

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



August 1, 2024

DC Department of Transportation
Project Delivery Administration
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Sent by email

RE: NOI 24-163-TESD Proposed Safety Improvements at Porter Street and 38th Street NW

Thank you for the Notification of Intent NOI 24-163-TESD dated June 24, 2024, sharing DDOT's proposals for reconfiguring the intersection at Porter Street and 38th Street NW from a two-directional Y intersection to a one-directional roundabout, and asking for comments by August 6, 2024. Pedestrian safety at that intersection had been the subject of 311 requests for a Traffic Safety Investigation and earlier this year the location was selected by DDOT as part of its TSI 2.0 quarterly prioritization system.

ANC 3A appreciates DDOT's attention to safety concerns in our Commission area. We also appreciate the participation of Christian Piñero, Supervisory Community Engagement Specialist, in our July 16 regular public meeting where NOI 24-163-TESD was on the agenda for discussion. We are also grateful for the participation of DDOT representatives Christian Piñero, William Capers, and Adolfo Nino in our Special Public Meeting on July 31, which was called to allow the Commissioners to adopt a formal position on the case. We had asked for an extension of the due date for comments in order to allow time for DDOT to provide additional information and respond to questions from the Commissioners and constituents at the July 16 meeting. DDOT provided a series of updated diagrams and descriptions of the planned improvements, between July 23 and July 31, but denied the request for an extension of the due date for comments.

We understand that crosswalks are required on all approaching streets at intersections, and no on-street parking is allowed within an intersection or roundabout, or within 25 feet of a crosswalk. Though the NOI did not include an estimate of the number of parking spaces requiring removal, DDOT later communicated that about 19 parking spaces would have to be removed to provide the required sight distance and meet the parking regulations. At the July 31, 2024, meeting, DDOT representatives indicated that the estimate of 19 would be the maximum number of parking spaces to be removed, and the number could be as little as 16 parking spaces. Many residents raised concerns about the potential impact on parking. The ANC stated that it has and will continue to work with the community to address concerns about the availability of parking in the area.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2024) www.anc3a.org

3A01	3A02	3A03	3A04	3A05
Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis	Vacant	Vacant	Jeremy Del Moral	Ann Lane Mladinov

DDOT's Notification of Intent identified the intersection of Porter Street NW and 38th Street NW as a high-risk intersection, though the staff was not able to provide the ANC with data on recent crashes or injuries at that location within the time available for the Commission to approve its comments. At the July 16 meeting, DDOT provided a brief description of the potential reconfiguration of the intersection, indicating that all current flex posts would be removed and DDOT would use both diagonal painting along curbsides and some hardening around the center landscaping feature and the pedestrian islands on each approaching street. Subsequent updated diagrams and messages included some clarifications and corrections. At the July 31 meeting, DDOT shared a photo of armadillos proposed around the center and in the widest portion of the islands, described the new design of crosswalks stretching straight across each approaching street, and also discussed locating pedestrian pylons at the leading end of each pedestrian island. The DDOT representatives also committed that the agency would continue monitoring the performance of the intersection after completion of the proposed reconfiguration and propose additional changes if needed to assure safety. They said that DDOT's goal is eventually to provide hardened infrastructure at intersections of this type, though the community should not expect that to occur any time soon at this location.

After the DDOT presentation and questions from the Commissioners and residents who live near the intersection of Porter Street and 38th Street, the Commission adopted a motion to vote on a position on the NOI. The Commission voted 3-0 to send a letter supporting the redesign of the intersection to improve traffic safety, and also to express the ANC's concerns with the way DDOT handled this specific project and other TSI requests in the area. We intend to provide more detailed comments on our concerns to the Director and other DDOT officials as a separate communication.

Again, on behalf of ANC 3A, thank you for your attention to traffic safety and your willingness to take questions and comments from the ANC and the community on this matter. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis
Chair

3A01@anc.dc.gov
202-594-8631 mobile

cc. Christian Piñeiro
William Capers III
Adolfo Nino