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 24-102-TESD regarding the intersection of Belt Road and Garrison Street 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 April 8, 2024 ANC 3E received Notice of Intent 24-102-TESD from DDOT that DDOT intends to install all-way stop controls (aka stop signs) at the intersection of Belt Road and Garrison Street NW;

Whereas, the intersection currently features stop signs for traffic headed north and southbound Belt Road and high visibility crosswalks;

Whereas, Belt Road currently lacks sidewalks on both the 5000 and 5100 blocks of Belt Road on either side of this intersection forcing pedestrians to walk in the road and the 3900 block of Garrison Street only has sidewalks on the north side of the street;

Whereas, the intersection of Belt Road and Garrison Street is 1 block north of Ft Reno park and is traversed during the school year by many students walking to and from Alice Deal Middle School;

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 States[1];

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 bicyclists[2];

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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

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 2024[3];

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 children[4];

Whereas, in 2022 the District of Columbia modestly trended in the right direction with 35 total roadway deaths[5];

Whereas, in 2023 the District of Columbia recorded 49 total roadway deaths[6] 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;

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E supports the DDOT proposal to add stop signs for all approaches to the intersection of Belt Road and Garrison Street and to relocate a parking sign on the southwest corner of the intersection.

Be it further resolved, ANC 3E urges DDOT to study sight lines at this intersection and in particular to consider removing a large bush on the northeast corner of the intersection that makes it difficult for drivers and pedestrians headed westbound on Garrison Street to see and make eye contact with drivers and pedestrians headed southbound on Belt Road.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on May 9, 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.

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ANC 3E
By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson

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