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Implement a speed camera for the 2000 block of Park Road NW

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Metropolitan Police Department to implement a speed camera for the 2000 block of Park Road NW.

Why: In May, 2009, this Commission, by unanimous vote, advised the MPD to implement speed cameras for the 1800 and 2000 blocks of Park Road. Six and a half years on, there is no indication of any effort by the MPD to bring about either camera. This is despite an explicit promise by the MPD in February, 2014, to me and to the Ward One Councilmember, that there would be a speed camera specifically for the 2000 block.

Lately the failure to provide the speed camera has been based on the fact that the 2013 DDOT speed camera "safety nexus" study did not include the 2000 block. But that study did evaluate the 1800 and 1900 blocks, and concluded that "the specific site characteristics, the proximity of schools to the site, and other pedestrian generators" did provide the necessary "nexus between traffic safety and the speed camera" on those blocks. Much of the analysis of the 1800-1900 blocks is equally applicable to the 2000 block; of the five characteristics listed in the "Field Assessment", four are as valid for the 2000 block as for the 1800-1900 blocks.

Furthermore, traffic speeds are higher in the 2000 block than in the 1800-1900 blocks. Park Road is wider in the 2000 block than in the 1800 and 1900 blocks, and drivers tend to speed up if only because there is open road ahead, beyond the residences. Measurements yield a mean speed of 33 mph on this block; compare the DDOT mean speeds of 21 mph eastbound, 29 mph westbound on the 1800-1900 blocks. Clearly the speeding problem is much more severe on the 2000 block than on the 1800-1900 blocks.

Furthermore, the absence of sidewalks for much of the 2000 block of Park Road causes residents to walk in the street far more than is necessary in the 1800 and 1900 blocks. There is simply no doubt that the DDOT "safety nexus" study would, upon an evaluation of the 2000 block of Park Road, determine that a speed camera is appropriate for this location.

DDOT has done what it could to provide "calming" of traffic, but there are few allowable means, because this road is designated a "minor arterial", and measures such as speed humps are not permitted. DDOT has proposed a road-narrowing concept, but that would significantly compromise the safety of persons accessing or exiting their parked cars, and would yield only a small reduction in speed, perhaps 2 mph. Only the speed camera has the potential of reducing traffic speeds adequately, without compromising the safety of residents on foot at their parked cars.

A location has already been designated where a speed camera could be positioned for a clear view of traffic on the 2000 block of Park Road, in both directions, with no trees or structures obscuring the view. ANC1D asks the MPD to proceed with a speed camera at this location forthwith.

Passed by 5 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on October 20, 2015, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Hoey, McKay, Agbro, Griffiths, Rivas. A quorum for this commission is three; five commissioners were present.