

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E Resolution No. 2023-0010 IN RESPONSE TO DDOT NOI 23-206-TESD ADDRESSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH CAPITOL ST AND RHODE ISLAND AVENUE NW/NE

**WHEREAS**, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) 23-206-TESD to make signal modifications at the intersection of North Capitol St and Rhode Island Avenue with the intent of enhancing pedestrian and vehicle safety; and

WHEREAS, there have been at least <u>1,426 car crashes within 1000 feet of the intersection</u> of North Capitol St and Rhode Island Avenue, with drivers causing serious damage to the infrastructure; with reported daily incidents of speeding and violating traffic laws; and

WHEREAS, North Capitol St — going north and southbound — and Rhode Island Avenue — going east and westbound — are home to hundreds of District residents who are confronted with daily incidents of dangerous and aggressive driving that pose a serious danger to pedestrian safety; and

**WHEREAS**, residents have expressed grave concerns about part of the NOI that would direct traffic on to the unit block of T St. NW, due to already unsafe conditions for pedestrians, drivers and cyclists at the intersection of North Capitol and T Streets caused by speeding and failure to stop at stop signs.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that ANC 5E endorses DDOT's recommendation listed in NOI-23-206-TESD, namely "Conversion of westbound protected-permissive left turn phase to protected-only" and asks for DDOT to take under consideration for implementation:

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

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- Create a physical barrier between eastbound and westbound traffic on Rhode Island Avenue at the intersection to deter illegal turnings onto North Capitol St and onto U St NW.
- Improve signage and increase enforcement at U St NW, where drivers often enter illegally from Rhode Island Avenue NW or northbound North Capitol St.
- Add increased signage indicating the speed limit on Rhode Island Avenue and the fines associated with exceeding the speed limit.
- Conduct a traffic safety investigation and implement measures to reduce traffic speed on the frontage road section of North Capitol St (2000 block of N. Capitol St NE and 2000 block of N. Capitol St NW).
- Place an ATE camera at the intersection to ensure enforcement of the change.
- Prioritize TSI request # 23-00536743 to permanently restrict the left turn onto 1<sup>st</sup> St NW from EB Rhode Island Avenue NW to help improve street safety on 1<sup>st</sup> St NW and at this intersection.
- For DDOT to provide additional data on the safety recommendations forming the basis of the NOI in question.

## **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ANC 5E **does not endorse** DDOT's recommendation of **"Full restriction of the eastbound left turn phase at all times of day**", and asks for DDOT to consider the following:

- Modifying the signal to add a dedicated pedestrian light and a separate left turn signal for vehicles to ensure a safer left turn from eastbound Rhode Island Avenue onto North Capitol St and increase pedestrian safety.
- Keeping the left turn restrictions for certain hours in place (during peak traffic hours) and improving signage.
- Ensuring posted speed limits are followed by adding a speed camera at the 2000 block of N. Capitol St NE.
- Adding a dedicated left hand turn lane /pocket lane to create a safer turn.

## THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 5E does not endorse

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DDOT's recommendation of "**Diversion of eastbound Rhode Island Ave traffic at 1**<sup>st</sup> St **NW to T St NW to access northbound N. Capitol St.**" and asks for DDOT to take under consideration for implementation:

- Increase the pedestrian light timing to comply with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) regulations of 1 second per 3.5 feet at the signs located on Rhode Island Avenue NW and 1<sup>st</sup> St NW for pedestrians to be able to cross Rhode Island Avenue NW and T St NW in its entirety. Currently pedestrians have limited time to cross eight lanes (seven on Rhode Island Avenue and the lane on T St NW).
- Improving visibility for drivers and cyclists at the all way stop to better see incoming traffic on all sides.
- Banning right on red at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue NE and North Capitol St NE.
- Implement further safety improvements at intersection of T St NE/NW and North Capitol St to improve pedestrian safety, including improved signage and the addition of stop sign enforcement cameras to address frequent violations at this intersection.
- Adding a crossing guard at North Capitol St and T St NE/NW to ensure safety of schoolchildren crossing the intersection to attend DCPS facilities such as Langley Elementary School and McKinley Technology High School.
- Improve visibility and effectiveness of speed bumps, restripe speed bumps and improve signage indicating speed bumps on T St

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ANC 5E endorses DDOT's recommendation of "Installation of retroreflective backplates on all traffic signal heads."

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ANC 5E endorses DDOT's recommendation of "Upgrading One-way/Do Not Enter signs for the southbound ramp."

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**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ANC 5E endorses DDOT's recommendation of "Installation of supplementary mast arm traffic signal heads."

**THIS RESOLUTION** was introduced by Commissioner Huma Imtiaz and Commissioner Fred Carver and came before ANC 5E at a duly noticed public meeting on October 17, 2023. ANC 5E is composed of 6 Commissioners, such that 4 Commissioners constitute a quorum. With 6 Commissioners present, ANC 5E voted 5-0-1 to adopt this resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairberson, ANC 5E

Karla M. Lewis

Corresponding Secretary, ANC 5E Frederick Carver

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