



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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June 27, 2019

Mr. Will Handsfield
Bicycle Program Specialist
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20003
William.Handsfield2@dc.gov

RE: Proposed Installation of Speed Bumps on Water Street NW

Dear Mr. Handsfield,

On June 3, 2019 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E continues to support Mayor Bowser's Vision Zero initiative which aims to "improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation safety by showcasing effective local actions [and] empowering local leaders to take action...." As such, the ANC shared with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), as long ago as May of 2017, concerns related to high speeds on Water Street NW between Wisconsin Avenue and the entrance to the Capital Crescent Trail. While the narrowing of the roadway via the installation of the cycle track has made these blocks less attractive for racing, the ANC continues to experience significantly high speeds in this area, particularly at night when general traffic is at a minimum. Additionally, racing continues with one resident noting that recently people have set up lawn chairs to watch and cheerlead as the racing occurred.

ANC 2E wishes to make these blocks safer for all users and more in line with Vision Zero goals. As such, the ANC requests that DDOT move quickly to install raised pedestrian crossings in at least two locations on Water Street NW which extend from curb to curb. Should raised pedestrian crossings not be possible or permissible in this environment, the ANC would accept, instead, two speed bumps that extend from curb to curb. The ANC believes that the installation of these traffic calming measures would benefit the following users of the roadway:

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

- Pedestrians, including children: Traffic of all kinds, including vehicles and bikes, would slow down as they approach these bumps, making crossing the street a significantly safer endeavor. Additionally, by raising the crossings, pedestrians would be able to better see the crosswalks and would be more inclined to use such crosswalks instead of crossing the street mid-block.
- Bikers: Bikers would be forced to slow down as they approach the bumps, creating a safer environment for the bikers as well as minimizing conflicts between bikers and pedestrians.
- Vehicles: Drag racing and unnecessary speeding would be minimized if not eliminated as the raised surface would make such speeding less comfortable for the drivers.

ANC 2E notes that the installation of such speed bumps has the approval of residents who live along Water Street; the Georgetown BID, who will be providing a separate letter of support for this change to the roadway; and MPD. In fact, the ANC has discussed the installation of speed bumps on Water Street with MPD in part to ensure that such installation would not interfere with emergency access to Water Street. Second District Commander Bedlion notes that he is generally supportive of speed bumps along Water Street. He also reports that citizens would be best served if speed bumps were placed in a way that led to a decrease in speed prior to crosswalks.

ANC 2E defers to DDOT on the precise location of the raised pedestrian crossings although the ANC requests that at least two bumps be installed between Wisconsin Avenue and the Capital Crescent Trail, and that the decision of where to place this intervention be guided by the goals noted above.

Commissioners Lisa Palmer (2E05@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E