

March 11, 2021

Mr. Everett Lott  
Interim Director  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Interim Director Lott:

As residents, elected officials, and community leaders who live, work, commute, and recreate in Ward 5, we write to ask your agency to swiftly implement desperately-needed traffic safety improvements along the Michigan Avenue corridor in Northeast D.C.

As you may know, on March 1, 2021, District resident Armando Martinez-Ramos was killed after he was struck by a shuttle bus at the intersection of Michigan Avenue NE and 10th Street NE. Mr. Martinez-Ramos was riding his bicycle in the crosswalk at the time of the crash. He leaves behind a wife and four children.

Mr. Martinez-Ramos's death has renewed longstanding concerns regarding traffic safety along the entire Michigan Avenue corridor in Northeast D.C., which is besieged by dangerous driving, poor pedestrian and cyclist visibility, long pedestrian crossing distances, short signal timing, and other features that make this roadway dangerous for all users, particularly those using more vulnerable modes of transportation. Although DDOT has acknowledged these problems over the years, it has failed to devote adequate resources and attention to them, leaving residents and commuters unnecessarily susceptible to harm.

Our community deserves better. DDOT must implement traffic safety improvements not only in response to last week's tragic crash, but to prevent the *next* one from happening, too.

As your agency reported in its 2016 Brookland-Edgewood Livability Study,<sup>1</sup> the Michigan Avenue corridor had the highest rate of collisions among all roadways within the subject area between 2012-2014. Since that study was published, DDOT has done very little to mitigate these problems, and the data shows: between January 2015 and February 2021, at least 374 reported traffic crashes occurred between the unit block of Michigan Avenue NE and the 1900 block of Michigan Avenue NE.<sup>2</sup> After nearly ten years, Michigan Avenue NE continues to hold the dubious distinction of being among the most dangerous roadways in the area.

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<sup>1</sup> District Dept. of Transportation, *Brookland-Edgewood Livability Study* 4-13 (2016), available at <https://www.scribd.com/document/328013734/2016-Brookland-Edgewood-Livability-Study-Full-Report>.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Eichler, D.C. Crashes by Block 2010 to 2021, available at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/michael.eichler#!/vizhome/DCCrashes2010to2021/CrashesbyANCBLOCK?publish=yes> (figures were compiled by tabulating the number of reported crashes from 2015 to present from the unit block of Michigan Avenue NE through the 1900 block of Michigan Avenue NE; data is derived from <https://opendata.dc.gov>).

Likewise, following extensive public input from residents several years ago, DDOT acknowledged the need for improved pedestrian visibility, signal timing, and bicycle facilities along this corridor in both its Brookland-Edgewood Livability Study and Crosstown Multimodal Transportation Study.<sup>3</sup> Just as DDOT has failed to address dangerous roadway features that contribute to Michigan Avenue's high-crash status, it has also failed to address these deficits in pedestrian and cyclist safety. As a result, outdated infrastructure continues to impede safe passage for these roadway users along the Michigan Avenue corridor.

Ward 5 residents have been consistent in advocating for traffic safety improvements on Michigan Avenue over the years, and we remain united in this effort. We call upon you to swiftly prioritize infrastructure improvements along the Michigan Avenue corridor that will allow for the safe transit of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Please let us know your plan to timely address these known and outstanding safety concerns. Please direct your reply to Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Colleen Costello via email at [5b05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:5b05@anc.dc.gov).

Sincerely,

Colleen Costello, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5B05)  
Gayle E. Carley, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5B01)  
Ursula Higgins, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5B02)  
Prita Piekara, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5B03)  
Ra Amin, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5B04)  
Michael Braeuninger, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5E01)  
Dianne Barnes, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5E09)  
Erin Palmer, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (4B02)  
Evan Yeats, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (4B01)  
Keya Chatterjee, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (6A01)  
Robb Dooling, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (6A06)  
Michael Eichler, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (6E01)  
Alex Lopez, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (6E02)  
Edward Garnett, Former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (5E01)

Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Representative and President, DC State Board of Education

Rachel Maisler, Chair/Ward 4 Representative, DC Bicycle Advisory Council  
Parrize F. Butler, Ward 5 Representative, DC Bicycle Advisory Council  
Anica Allen, At-Large, DC Bicycle Advisory Council  
Anders Pedersen, At-Large, DC Bicycle Advisory Council  
Max Richman, Ward 7, Bicycle Advisory Council

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<sup>3</sup> District Dept. of Transportation, *Crosstown Multimodal Transportation Study* (Oct. 2016), available at <https://dccrosstownstudy-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/89c7024ed1e24780bc1fa2707e3c9bfe>.

J. I. Swiderski, Ward 1 Representative, DC Pedestrian Advisory Council  
Jim Elliott, At-Large Member and Co-Chair, DC Pedestrian Advisory Council  
Eileen McCarthy, Ward 3, DC Pedestrian Advisory Council (joining in individual capacity)

Daniel Schramm, President, Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association  
Kathy Jacquart, Vice President, Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association  
Fred Jackson, At-large Officer, Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association  
Conor Shaw, President, Eckington Civic Association  
Ralph Bucksell, President, Michigan Park Citizens Association  
Roxanne Carter, Vice President, Michigan Park Citizens Association  
Doris J. Newton, President, Stronghold Civic Association

Jeremiah Lowery, Advocacy Director, Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Anne P. Brown  
Steven Cook  
Mary E. Kenel  
Sean Sullivan, Ward 5 Democrats  
Edward Borrego  
Shonda Northam  
Neena Sachdev  
Ruqiyah Anbar-Shaheen  
Andrew J. Tabler  
Ellen Nelson  
Jennifer Holmes  
Barbara Uhler  
Christopher Mrstik  
David Ben  
Geoff Moody  
Beth Ludwick  
Sarah Coltenburke  
Matthew Sampson  
Michael J. Dill  
Elizabeth Elfman  
John Neville  
Steven Couper  
Jessica Mailander  
Brian M. Stanford  
Kaycee Sullivan  
Anthony Enderby  
Peyton Jane Gibson  
Cory M Guillory  
Andrew El-Kadi  
David Kaib  
Paul Syers  
Sara Wilkinson

Diane Russell, President, SocioEcological  
Strategies, Inc./Brookland resident  
Lesley Jantarasami  
Guy Brandenburg  
Jamie Buss  
Laurie Sherman  
Eileen J. Findlay  
Katrin Sweeney  
Lia Gillus  
Josh Burch  
Danielle Taylor  
Erik Salmi  
Stephen Farole  
Saundra Bishop, BASICS ABA Therapy  
Matt Haggerty  
Henry Coppola  
LaShada Ham-Campbell, Petit Scholars  
Vijay Kapur  
Ross White  
Martin Noyd  
Keegan Bursaw  
Elizabeth Striebel  
Cooper Martin  
Carmen Garzone  
Chaia Odoms Morgan  
Cynthia Kane  
McKenzie Haynes  
Mara Lee  
Kyler Turner  
Grace Ha  
Abraham Oonnoony  
Chad Bierman

Katie Morgan  
Brian Graham  
James Hobbs  
Olga M. Cano  
Eli Glazier  
Brigid Cafferty  
Melissa Davis  
Velga Brolis  
Imants Brolis  
Garrett Hennigan  
Dan Behrend  
Boaz Engle  
Joelle Purdy  
Jeanne Kaplan  
Geetha Ingram  
Emily Blank  
Shebbie Robinson Rice  
Shireen Shakouri  
Gordon Chaffin  
Joseph Miller, Brookland Neighborhood Civic  
Association  
Richard Stirba  
Alexandra Wisbiski  
Christie Poimboeuf  
Rebecca Vernon  
Angela Taft  
Katherine Newell  
Erik F. Mendoza-Wilkenfeld  
Jason Wright  
Carrie Hubbell Melgarejo  
Halima Woodhead

Faith Macpherson  
Olivia DiBiase  
Stephanie Stevens  
Ejonta Pashaj  
Jess Carlin  
Renzo Carlin  
Bridget Reavis-Tyler  
John Pfeiffer  
Daniel Goldon Wolkoff (Save McMillan  
Park)  
Pamela Urquhart  
Lavinia Wohlfarth, President, Brookland  
Community Development Corporation  
Jacob Mason  
Cheryl Fish-Parcham  
Johanna Fabian-Marks  
Sarah Marcus  
James Bickford  
Evelyn Fraser, Academic Coaching DC  
Christine Szathmary  
Nicole Fitzgerald  
Tim Fitzgerald  
Laura Worby  
Nancy Khan  
Elliot Seibert  
Mary Jo Hogan  
Jeff Wetzell  
Jaryd Bern  
James Duane  
Christina Korin  
Maya Brennan