

Government of the District of Columbia
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July 20, 2021

Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Via e-mail

Dear Members of the Council,

We write to the members of the Council of the District of Columbia to urge you to vote to fully fund the Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020¹ by supporting the recommendations contained within the Budget Report of the Council’s Committee on Transportation and the Environment. This is an impressive document, filled with many laudable/commendable enterprises².

Specifically, ANC 3F fully supports the Report’s recommendation of a dedicated revenue stream for Vision Zero, to be generated by ATE cameras. As stated in the Report “The Committee believes that this revenue, which is raised from ATE cameras, should be put to use funding Vision Zero initiatives—and the Vision Zero legislation, in particular.”³

Six years ago, when Vision Zero was adopted, Mayor Bowser pledged to eliminate “fatalities and serious injuries to travelers of our transportation system” by 2024. Late last year the Council unanimously passed the Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020.

The time has come to fully fund the Vision Zero legislation. This is consistent with the commitment voiced unanimously by the City Council in 2020 and promised by the Mayor in

¹ Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020

<https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/laws/23-158.html>

² Fiscal Year 2022 Committee Budget Report. DC Council Committee on Transportation & the Environment

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bbd09f3d74562c7f0e4bb10/t/60dcc163460aee56e1fa522/1625080164706/T%26E+FY22+budget+draft+report.pdf>

³ See pages 40-42 of report cited in footnote #2 for description of Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Implementation Fund.

2015 when she said in regard to Vision Zero that “no loss of life is acceptable.”

The Vision Zero Omnibus Bill is the most significant set of strategies that our city can adopt to ensure that all modes of transportation are safe, healthy, and equitable for all of our citizens. It is a policy that is holistic by definition and by design, as well as in approach, strategy, and practice. And it is ethics-based, as its aim is to keep DC residents safe as we make our way through our city.

Residents from all neighborhoods across the District of Columbia have appealed to the Council and to the Mayor for safer streets to protect all road users from traffic violence.

ANC 3F has repeatedly called for improving the safety of our streets and sidewalks. This is what we believe to be one of our foundational purposes.

Furthermore, with funds in hand, ANC 3F urges DDOT to move forward promptly and expeditiously on transportation safety, and to speedily implement a network of creditable infrastructure for walking, biking, mobility devices and public transportation that are essential to ensure safety on our streets and sidewalks.

In our judgement, it should be agreed that when DDOT is confronted with several possible options in resolving a traffic dilemma, the choice that is safest should always be prioritized.

We encourage the Council to urge DDOT to continue to consult with ANC Commissioners regarding unsafe streets in their commission area as the ANCs are the eyes and ears of their neighborhoods and being very familiar with the safety conditions and the concerns of their constituents, keep active lists of safety issues.

We are hopeful that committing to fully fund the Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act will put the District on track to reaching its Vision Zero goals. Vision Zero and all that it entails is achievable, but it will take the dedication, commitment, and leadership by you to act on our behalf.

At its regularly scheduled public meeting held via Zoom on July 20, 2021, ANC 3F voted 5-0-0 in favor of sending this letter.

Sincerely,

David Cristeal, Chair ANC 3F and SMD 3F 01

C: Mayor Muriel Bowser
Director Everett Lott, DC Department of Transportation