



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

January 23, 2019

Mr. Soumya Dey
Associate Director, Traffic Operations and Safety Division
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
soumya.dey@dc.gov

RE: Traffic Safety Assessment for Dupont Circle

Dear Mr. Dey:

At its regular meeting on August 14, 2019, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-1-0):

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle Park is the central gathering place and focal point of the namesake neighborhood,

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle Park sees substantial daily access by pedestrians – residents, workers, and tourists alike – as a destination or as part of their travels about town,

WHEREAS, the use cases and requirements for the roads blending with the Dupont traffic circle have changed substantially since the existing configuration was established in the 1940s, making the traffic circle’s design obsolete and a life-threatening hazard to all who use it,

WHEREAS, pedestrian and cyclist access to Dupont Circle Park is hindered and rendered unsafe due to the narrow median separating the inner Massachusetts Avenue NW lanes from the commingled outer lanes of the Dupont traffic circle,

WHEREAS, the triangular pedestrian islands in the intersections of New Hampshire Avenue NW (north and south), 19th Street NW (north and south), and Massachusetts Avenue NW (east) are too small to safely accommodate pedestrians and persons in wheelchairs, and have unsynchronized signals,

WHEREAS, vehicular and pedestrian control signage and signals are inconsistent and confusing,

WHEREAS, motorists routinely disregard lane markings and signals and make other unsafe maneuvers, causing frequent situations that could result in collision, injury, or death,

WHEREAS, the crossover movements required by the Massachusetts Avenue NW express roadway consume additional signal time, cause frequent congestion, pose further safety hazards, and restrict crossing times for pedestrians, cyclists, and personal mobility users,

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and U.S. Park Police have declined to implement photo-enforcement of intersections that the community has identified as dangerous,

WHEREAS, MPD does not have the resources or desire to enforce traffic regulations outside of the scope of camera enforcement,

WHEREAS, a scooter user was killed by a motor vehicle in September of 2018 at the western exit of Massachusetts Avenue NW and P Street NW, the very intersection that the community has most frequently raised concerns about,

WHEREAS, the police report for the incident cited the aforementioned negative safety conditions as contributing factors, and

WHEREAS, the current configuration of the Dupont traffic circle plainly contradicts and violates the principles of the District's adopted Vision Zero effort.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B formally and urgently requests that DDOT conducts a comprehensive traffic safety assessment of the Dupont traffic circle and associated intersections as soon as can be scheduled and within the 120-day review period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT conducts the assessment in "real world" conditions outside of holiday periods to ensure that sufficient data is collected, recognizing the higher priority of pedestrian, cyclist, and personal mobility device users over vehicle throughput in the assessment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT explores and presents scenarios that eliminate the Massachusetts Avenue NW express lanes inner roadway as a solution to the bottlenecks, signal timing, driver confusion, and safety hazards of the existing conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the Chair of the ANC's Transportation and Public Infrastructure (TPI) Committee fills out DDOT's traffic safety assessment questionnaire for this request in consultation with the single member district commissioners.

Commissioners Randy Downs (2B05@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Daniel Warwick
Chair