



November 12, 2024

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Ms. Sharon Kershbaum  
Director  
Department of Transportation  
250 M Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

VIA EMAIL: [sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov](mailto:sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov);

Re: Stop Sign Needed at 5th and Independence Ave. (TSI #24-00281510)

Dear Director Kershbaum:

*At a properly noticed general meeting on November 12, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 7-0-0, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT).*

In August, ANC 6B once again heard from neighbors requesting a stop sign on Independence Ave. SE eastbound at 5<sup>th</sup> St. SE. Despite four active TSI requests at the location, this was not one of the department’s Q1 FY25 priorities.

ANC 6B wrote to you last December regarding this issue. The text from the letter below is sadly just as relevant today as DDOT has allowed a year to pass without installing a stop sign:

*ANC 6B urges DDOT to install stop signs at the intersection of 5th St. and Independence Avenue SE along with a raised crosswalk across Independence along the west side of the intersection, running north-south. This intersection is between two stoplights, at 4th and 6th St., which results in frequent speeding and dangerous conditions for drivers and pedestrians.*

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Allen emailed you following extensive neighbor engagement and spoke for all of us when writing:

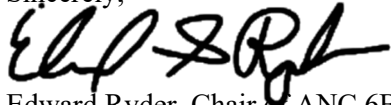
*I’ll ask again, that the community is not requesting for out of the box ideas. We are simply asking for a stop sign. The engineers that keep looking at this intersection and giving you these answers appear to be focused on prioritizing the drivers through this lone, single intersection rather than prioritizing safety of the neighbors around it by bringing 5<sup>th</sup> Street into alignment with every other intersection of Independence Avenue SE that currently is controlled by either a stop sign or a traffic light.*

Less than a month after that email, another accident occurred at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Independence on April 30<sup>th</sup>, resulting in damage to the stop sign on the 200 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. After a response to a 311 request stated that it would take six months to replace the sign, Councilmember Allen once again reached out to you to resolve the issue. While that responsiveness was appreciated, it should have made the need for a permanent sign on Independence Ave. even more clear.

We urge DDOT to finally listen to neighbors and install a stop sign on Independence Ave. SE eastbound at 5<sup>th</sup> St. 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:

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, DC Council – [callen@dccouncil.gov](mailto:callen@dccouncil.gov)