



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

December 15, 2023

Muriel E. Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Via e-mail

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I write with a sense of urgency to request that you promptly complete and release the revised design plans for implementation of the Connecticut Avenue Multimodal Safety Improvement Project, which were targeted for release earlier this year.

Today marks two years since you announced the selection of Concept C as the model for the Connecticut Avenue Multimodal Safety Improvement project, an ambitious, necessary overhaul of the corridor's transportation infrastructure. Since your announcement, at least 285 crashes have been reported, some with tragic consequences. Connecticut Avenue is an obviously flawed road with an unacceptable level of safety risk. We must work together to move forward expeditiously on changes that will make it safe for all road users. As The Washington Post editorial board stated last year: "Pedal faster."

Connecticut Avenue should not be a six-lane highway running through our Ward 3 community. The current orientation prioritizes high-speed vehicular traffic at the expense of the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and the thousands of residents who live and work along the corridor. Your administration has acknowledged pervasive speeding on this street by lowering the speed limit and installing two automated traffic enforcement cameras. I commend these important steps, but they alone have not changed behavior meaningfully. The average number of weekly crashes before the speed limit reduction and automated traffic enforcement camera installation was 2.7. After these changes, the average number of weekly crashes rose to 4.2. The District must pursue a solution proven to be effective at improving safety outcomes: installing protected bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure.

The Connecticut Avenue Multimodal Safety Improvement Project is about more than just safety; it is about reclaiming our streets. Your administration has strongly supported efforts to create a cleaner, greener District of Columbia. As you opined in Dubai, UAE, the global climate crisis is real. The Connecticut Avenue overhaul presents an opportunity to support a transition to sustainable, multimodal transportation and address overreliance on cars. Even as we make that transition, it will be

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important to accommodate those who will still rely on automobiles. This is why I have called on DDOT to release a revised plan that accommodates the needs of all road users, especially seniors, people with disabilities, and the businesses that serve them as we move forward with plans to make Connecticut Avenue safer.

I recognize that the proposal for Connecticut Avenue is a significant change, but we must move forward. While there will inevitably dissenters, I am confident DDOT can propose a plan that meets the needs of all community members. As one marker of the level of community support, all of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions along the route have strongly supported the project. It is indisputable that the status quo is unbearable both from a safety and an environmental perspective.

I urge you to complete and release the updated design plans for Connecticut Avenue immediately, solicit feedback by convening the Community Advisory Committee and conducting direct community outreach, and move this important project forward without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Frumin".

Matt Frumin
DC Councilmember for Ward 3

cc: Interim Director Sharon Kershbaum, District Department of Transportation
Kevin Donahue, City Administrator
Chair Charles Allen, Committee on Transportation and Environment

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