

Jeff Marootian
Director - District Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Marootian:

The North Capitol Street Corridor has long been one of the most dangerous streets in the District. Another pedestrian death on January 3rd, the sixth in the last 18 months, has brought that danger into tragic focus. Since 2018, the following people were all fatally struck while walking along North Capitol Street¹:

- Johnson Doerue of Northwest DC, age 67, on September 12, 2018
- Troy Austin of Southeast DC, age 56, on February 11, 2019
- Unidentified pedestrian on February 20, 2019
- Jascha Wilson of Southeast DC, age 29, on August 13, 2019 of a hit-and-run and succumbed to his injuries the next day
- Brad Hinds of Silver Spring, MD, age 39, on November 15, 2019 of a hit-and-run
- Unidentified pedestrian on January 3, 2020

If Vision Zero is a priority for Mayor Bowser and her administration, it's clear fixing this corridor needs to become an immediate priority.

Thankfully, plans to do just that already exist. Released last January, the [North Capitol Needs Assessment study](#), completed by the NoMa BID in partnership with your agency and the support of a wide coalition of local stakeholders², lays out a comprehensive plan for improving some of the most dangerous intersections in the corridor.

The study [identifies sixty specific improvements](#), including forty-five that the study projected could be accomplished by the end of 2019. Those fixes include:

- New Signage and Pavement Markings
- Protective Barriers
- Safer Lane Configurations
- Sidewalk and Crosswalk Improvements
- Public Space Activations
- Traffic Control Officers

¹<https://dcw50.com/news/67-year-old-man-killed-in-pedestrian-collision-in-northwest-d-c/>
<https://mpdc.dc.gov/release/traffic-fatality-1500-block-north-capitol-street-northwest/>
<https://mpdc.dc.gov/release/traffic-fatality-5000-block-north-capitol-street-northeast/>
<https://dcist.com/story/19/08/15/man-dies-of-injuries-after-hit-and-run-on-north-capitol-street/>
<https://mpdc.dc.gov/release/traffic-fatality-1400-block-north-capitol-street-northeast/>
<https://dc.curbed.com/2019/11/20/20974099/dc-traffic-deaths-vision-zero-h-street>

²ANC 5E (Commissioner Pinkney), ANC 6C (Commissioner Edelman and Committee Chair, Mark Kazmierczak), CIM Group, District of Columbia Housing Authority, District of Columbia Office of Planning, Government Publishing Office, John and Jill Ker Conway Residence, Mount Airy Baptist Church, North Capitol Main Street, Tyler House (Tenant Association President, Venus Little), Uncle Chips

- De-Conflicting of Dual Turn Lanes
- And more

Unfortunately, a recent resident site assessment indicated that only 12 of those fixes were actually implemented last year.

In addition, DDOT published a [Mid-City East Livability Study](#) in 2013 that called for the following improvements, none of which have been implemented, nearly seven years later:

- Pedestrian priority corridors on N, R, and T streets
- Significant safety improvements at the intersection of New York Avenue and North Capitol Street
- Significant safety improvements at the intersection of Florida Avenue and North Capitol Street
- Significant safety improvements at the intersection of Lincoln Road, Q Street, and North Capitol Street
- Curb extensions at the intersection of North Capitol Street and local streets, including P, Bates, Randolph, S, Seaton, T, U, V, W, Adams, Bryant, and Channing Streets
- And more

With the death toll climbing on this street, the pace at which these improvements are being implemented is far too slow. When Ruby Whitfield was killed on Florida Avenue NE in March 2013, DDOT launched an effort to redesign that facility; last year, DDOT installed interim improvements when Dave Salovesh was killed on that same corridor in April. We believe there is an equivalent if not greater imperative to implement emergency safety improvements on North Capitol Street given that five pedestrians have been killed on this corridor in under twelve months.

For that reason, we're asking your office to take immediate action to implement all of the recommended short-term fixes in the studies and jumpstart the long-term ones.

We can't afford to watch another person die in our neighborhoods because we waited to act.

Sincerely,

ANC 6E

ANC 6C

ANC 5E09 Commissioner Dianne Barnes
The NoMa Business Improvement District
North Capitol Main Streets

The Eckington Civic Association

NoMa/H Street Civic Association

Hanover Area Civic Association

Bates Area Civic Association

Safe Streets for Hill East and Near Northeast

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

The John and Jill Ker Conway Residence Peer Leadership Group

PADRES, the parent association of Mundo Verde Public Charter School, Cook Campus at 30 P Street NW, serving more than 400 families.

Langley Elementary Parent Teacher Student Association

Ward 5 for All (60+ individual signers)

The Pub & The People

Republic Cantina

Domestique Wine

Uncle Chip's

7DrumCity

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CC:

Mayor Muriel Bowser

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D.C. Council Vice-Chairman and Ward 5

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

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D.C. Council Chair of the Committee on
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