



May 22, 2024

District Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering and Safety Division
250 M Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

RE: Installation of New High intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK) signal at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Quincy Street, N.E. – NOI-24-84-TESD

To Whom It May Concern:

The District Department of Transportation is soliciting comments on its intent to install a new HAWK signal at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Quincy Street, N.E. in Brookland. We are writing on behalf of the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association to express support for this proposal.

A HAWK signal is a signal-beacon designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy streets. Pedestrians wishing to cross, push a button which triggers a traffic light to flash then change red directing cars to slow down and stop to allow pedestrians to safely cross. DDOT is focusing its HAWK installations on un-signalized crosswalks on high-volume roadways.

BNCA believes that the intersection of Michigan & Quincy NE is a dangerous one for pedestrians and meets DDOT's criteria for installation of a HAWK signal. Michigan Avenue is a high-volume, often high-speed, roadway. The intersection at Quincy Street is un-signalized, yet pedestrians regularly use it to access the Brookland Middle School, the tennis courts, Turkey Thicket Recreation Center and adjacent playing fields, walking track, playground, and community garden. The fact that a DDOT crossing guard is positioned at this intersection on school days – often venturing into the middle of the road to stop traffic – underscores the importance of the intersection as a crossing point. DDOT's 2015 Brookland-Edgewood Livability Study of safety and access issues affecting multi-modal users identified significant community safety concerns associated with this intersection. The Study also found that existing Levels of Service (LOS) for vehicular traffic at this intersection are poor and contribute to pedestrian crossing challenges there. (LOS is a measure of the average delay experienced by motorists arriving at an intersection.) BNCA believes these conditions warrant the placement of a HAWK signal at the Michigan & Quincy NE intersection and we urge DDOT to deploy this important safety treatment there swiftly.

Insofar as many motorists and pedestrians may be unfamiliar with the HAWK signal technology, we believe it would be beneficial for DDOT to conduct a public awareness campaign

about the HAWK technology, how it works for pedestrians wishing to cross, and what District law requires of motorists when they see an activated HAWK signal and pedestrians at the crosswalk. At a minimum, we suggest outreach to area civic associations and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions as well as educational outreach to students at the Brookland Middle School. We also suggest that DDOT distribute and post flyers or brochures at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center and in the vicinity of the Michigan & Quincy intersection. BNCA is willing to help with this educational effort and is happy to work with DDOT to schedule presentation time at one or more of our monthly member meetings.

Thank you for DDOT's efforts to enhance pedestrian safety in Brookland and elsewhere throughout the city. We appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

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cc. Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker
ANC 5B Chair Prita Piekara