



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
CHEVY CHASE WAKEFIELD FORT GAINES

c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
<https://anc3e.org>

Resolution Regarding Western Avenue Sidewalk Gaps

Whereas, the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) has provided a Notice of Intent on March 8, 2021 to fill sidewalks gaps on Western Avenue NW between Westmoreland Circle and River Road;

Whereas, ANC 3E has a long history of advocating for both improved walkability of neighborhoods and improved pedestrian safety;

Whereas, Western Avenue is a minor arterial road served by both WMATA and Ride-On bus routes and also connects to Friendship Heights which is a retail and job destination as well the location of a Metrorail station which is also served by numerous bus routes but currently sidewalk gaps making walking on the DC (south) side of the street unsafe requiring pedestrians and bus riders to walk in the street¹;

Whereas, bus stops located where there are sidewalk gaps² are difficult to access, particularly in inclement weather when riders either have to walk on grass or in the street. DDOTs proposal makes improvements around these bus stops and brings them into compliance with ADA requirements;

Whereas, Western Avenue is a wide road with no stop signs or traffic signals between Westmoreland Circle and River Road and because it is a diagonal road many of the intersections are particularly wide which facilitate aggressive turns by drivers while also increasing the crossing times for pedestrians. DDOTs proposal adds bulb outs at several intersections in the study area which will slow traffic on both Western Avenue and intersecting side streets while shortening the crossing distance for pedestrians;

1

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Western+Ave+%26+48th+St+NW,+Bethesda,+MD+20816/@38.9500961,-77.099446,3a,75y,90h,86.46t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1s2gmkxegx_ebtyPEOXHkkLA!2e0!5s20190601T000000!7i16384!8i8192!4m5!3m4!1s0x89b7c98cd31df83f:0xcb3bdf389428ad2!8m2!3d38.9540098!4d-77.0944145

2

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Western+Ave+%26+48th+St+NW,+Bethesda,+MD+20816/@38.9512536,-77.0979577,3a,75y,180h,86.46t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sSI4ktMTf7Q6mseSwt2V_Qw!2e0!7i16384!8i8192!4m5!3m4!1s0x89b7c98cd31df83f:0xcb3bdf389428ad2!8m2!3d38.9540098!4d-77.0944145

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) implemented a Vision Zero “Mayor’s Challenge” initiative for Safer People / Safer Streets across the United States;

Whereas, safety is the top priority of the USDOT and many of the USDOT operating administrations play a role in improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists³;

Whereas, Vision Zero is a part of Mayor Bowser’s response to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Mayor’s Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets, which aims to improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation safety by showcasing effective local actions, empowering local leaders to take action, and promoting partnerships to advance pedestrian and bicycle safety;

Whereas, DDOT has set an objective to reach zero fatalities and serious injuries to travelers using the city’s transportation infrastructure by the year 2024 through more effective use of data, education, enforcement, and engineering in its Vision Zero initiative;

Whereas, the DDOT proposal to continue the existing sidewalk through the public sidewalk zone furthers both of those goals;

Whereas, the first Notice of Intent was provided in August of 2017, and since such time DDOT has conducted a number of in person and virtual meetings with affected residents, and revised the plans to accommodate resident concerns as permissible; and

Whereas, numerous ANC 3E residents have expressed support for ensuring sidewalks are present the length of Western on the DC side to ensure ANC 3E residents and other pedestrians do not have to cross a busy street to safely continue their route.

Therefore, be it resolved, ANC 3E believes filling these sidewalk gaps is consistent with DC’s Vision Zero goals and supports the DDOT proposal as modified to address resident concerns on the May 6, 2021 walkthrough to install sidewalks and urges DDOT to complete this work as soon as possible.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on May 13, 2021, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Matthew Cohen, Amy Hall, Jonathan McHugh and Tom Quinn were present.

³ Available at: <https://www.transportation.gov/pedestrian-bicycle-safety#:~:text=Safety%20is%20the%20top%20priority,safety%20for%20pedestrians%20and%20bicyclists>

ANC 3E

By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson