



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
Report

- 1) **Presentation: Pepco Update on the [G St Conversion Project](#) and its expected impacts on 6B08 and 6B09 in the coming months.**
  - a) Pepco's project is designed to upgrade the overall delivery capacity of the electrical network from 4kV to 13 kV, and has involved laying new conduit down every street on the impacted map.
  - b) Now that the conduits have been installed, the lines will be strung through them. This is a much less impactful process. If you see Pepco trucks parked with big spools of thick wire, this is what they are doing.
- 2) **Presentation: DDOT on the signal design for Potomac x Pennsylvania Ave intersection rebuild.**
  - a) Discussion of the signals design for the Pennsylvania x Potomac intersection. Program presentation [here](#).
  - b) DDOT walked the committee through exactly where signals will be placed, and how they will be timed in the new intersection.
- 3) **Discussion: Watkins Alley - Support Efforts by Residents of Watkins Alley for Bollards or Other Safety Measures to Protect Pedestrians in the Alley - [Draft letter here](#).**
  - a) The Watkins and Jordan Alley complex is experiencing significant illegal parking, speeding, and poor visibility at intersections. Some of the illegal parking is DDOT employees as there is a DDOT facility in that block.
  - b) Committee approved a letter to DDOT urging safety measures in Watkins Alley, to be placed on consent.
- 4) **Update/Discussion: Letter to DDOT, in collaboration with 6A, regarding Lincoln Park. For discussion, are there any specific elements the Committee would like**

the letter to emphasize, and other opportunities for collaboration? [Draft letter here.](#)

- a) Chair Hughes updated the committee on the status of the letter drafting and offered an opportunity to weigh in. The committee agreed that a comprehensive approach to traffic safety around Lincoln Park meets the needs of the committee.
  - b) The letter has already been approved by the ANC, and is only awaiting coordination with 6A.
- 5) **[Late Breaking] Discussion: Another accident on 17<sup>th</sup> St between Potomac Ave and Barney Circle – [draft letter here.](#)**
- a) Chair Hughes presented on the challenges along this stretch of 17th st, which DDOT has narrowed to discourage commuter traffic.
  - b) Drivers repeatedly run into the islands in the middle of 17th, often becoming disabled, or swerving into parked cars or the protected bike lane.
  - c) The Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to DDOT and to place this on the consent agenda.

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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: Traffic safety on Watkins and Jordan Alleys and

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,  
[Edward Ryder, Chair, ANC 6B]

CC: Abraham Diallo, DDOT

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

VIA EMAIL: sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov;

Re: Urgent prioritization of safety measures on the 500-800 blocks of 17th St SE

Dear Director Kershbaum:

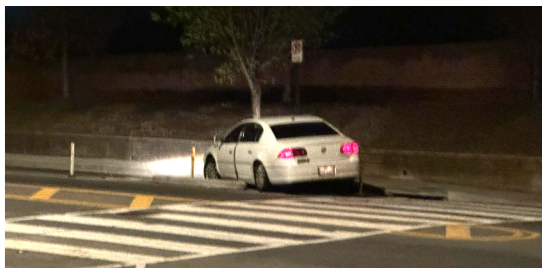
*At a properly noticed general meeting on April 8, 2025, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted X-X-X, based on the recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the Department of Transportation (DDOT).*

We request that DDOT urgently examine the safety situation on the section of 17th St. SE between Barney Circle and Potomac Ave. This stretch of road has been converted over the past several years into a two-lane section with parked cars on the west side and a two-way protected bike lane on the east, bordering Congressional Cemetery.

We appreciate the efforts by DDOT to enact a road diet, as this thoroughfare is frequently used and abused by commuters speeding through the neighborhood between highways. This letter is not meant to take away from that achievement. There are, however, a few urgent updates needed to abate some of the dangerous and unfortunate effects of the narrower roadway.

In short, drivers are continuously hitting the new traffic islands, which are very difficult to see during the day and are practically invisible at night. We urge DDOT to paint, illuminate, or otherwise improve the visibility of these islands.

Below are two photos from Friday, March 28, and January 31, 2025. They depict vehicles having struck the median and either getting stuck, resulting in an abandoned vehicle, or careening into the bike lane.



Notably, on the island where the green car is stuck, there used to be a sign installed by DDOT. Our neighbors report that in November 2024, they filed service request number 24-00700961 to repair the sign after a driver plowed into it. The ticket was reported closed, but the sign was not replaced.

These are not isolated incidents. One neighbor living on 17th St has reported seeing approximately one collision a week from her home, and has submitted extensive documentation to DDOT through a TSI.

Many/most of these incidents do not result in a police response, but they do contribute to significant feelings of danger for residents on this street. Families attempting to get their children into cars along 17th St have reported feeling like their lives were at risk just trying to get into and out of parked vehicles. Hit-and-run accidents where cars avoiding the islands make physical contact with parked cars are a regular occurrence.

We welcome dialogue with DDOT on this issue and hope that the seven open TSIs on this section of 17th St can be addressed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,  
[Edward Ryder, Chair, ANC 6B]

CC: Councilmember Charles Allen, Abraham Diallo, DDOT