intersections such as the intersection of Independence Avenue, North Carolina Avenue, 7th St, and 8th Street SE (north end of Eastern Market).

Enhance Protections for Pedestrians, Cyclists, and Scooter Riders: The intersection covered by the NOI is a highly trafficked commuter corridor for Capitol Hill employees who live locally, employees who commute in, tourists, Capitol Hill residents, and parents dropping off children at one of the three schools in the area (Brent Elementary, St. Peter School, and Capitol Hill Day School). The neighborhood also has a number of blind or visually-impaired residents making safety for those traveling by foot, wheelchair, cycle, or scooter in equal need of protections, clear road markings, and safe harbors that dissuade and prevent collisions with vehicles. ANC 6B strongly urges enhancements go beyond striping and marking and include flexposts to both extend the curbs **and** continue extending the flexpost structure on NJ Avenue SE for protected bike lanes. There is precedent for this on the New Jersey Ave SE corridor, such as the intersection of New Jersey Ave and I (Eye) Street SE.

Thank you in advance for considering and granting great weight to our recommendations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B

CC:

Abraham Diallo, Ward 6 Liaison, DDOT

Noah Bell, Transportation Engineer, DDOT

Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember

Frank Avery, Commissioner, ANC 6B01