



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-22-1009

**Calling for Maintenance & Hardening of Traffic Safety Improvements to Intersection
at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street & 8th Street, NW (formerly NOI #21-6-TOA)
Adopted October 24, 2022**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B takes note of the following:

- On March 22, 2021, the Commission unanimously adopted [Resolution 4B-21-0303](#), Supporting Proposed Improvements to Intersection of Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW (NOI #21-6-TOA), proposed by Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02. The Resolution supported proposed traffic safety improvements, including:
 - installation of flexible delineator posts and painting the median area along Piney Branch Road, NW, at this intersection, which closed the median and prohibit left turns onto and from Piney Branch Road, NW, and through movement along Whittier Street, NW, across Piney Branch Road, NW;
 - installation of painted bicycle lane extensions through the intersection along Piney Branch Road, NW (northbound and southbound);
 - refurbishment of 20-foot double yellow centerlines on the northbound approach along 8th Street, NW;
 - installation of 20-foot double yellow centerlines on the westbound approach along Whittier Street, NW, and the eastbound approach of Whittier Place, NW;
 - installation of gore areas (painted boundaries) along the east and west curbs of Piney Branch Road, NW, to reinforce the parking restriction within 25 feet of a crosswalk; and
 - installation of flexible delineator posts and a gore area (painted boundary) along the east curb of Piney Branch Road, NW, and Whittier Street, NW, and 8th Street, NW, which would close off access to Piney Branch Road, NW, from Whittier Street, NW, and 8th Street, NW, and reduce the crossing distance and pedestrian conflict with

turning vehicles while crossing the north and south sides of the intersection.

- As noted in the Resolution, feedback in response to the proposed traffic safety improvements – both via Commissioner Palmer’s Single Member District meeting and separate communications to Commissioner Palmer – was overwhelmingly positive, particularly from neighbors who live directly at or in the immediate vicinity of the intersection. The vast majority of neighbors who contacted Commissioner Palmer expressed support for the proposals.
- The District Department of Transportation’s installation of these traffic safety improvements took place in August 2021. Problems arose almost immediately due to piecemeal implementation and inadequate signage, including drivers failing to abide by the changes and continuing to make the same maneuvers.
- Specifically, residents highlighted drivers making u-turns by driving across the east-west crosswalks at the newly enclosed median at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW (see attached email correspondence). Some residents reported drivers driving on the sidewalks, as well.
- In response to numerous resident and Commissioner requests, the District Department of Transportation subsequently installed flexposts in both crosswalks to narrow the gap. At some point those flexposts were either removed or damaged, and the problem persists (see attached email correspondence). Photographs are attached to this Resolution showing the self-help measures neighbors have taken by placing cones in the crosswalks to ensure they can cross the street safely.
- Residents and Commissioner Palmer have continued to submit multiple requests for improvements to address the issue of drivers making u-turns by driving across the east-west crosswalks at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW. See, e.g., [Service Request Number 22-00475869](#) (Oct. 2, 2022); [Service Request Number 22-004001057](#) (August 22, 2022) (record of request not found in 311 system despite acknowledgment).
- The traffic safety infrastructure at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW, continues to be piecemeal and inadequate. The Commission seeks measures to make these changes more permanent, including consideration of a proposal similar to the proposal for West Virginia Avenue, NE, between L Street, NE, and 9th Street, NE (see attached image), which would both provide additional green space and a bicycle connector. The Commission has a strong preference for stormwater infrastructure for such green space.

- While the Commission understands that hardening of the traffic safety infrastructure at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW – either through stormwater infrastructure, grass, or planters – requires additional consideration because of the 8th Street Neighborhood Bikeway, the Commission is confident hardening can take place in conjunction with the Bikeway.
- Should the District Department of Transportation truly face insurmountable challenges to hardening of the traffic safety infrastructure at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW, the Commission believes there are other mechanisms that might assist, including Arts in the Right-of-Way for the gore area at the eastern side of the traffic safety improvements at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW.

RESOLVED:

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to immediately install flexposts in the east-west crosswalks at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW, to prevent drivers from using the crosswalks to traverse the closed-off median.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to harden the traffic safety improvements at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW, as soon as possible and to engage with the Commission regarding its plan and timeline for such hardening.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Branch to finalize plans for the 8th Street Neighborhood Bikeway for the area (if they have not already done so) and work in consideration of the community's interest in hardening the traffic safety infrastructure at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW. The Commission calls on the District Department of Transportation to communicate openly and transparently to achieve these ends.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to work with the Commission to implement Arts in the Right-of-Way for the gore area at the eastern side of the traffic safety improvements at Piney Branch Road, Whittier Street, and 8th Street, NW, if hardening is not feasible or would take more than one year to plan and implement.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of X members was present) on October 24, 2022, by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstentions.