



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

JANESE LEWIS GEORGE
Councilmember, Ward 4

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Human Services
Labor and Workforce Development
Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs
Transportation and the Environment
Special Committee, COVID-19 Recovery

August 17, 2022

Everett Lott
Director, District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Lott:

I write seeking your support in implementing the traffic mitigation measures recommended and suggested as part of DDOT's June 2022 traffic study¹ submitted as part of the National Park Service's Rock Creek Upper Beach Drive Management Plan Environmental Assessment. As you know, NPS recently identified a seasonal closure for recreation as its preferred alternative for how to manage Upper Beach Drive. I recognize that a final decision is still pending on the prospects of a full or partial closure of Beach Drive, but regardless of the final outcome of this stage in the community input process, neighborhood traffic safety surrounding the Park must be prioritized through the implementation of the following:

- Provide a three-way stop at Beach Drive NW and Blagden Avenue NW in the short term, and ultimately signalize the intersection if warranted
- Upgrade signing and pavement markings at the intersections of Upper Beach Drive/Broad Branch Road NW, Upper Beach Drive/Wise Road NW, and Upper Beach Drive/West Beach Drive NW
- Provide left turn phasing for Military Road NW westbound to Glover Road NW
- Modify signal offsets at 16th Street NW at the Military Road NW ramp intersections
- Modify signal timings on 16th Street NW
- Signalize the 16th Street NW and Blagden Avenue NW intersection
- Permit Ross Drive NW to remain closed to traffic but allow for the roadway to be reopened if needed in the future

Additionally, the following measures identified during our recent traffic safety walkthroughs of Hawthorne/Barnaby Woods, Crestwood, and Sixteenth Street Heights deserve equal and urgent consideration:

- Modify the traffic signal cycle length at the Nebraska Avenue NW and Utah Avenue NW intersection
- Restripe the eastbound and southbound approaches at the 27th Street NW and Military Road NW intersection

¹ https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/Upper-Beach-Dr-Closure_Traffic-Analysis-Report_June21_2022_FINAL_508_v3.pdf

- Traffic calming on Western Avenue and Utah Avenue, as identified on DDOT's Upper Beach Drive Management Plan (October 2021).
- Finish work with DC Water on Bingham Drive NW including re-paving the road surface
- Traffic signal installation at 16th St NW and Blagden Avenue NW
- All-way stop control and raised intersections at the intersection of 17th St NW and Webster St NW
- All-way stop control and raised intersections at the intersection of 17th St NW and Varnum Street
- All-way stop control and raised intersections at the intersection of 17th St NW and Taylor Street
- Safety improvements at the triple intersection of 17th St NW, Decatur St NW, and Blagden Avenue NW
- Safety improvements at the triple intersection of Mathewson Dr NW, Argyle Tr NW, and Upshur St NW
- Raised crosswalks at the intersection of 17th St and Allison St NW
- Traffic calming in the 4700-4800 blocks of Blagden Avenue NW
- Traffic calming in the 4800 block of 17th Street NW
- Traffic calming in the 1800 block of Upshur Street NW
- Traffic calming in the 4900 and 5000 blocks of 14th St NW
- All-way stop control or traffic signal installation at Arkansas Avenue NW and Iowa Avenue NW
- All-way stop control or traffic signal installation at Arkansas Avenue NW and Farragut Street NW
- Traffic signal installation or raised crosswalks at 14th Street NW and Emerson Street NW

Finally, the following related recommendations from the Rock Creek East Livability studies (parts I and II) are overdue:

- Sidewalk installation on Mathewson Drive between Upshur Street and Blagden Avenue
- Sidewalk installation on Allison Street between Blagden Avenue and Argyle Terrace
- Improve the intersection of 16th St NW and Juniper St NW by extending the center median, painting with planting, paint high visibility crosswalks, adding pedestrian refuge, and relocating bus stops to the far side of the intersection.
- Improve the intersection of 16th St NW and Alaska Avenue NW by updating bus stops to include ADA boarding alignment, add pedestrian refuges, paint high visibility crosswalks, extend the center medians with planting, and re-align intersection to reduce turning radius.

I urge the agency to remain in close contact with NPS to jointly identify and implement these and other traffic safety improvements in and surrounding Rock Creek Park to ensure safe streets are achieved for all our drivers, bikers, and pedestrians. Thank you, and I look forward to continuing our shared efforts to make our streets safe for all people.

Sincerely,



Janeese Lewis George
Ward 4 Councilmember

Cc: Julia Washburn, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park