



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

September 27, 2023

Mr. Everett Lott
Director
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
Everett.Lott@dc.gov

RE: Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming at Multiple Unsignalized Intersections Along 15th Street NW

Dear Director Lott,

At its regular meeting on September 13, 2023, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

WHEREAS, 15th Street NW between Rhode Island Avenue and U Street NW is a three-lane, one way street with an early 1960s design intended to prioritize a far greater volume of commuters departing downtown than is regularly observed by residents of the present day,

WHEREAS, 15th Street NW between Rhode Island Avenue and U Street NW, as well as the blocks flanking it, is predominately residential with substantial pedestrian activity and one of the busiest protected bicycle facilities in the District,

WHEREAS, the generous roadway size and generally low volume of traffic encourages some drivers to travel at speeds that pose great danger to other vehicles and other users of the street,

WHEREAS, traffic signal timing on the 15th Street NW corridor still seems to be timed for 30 miles per hour, which further encourages vehicles traveling at excessive, unsafe speeds,

WHEREAS, the posted speed limit along 15th Street NW is 30 miles per hour,

WHEREAS, many requests have been submitted to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) asking for what should be relatively simple, fast, and low-cost changes and improvements, especially at unsignalized crosswalks (N Street NW, O Street NW, Church Street NW, Corcoran Street NW, and Swann Street NW), to discourage speeding and improve safety of all users,

WHEREAS, the nominal signs “asking” drivers to yield to pedestrians at the unsignalized crosswalks are routinely ignored by drivers traveling at speed no matter how many pedestrians may be present or where in the crosswalks they may be, and

WHEREAS, the near total absence of enforcement in the corridor exacerbates the safety failings as offending drivers operate with no concern of being caught or penalized.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT prioritizes implementation of automated traffic enforcement (ATE) along 15th Street NW from Rhode Island Avenue to U Street NW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT re-times traffic signals along 15th Street NW to 20 miles per hour, encouraging drivers to travel within the speed limit, improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT lowers the posted speed limit along 15th Street NW to 20 miles per hour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT improves signage along 15th Street NW, especially at the cycletrack, to remind drivers to look both ways and yield to cyclists, as well as signs reminding cyclists to yield to pedestrians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT considers raised crosswalks, all-way stop signs, and other meaningful traffic calming interventions, in conjunction with ATE, at the unsignalized intersections in order to compel driver compliance with the crosswalks and speed limit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT prioritizes restoration of all bike lane safety markings at alleys and intersections within the corridor that were not restored after roadway repaving two years ago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that DDOT studies reducing the roadway to two thru travel lanes and reallocating the resulting free space to an enlarged cycletrack and sidewalk extensions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests when any of the traffic safety inputs (TSIs) for the unsignalized intersections in the corridor come up in quarterly prioritization, that all of them be processed together as a block so that none are left unresolved.

Commissioners Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02@anc.dc.gov) and Meg Roggensack (2B01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Roggensack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Meg Roggensack
Chair