



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

MATTHEW FRUMIN
Councilmember, Ward 3

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Executive Administration and Labor
Facilities and Family Services
Hospital and Health Equity
Housing
Transportation and the Environment

March 6, 2023

Director Everett Lott
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Via e-mail

Director Lott:

On February 21, 2023, a multi-car crash occurred on the 3000 block of Connecticut Avenue NW, killing a 21-year old-man and critically injuring three others. This tragedy occurred near the Smithsonian National Zoo, a pedestrian-heavy area often traversed by children and their families. Unfortunately, the crash was not a surprise. Connecticut Avenue NW is a Vision Zero high crash corridor¹, and there were more than 34 crashes on the corridor in the last calendar year, some of them fatal.²

While DDOT's Connecticut Avenue NW Multimodal & Safety Project will eventually lead to a safer, more complete street, action is needed now to slow driver speeds and protect pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. **I am writing to urge DDOT to immediately implement commonsense traffic calming measures on Connecticut Avenue NW, including removal of all rush-hour parking restrictions north of Calvert Street NW.** Connecticut Avenue NW should not be a six-lane highway through our Ward 3 community. Reduction in the number of vehicle lanes will decrease pedestrian crossing distances and improve speed limit compliance.³ Converting the rush-hour travel lane into parking would also create a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles and expand parking availability along the corridor.

¹ https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/page_content/attachments/VZActionPlan_forWebsite_FINAL-UPDATED_Part1.pdf

² <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a2f1cca5159e4c6eae197895d2e08336>

³ <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Traffic-Calming-to-Slow-Vehicle-Speeds>

In tandem with removing rush-hour parking restrictions, DDOT should implement other strategies contained in its Corridor Safety Improvements for Connecticut Avenue NW. These include additional dynamic speed feedback signs to alert drivers when their speed exceeds posted limits, and automated speed and red light enforcement cameras to address dangerous driving when it occurs. These commonsense traffic calming measures have widespread community support and were endorsed by ANC 3C on multiple occasions. They can be implemented expeditiously, long before the planned permanent infrastructure improvements.

Removal of all rush-hour parking restrictions, coupled with appropriate automated traffic enforcement, on Connecticut Avenue NW would reduce driver speeds and temporarily maximize parking for neighbors, supporting both vulnerable road users and local businesses. With Connecticut Avenue NW safety infrastructure improvements still years away, it is imperative that DDOT work to implement these responsible, evidence-based traffic calming measures now.

I request a written response to this letter by March 17, 2023.

Sincerely,



Matthew Frumin
DC Councilmember for Ward 3

cc: Christian Piñeiro, Community Engagement Specialist
Janell Pagats, ANC 3C Chair
Claudette David, ANC 3F Chair
Lisa Gore, ANC 3/4G Chair

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