



May 14, 2024

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Ms. Sharon Kershbaum
Interim Director
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VIA EMAIL: sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov;

Re: Community Feedback on Vision Zero Projects in ANC 6B

Dear Director Kershbaum:

At a properly noticed general meeting on May 14, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 9-0-0, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the Department of Transportation (DDOT).

We write about two Vision Zero Hardening projects within ANC 6B: 13th St/Independence Ave/Kentucky Ave SE (NOI-24-96-TESD) and 15th Street & Kentucky Avenue SE (NOI-24-105-TESD).

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During the May 8, 2024 meeting of our Transportation Committee meeting, DDOT presented updated plans for these two intersections and responded to questions from neighbors. Additional requests were shared at a separate community meeting in April and via email. ANC 6B urges DDOT to incorporate these suggestions into its project plans where possible including:

13th St/Independence Ave/Kentucky Ave SE (NOI-24-96-TESD)

Street pavement, full renewal: The street has not been repaved in 25 years, only partially resurfaced or patched. The result is a deteriorated surface with poor drainage, especially where old concrete block meets asphalt. Later additions such as bike lanes quickly deteriorate because of the poor substrate, and failure to renew the street will likewise shorten the life of hardening measures.

Curb and gutter, full renewal: Broken or missing granite curbs and improper repair after utility work create tripping hazards. Poor drainage leads to vegetation overgrowth and partial flooding of the street in heavy rain.

Sidewalk, extensive repair: The sidewalk was last restored about 20 years ago. This neglect, combined with makeshift repairs around utility openings using concrete and asphalt instead of brick, has created tripping and drainage hazards.

Emergency vehicle access: Please make sure to get feedback from Fire and EMS on the hardening to make sure that it does not foreclose the large fire trucks from being able to go north on 13th St SE on the block north of this intersection. The large fire trucks, (the ones which steer both front and rear) are not able to go straight onto 13th from Kentucky Ave but they are (with care) able to transit through the non-hardened intersection from Independence Ave. (They need to be very precise to make the turn but they are able to do it.) Please make sure that the hardened intersection retains the ability for the large firetrucks to make the left turn onto 13th from Independence.

Speeding vehicles on 13th St. SE: The pylons and crosswalk at 13th and Independence does a fantastic job of slowing cars down as they enter the 100 block of 13th St., SE. However, as soon as they clear the pylons, many cars ‘sprint’ to make the light at 13th and Mass (sometimes just sprint out of frustration?). What can be done to mitigate this, which puts cyclists in the unprotected bike lane + anyone trying to enter/exit their car parked on that street at risk. Please consider reducing lane width from 11 feet to 10 feet in order to further slow drivers. If travel lane narrowing is not possible, please consider additional vertical traffic calming (speed humps, raised crosswalks) for the 100 block of 13th St SE.

Guidance on additional beautification: Please share any rules and/or guidance for neighborhood-led beautification of the new permanent raised areas (e.g., flower pots on island).

Short-term parking: One neighbor requested that plans incorporate the ability to park for a very limited period of time very near homes in order load/unload packages/groceries, have Uber etc wait, without blocking traffic, as is currently possible. Residents of 4 of the 5 homes just north of Independence (156,154, 150 and 148) are occupied by elderly individuals who have serious mobility issues. Therefore, being able to continue to do this is critically important.

Storm drains: Storm water drains south on both Kentucky and 13th SE toward Independence so new drains are essential. Major puddles are there when they are now blocked by debris. These should be designed without creating a new trip hazard for pedestrians.

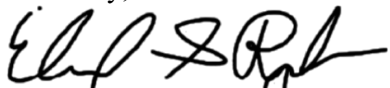
15th Street & Kentucky Avenue SE Vision Zero Hardening (NOI-24-105-TESD)

Additional crosswalks on Kentucky Avenue: Multiple neighbors requested additional crosswalks on Kentucky Avenue northwest of the intersection with 15th St. SE. A picture below indicates where they could be located to include a curb cut that currently does not lead anywhere. Pedestrians currently use these routes without crosswalks indicating the need for an additional safe way to cross.

Cars driving through bike lane: Additionally, neighbors shared that cars currently turn north from Kentucky onto 15th St. curing the protected bike lane. The design of the project should include measures to prevent this.

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