

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



RESOLUTION RE DDOT NOI # 23-231-PSD FOR INSTALLATION OF AN ON-STREET MICROMOBILITY CORRAL IN 3700 BLOCK OF FULTON STREET WEST OF WISCONSIN

Safe access to transportation services by a wide range of modes of transportation is important to residents and visitors throughout the neighborhood and the District as a whole. Transportation safety continues to be the top priority for the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) and is also a priority for the ANC and its constituents.

The Commission supports improved facilities for micromobility to avert conflicts between scooters or other micromobility devices and pedestrians, motor vehicles or other modes of transportation. We encourage those using micromobility devices not to leave the vehicles on the streets or sidewalks where they could impede people's access and create safety hazards.

We do not oppose per se the location of a scooter corral or micromobility corral near the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Fulton Street. It is important for residents to be able to park micromobility devices safely and securely, somewhere other than on the sidewalks.

Under current conditions, however, the location proposed for a micromobility corral in the first RRP parking space on the south side of Fulton Street west of Wisconsin Avenue poses a number of safety problems for people walking, bicycling, driving, or using scooters and other micromobility devices in and around that block.

The sketch in the NOI shows that the flexposts surrounding the proposed "corral" would extend into Fulton Street beyond the width of a standard automobile parked in the current parking space in that location, by at least a few inches. As ANC 3A highlighted in our June 20, 2023, letter to DDOT about a scooter corral on that block, with parking on both sides of Fulton Street, the roadway is already so narrow that even though it is intended to be a two-lane street, it is difficult and often impossible to accommodate two-way vehicle traffic when an eastbound and westbound vehicle are attempting to move through that part of the block at the same time.

When vehicles are entering westbound Fulton from Wisconsin Avenue, they often have to come to a halt in order to allow a vehicle to pass in the opposite direction. This causes vehicles to back up into Wisconsin Avenue, blocking the crosswalk at Fulton and Wisconsin, and creating safety hazards for motorists as well as pedestrians and people using scooters and bicycles and other micromobility devices on both streets. That situation would be aggravated if there is any further narrowing of the roadway there.

The ANC also urges DDOT not to install flexposts in the curbside lane on the south side of Fulton Street between the proposed location of the micromobility corral and the intersection with Wisconsin Avenue (the area where the original scooter corral was installed in April 2023). That would also further narrow the roadway, and reduce the small amount of space at that intersection that is currently available for eastbound vehicles to pull to the side to make room for westbound vehicles trying to enter Fulton Street west of Wisconsin. Blocking that space would make it more difficult for vehicles to safely move into and out of that block of Fulton Street without creating back-ups onto Wisconsin Avenue and additional safety hazards for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and others at that location.

We are pleased to see DDOT acting on its priority emphasis on safety, and responding to requests for safety improvements in our area. ANC 3A residents have requested Traffic Safety Investigations in many parts of the Commission area and are awaiting action on those requests. DDOT has not yet chosen to pursue the TSI request that was submitted for removal of parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street directly west of Wisconsin, but we hope it will do so in the near future. It would not make sense for DDOT to be able to proceed expeditiously with an NOI to remove parking spaces for micromobility corrals but not be able to proceed with an NOI to remove parking spaces to improve safety.

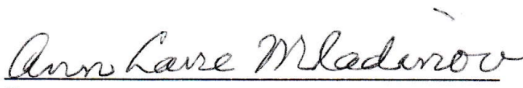
What we advise that DDOT should do is to review the traffic safety considerations holistically in that block of Fulton and assess the need for additional safety improvements, as part of the process of reviewing the request for a micromobility corral. In its review, DDOT should give careful consideration to the option of removing 3 to 5 parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street just west of Wisconsin Avenue, as residents requested to improve safety when DDOT was installing the traffic signal at Fulton and Wisconsin in 2021. That change would allow more space in the roadway for motor vehicles to safely enter Fulton from Wisconsin and avoid creating additional hazards for pedestrians and others at that intersection. The ANC strongly recommends that DDOT prioritize that investigation, and follow up with an NOI for changes needed to improve overall traffic safety there, before installing a micromobility corral on the south side of Fulton Street as proposed, in the first parking space west of Wisconsin Avenue.

If DDOT agrees to remove parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street west of Wisconsin, as requested, we believe that would considerably reduce the safety hazards in that block and would also reduce the incidence of double parking by delivery vehicles in the curb lane of Fulton Street directly adjacent to Wisconsin on the north side of Fulton, next to 2800 Wisconsin.

If DDOT investigates that intersection and identifies continuing challenges with illegal parking, it could potentially be possible to install signs identifying a curbside space for delivery vehicles only during the busy daytime hours, such as next to the apartment/condo buildings on Wisconsin Avenue – similar to the signs DDOT has installed in front of the Colonnade at 2801 New Mexico Avenue NW – as a way to avoid illegal parking of delivery vehicles in the adjoining portions of Fulton Street.

We urge DDOT to pursue a full Traffic Safety Investigation and explore the best options for dealing with the current safety challenges on the 3700 block of Fulton Street west of Wisconsin, and then determine if a micromobility corral could safely be installed, along with removal of parking spaces on the north side of Fulton Street and any other changes in the parking or roadway configuration to improve safety at that location.


Chair


Secretary

The Commission approved this resolution by a vote of **5 – 0** at a duly noticed public meeting on November 14, 2023, at which a quorum was present. By the same vote, the Commission voted to designate the Chair or the Commissioner of ANC3A05 to represent the Commission on this matter.