



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
WAKEFIELD CHEVY CHASE FORT GAINES
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Notice of Intent 24-02-TESD regarding reduction of the speed limit on Nebraska Avenue NW

Whereas, ANC 3E has a long history of advocating for the improved walkability and bikeability of neighborhoods and improved safety for pedestrians and bicyclists;

Whereas, on January 31, 2024 ANC 3E received Notice of Intent 24-02-TESD from DDOT that DDOT intends to lower the speed limit on Nebraska Avenue NW between Macomb Street and Military Road NW from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour;

Whereas, Nebraska Avenue transects a significant portion of ANC 3E, running from its intersection at Reno Road to its intersection with Rockwood Parkway, a distance of 1.6 miles;

Whereas, over the 1.6 miles within ANC 3E Nebraska Avenue directly abuts the campuses of Alice Deal Middle School, Jackson-Reed High School, the American University Law School, the American University Main Campus and the National Presbyterian School. In the case of the American University Main Campus Nebraska Avenue in fact divides the campus with hundreds of student beds located in dorms on the south side of the Avenue. Nebraska Avenue also borders Fort Reno park, is heavily used by students and their families accessing Murch Elementary School and includes single family homes;

Whereas, the [Sustainable DC](#) plan seeks to reduce reliance on automobiles and to expand provision of safe, secure infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, with the goal to increase biking and walking to 25% of all commuter trips;

Whereas, in January of 2022 the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced a National Roadway Safety Strategy which set a long term goal of getting to zero roadway fatalities in the United States¹;

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 bicyclists²;

Whereas, in December of 2015 DC Mayor Muriel Bowser set a "Vision Zero" goal to get the District of Columbia down to zero roadway fatalities by 2024³;

¹ <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS>

² Available at: <https://www.transportation.gov/pedestrian-bicycle-safety#:~:text=Safety%20is%20the%20top%20priority,safety%20for%20pedestrians%20and%20bicyclists>

³ <https://wtop.com/dc/2015/12/mayor-bowser-unveils-plan-to-make-d-c-streets-safer/>

Whereas, DDOT has sought to reach this objective of 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, in 2021 the District of Columbia instead trended in the wrong direction with 40 total roadway deaths including 17 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists and among the pedestrian and bicyclist deaths were two children⁴;

Whereas, in 2022 the District of Columbia modestly trended in the right direction with 35 total roadway deaths⁵;

Whereas, in 2023 the District of Columbia recorded 49 total roadway deaths⁶ which was the highest total in 16 years. The District's goal of reaching zero roadway deaths by 2024 appears to be completely out of reach;

Whereas, numerous peer reviewed studies⁷ have shown that lowering speed limits reduce vehicular speeds and accidents and other US cities that have reduced speed limits have realized reductions in both crashes and the severity of crashes⁸.

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E supports the DDOT proposal to reduce the speed limit on Nebraska Avenue from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Be it further resolved, ANC 3E believes that additional traffic calming and safety measures should be considered in the corridor including but not limited to:

- Installing speed cameras along open sections of the road to increase adherence to the speed limit
- Adding red-light cameras at all signalized intersections

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on February 8, 2024, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 0-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Diego Carney, Matthew Cohen, Jeffrey Denny, Ali Gianinno Rohin Ghosh, Amy Hall and Tom Quinn were present.

ANC 3E
By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson

⁴ <https://dcist.com/story/22/01/07/2021-deadliest-year-dc-roads/>

⁵ <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/traffic-data>

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2023/12/20/dc-reckless-driving-traffic-deaths/>

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4989038/>

⁸ <https://www.motor1.com/news/661329/ihs-study-lower-speed-limits-on-side-streets-make-roads-safer/>