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April 11, 2025

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

VIA EMAIL: sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov

Re: Traffic Safety on Watkins and Jordan Alley complex

Dear Director Kershbaum:

In October 2023, ANC 6B wrote DDOT about traffic safety in the Watkins and Jordan Alley complex (the alleys that connect the 1300 blocks of E St SE and G St SE). We are writing again because little has changed: Watkins Alley continues to be unsafe for pedestrians. A few years ago, a large apartment building and a collection of condos added over 400 residents to this once-industrial alleyway.

The road, however, still looks industrial – a wide concrete path with no sidewalks, no curbs, and almost no painting or signage. Since this alley is also a shortcut to Pennsylvania Ave, drivers often speed through it, exceeding the 15 MPH limit for alley driving. DDOT facilities in this location bring daily traffic, frequently resulting in illegal parking by DDOT employees.

Please act on any TSIs on this alleyway (such as TSI 24-00031417, which was created in response to our October 2023 letter). You will find that this alleyway warrants stop signs and sidewalks. Each juncture in that alley would be safer with convex mirrors to see perpendicular traffic and pedestrians. Speed bumps or other speed-limiting designs are also warranted.

If it would help DDOT's research, we can also put you in touch with neighbors who can attest to the many unsafe incidents they have witnessed while living on Watkins Alley. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Ryder".

Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B

CC: Abraham Diallo, DDOT - abraham.diallo@dc.gov