

ANC 6B
Capitol Hill / Southeast

June 24, 2019

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Mayor Muriel Bowser
Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20004

Via Email: Mayor.Bowser@dc.gov

RE: Funding & Implementation Delays for the Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues SE
Intersection Safety Improvements

Dear Mayor Bowser;

At a properly noticed meeting with a quorum present of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B on June 11, 2019, the Commissioners voted 10-0-0 to send this letter expressing alarm that the funding and implementation of the planned Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues SE safety improvements have been delayed again.

The project, originally proposed in 2005, completed its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact in Fall 2017. Existing conditions are antithetical to the goals of Vision Zero and do not safely or efficiently move people, vehicles, and buses through and around this intersection.

The selected design alternative of the Ellipse Park was well received in 2017 by the community, Capitol Hill Restoration Society, and ANC 6B because it addresses significant ongoing pedestrian safety issues, addresses Capitol Bikeshare access routes, ensures signalized intersections, and encourages lower traffic speeds. The Ellipse Park design also maintains significant contiguous green space the ANC considers an important element.

The current conditions of this intersection actively endanger not only vulnerable road users but also our neighbors and friends driving cars. This intersection is the most dangerous intersection in ANC 6B. In the last ten years, there have been nearly 300 crashes at this intersection. Fifty-three drivers were injured. Six pedestrians were struck. Moreover, accidents are likely to increase substantially over the next few years as up to 1,000 new dwelling units become available in the vicinity. Many of their inhabitants are expected to use the Potomac Avenue Metro Station at the intersection.

Given the almost universal support for the selected design alternative, the community is disappointed to learn that the funding for the Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues SE safety improvements was not prioritized in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. We urge you, Mayor Bowser, to identify and allocate operating funds where possible to expedite the project this fiscal year and allocate construction funding in Fiscal Year 2021 in the FY21-26 Capital Improvement Plan.

Thanks for your attention to this critical matter. Please contact Commissioner Kirsten Oldenburg, ANC 6B Transportation Committee Chair at 202-546-8542 or 6B04@anc.dc.gov or Commissioner Kelly Waud, 6B07@anc.dc.gov, if you have any questions about this request or need further information

Sincerely,



Chander Jayaraman
Chair, ANC 6B

Cc:

DDOT Director Jeffrey Marootian
Councilmember Charles Allen