



**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G**

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne  
5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W. P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015  
3G@anc.dc.gov | <http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G | Office: 202.363.5803

**COMMISSIONERS**

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair      3/4G-02 - John Higgins, Treasurer  
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Vice Chair      3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin      3/4G-05 - Connie K. N. Chang  
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Secretary      3/4G-07 - Charles Cadwell

---

**ANC 3/4G Resolution**  
**Concerning Pedestrian Crosswalks at**  
**Chevy Chase Circle**  
**July 25, 2022**

**RATIONALE:**

- 1) The Chevy Chase Circle and Fountain are the visual center of the neighborhood and a key link between Chevy Chase DC and Chevy Chase, Maryland;
- 2) ANC 3/4G has a long involvement with the Circle and Fountain, including convening meetings of interested groups and government agencies, supporting the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle (FoCC) with grants and seeking the removal of Francis Newlands' name from the site;
- 3) The site, a National Park, is in the midst of a major renovation and upgrade that includes the rebuilding of the Fountain, installation of

lighting and new planting. It is expected that most work will be completed by the spring of 2023;

- 4) FoCCC believes that when the work is complete and the Fountain is turned on for the 2023 season, the site will attract new public attention and a desire on the part of many residents and others to visit the Circle;
- 5) As matters now stand, there are not adequately safe means for pedestrians to reach the Circle. The two painted crosswalks at the southeast and southwest sides of the Circle require the crossing of three traffic lanes where drivers and pedestrians have relatively limited sight lines;
- 6) A 2018 study by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) concluded that new crosswalks from the triangular “traffic splitters” in the middle of Connecticut Avenue to the north and south of the Circle would improve the safety of pedestrians seeking to reach the Circle by reducing the number of lanes they have to cross and improving sight lines so pedestrians and drivers are more likely to be able to see each other and thus avoid contact;
- 7) The study concluded that traffic signals either on Connecticut and Western Avenues approaching the Circle or at the Circle itself also would substantially improve pedestrian safety;
- 8) However, officials with DDOT and the Maryland Highway Administration (MHA) told the Commission at its July 11, 2022 meeting that installation of signals and other reconfiguring of the Circle is a long-term proposition and cannot be completed by the spring of 2023, when an increase in pedestrians seeking to reach the Circle is expected;
- 9) Installation of crosswalks at the traffic splitters does not preclude later installation of traffic signals;
- 10) Making changes at the Circle requires the agreement of multiple stakeholders including, among others, the National Park Service (NPS), DDOT, MHA, and FoCCC, and therefore can be time-consuming;

## **THEREFORE:**

- 11) The Commission agrees with FoCCC's assessment that the renovation and upgrade of the Circle will attract more pedestrians, starting in the spring of 2023;
- 12) The Commission believes that the 2018 DDOT study properly assesses where new pedestrian crosswalks should be located;
- 13) The Commission believes that crosswalks at these locations are the most easily implemented safety measures available;
- 14) The Commission strongly encourages the principal parties -- NPS, DDOT and MHA -- to work collaboratively and expeditiously with FoCCC to refine proposals for crosswalks at the suggested locations and get them installed by the spring of 2023;
- 15) The Commission does not believe the crosswalks are the only new safety measures that are needed;
- 16) In conjunction with the crosswalks' expeditious installation, the Commission asks that the parties and FoCCC examine whether existing traffic lights in the immediate vicinity -- those on Connecticut Avenue as it approaches the Circle from the south and those on Western Avenue as it approaches from the west -- should be synchronized in order to reduce traffic flow and improve conditions for pedestrians to cross to the Circle;
- 17) In addition, the Commission asks that the parties and FoCCC study whether new traffic lights are needed at Western Avenue as it approaches the Circle from the east and on Connecticut Avenue as it approaches the Circle from the north.
- 18) The Commission offers its good offices to convene additional meetings of stakeholders, if necessary, to get the crosswalks in place quickly and take additional steps, if necessary, in order to ensure public safety.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) of seven (7) members was present on July 25, 2022, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.



---

Lisa R. Gore, Chair



---

Peter Gosselin, Secretary