

# Government of the District of Columbia

## Department of Transportation



July 11, 2022

Dipa Mehta, 3F04 Commissioner – Advisory Neighborhood Commission, 3F  
4401-A Connecticut Ave, NW Box 244  
Washington, DC 20008-2322

Via Email: [commissioners@anc3f.com](mailto:commissioners@anc3f.com)

RE: Letter on Dangerous Traffic Safety Conditions and Urgent Request for Actions Forest Hills

Dear Commissioner Mehta,

Thank you for your January 21, 2022 letter highlighting the traffic safety concerns in the Forest Hills neighborhood in ANC 3F, as well as the resolution passed on February 15, 2022. We understand our response is delayed and we apologize for not getting back in a timely manner; the complexity of the request and details within this letter required significant review. Please know that DDOT is committed to making roadways across the District safe and accessible for all mode users as we work to address these concerns.

Our safety team has investigated several of these traffic safety requests, and have made determinations for the following locations:

### **Requests for Forest Hills Neighborhood:**

Traffic Safety Investigation **#22-00149382** was submitted in response to the unprotected Left Turn Phase at Military and Glover/Ridge Road NW. DDOT has determined this requested change is not an appropriate measure to reduce service volume and will result in congestion and backups along Military Road NW. However, in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS), who owns and operates Glover Road, DDOT will be implementing a morning peak hour westbound protected and permissive left turn phase at this location. This will be timed appropriately for traffic demand and will enhance access to Ridge Road NW and Broad Branch Road NW.

DDOT has also considered the request about the signal operation in response to Traffic Safety Investigation **#22-00149411** at 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Military Road NW but does not deem it prudent to restrict the westbound left turn from Military Road NW onto 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW at this time. 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW is not a cut-through route, but instead is a public road that provides access to Rock

Creek Park. Restriction of this left turn would be an arbitrary measure that would not have the intended effect of reducing traffic volume on the 5300 Block of 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

### **Requests for Davenport Street NW:**

In response to concerns over traffic access and restrictions at Davenport Street NW, Grant Road NW, and Broad Branch Road NW, DDOT will not install DO NOT ENTER signage at these locations. Roadway network connectivity is critical for this location and can cause deviations in traffic for surrounding neighborhoods. The installation of DO NOT ENTER restrictions are also not an enforceable measure of deterring traffic and engineering guidance does not find this solution feasible at this time.

### **Requests for Sidewalks:**

Concerns over lack of sidewalks at Linnean, Fessenden, Davenport, and Brandywine have been routed to our Active Transportation Branch under the sidewalk priority list. Please note that DDOT has a list of over 2,200 sidewalk gaps all over the city. This list is currently prioritized by a number of factors including, but not limited to:

- proximity to schools, rec centers, senior centers
- no sidewalk on either side of street
- a potentially important connection for a high pedestrian traffic route to public transit, commercial business districts etc.

Each fiscal year, we conduct a preliminary assessment of the engineering feasibility (i.e., does not require storm water or drainage interventions, utility re-locations) and availability of an adequate amount of publicly owned right-of-way to install sidewalks in any of our gap areas. We spread our budget as equitably as possible throughout the city tackling 11-15 segments (depending on length and costs) each year. However, thanks to an increased sidewalk gap budget for 2023, we hope to double the segments filled in FY23. Many of these locations in Forest Hills are being scoped in our sidewalk list, however, given the bandwidth needed to cover the whole city and budget constraints for new sidewalk development, our team will continue to prioritize new construction under these criteria to ensure we are filling gaps in the most needed neighborhoods.

### **Signage Requests:**

Traffic Safety Investigation #22-00150129 was submitted for an All-Way Stop Control (AWSC) at Linnean Ave and Fessenden Street NW. The 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines require that a traffic engineering study be performed before an All-Way STOP Control is installed at an intersection. The factors considered in this evaluation include traffic volumes at the intersection, speeding characteristics, crash statistics, roadway geometry, location of pedestrian generators (including schools), and general traffic control conditions at the intersection. Field investigations and observations were conducted at different times on typical weekdays. Based on these factors, the operating conditions at the T-intersection of Linnean Avenue and Fessenden Street, NW do not meet the criteria stipulated by the MUTCD for the

installation of an AWSC. For this reason, DDOT will not install this type of control at the intersection.

Roadway Signs Request #22-00197203 was submitted to replace the existing stop sign at Linnean Ave and Albemarle Street NW (2800 Block of Albemarle) with new, reflective sign. Work at this location was completed earlier this season.

**Traffic Safety Investigations Requested:**

In response to the remaining inquiries, the following Traffic Safety Investigations (TSIs) and Roadway Service Requests have been submitted via 311 on your behalf. Please note that these requests were submitted in Spring 2022 and the evaluations take up to 130 business days:

- **22-00149322:** TSI for 2800 Davenport Street NW for traffic speed/calming;
- **22-00150143:** Roadway Striping request for high visibility crosswalk at 28th Street NW and Brandywine Street NW;
- **22-00150147:** Roadway Striping request for high visibility crosswalk at 29th Street NW and Brandywine Street NW;
- **22-00197083:** Roadway Striping Request for high visibility crosswalk at Linnean Street NW and Brandywine Street NW;
- **22-00197129:** TSI to address pedestrian issues at Davenport Street NW and Linnean Ave NW due to lack of sidewalks and traffic speed;
- **22-00159855:** TSI for Stop Sign Cameras on the 2700 and 2800 Blocks of Brandywine Street NW;
- **22-00197163:** Roadway Signs Request to replace existing 25 MPH sign beside 4555 Linnean Ave to 20 MPH;
- **22-00197184:** Roadway Signs Request to replace existing 25 MPH sign near 4615 Linnean Ave NW with a 20 MPH sign;
- **22-00197450:** TSI for DFBs on Linnean Ave between Garrison and Harrison Streets (5100 Block of Linnean Ave NW)

Our respective divisions will continue to investigate, evaluate, and review the remaining issues and provide recommendations to effectively address the safety concerns at hand. I will continue to track and monitor these requests as the team moves forward.

Thank you again, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Lott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Everett Lott  
Director

CC: ANC 3F Commission

Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3 Councilmember

Dee Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Amy Sinnenberg, Constituent Services Coordinator, Office of Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Andrew Grinberg, Legislative Assistant, Office of Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Theodore Wren, Ward 3 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Wasim Raja, Associate Director of Traffic Engineering and Safety, District Department of Transportation

Anna Chamberlin, Associate Director of Planning & Sustainability, District Department of Transportation

Sahar Nabae, Traffic Safety Manager, District Department of Transportation

Linda Bailey, Vision Zero Director, District Department of Transportation

Kelly Jeong-Olson, Community Engagement Manager, District Department of Transportation

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