

Rhode Island Avenue & North Capitol Street Pedestrian Safety Proposal

Let's Fix it Together

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Rhode Island Avenue & North Capitol Street

Pedestrian Safety Proposal

Background

The intersection at Rhode Island Avenue and North Capitol Street is extra-large and unconventional. It spans the entire bridge of the North Capitol Street overpass. This intersection is heavily traveled locally and by commuters, many traveling at excessive speeds down Rhode Island Avenue and North Capitol Streets. This intersection is extremely confusing for drivers, which makes it very dangerous, especially for pedestrians. Traffic calming measures are essential at this major intersection.

This intersection is used heavily by pedestrians as it connects the three densely residential neighborhoods of Bloomindale, Eckington, and Edgewood. Pedestrians are traveling to the commercial strip on Rhode Island Avenue, students are traveling to schools in these neighborhoods, and families are traveling to neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

However, vehicles do not perceive this intersection as heavily pedestrian because they are just exiting thoroughfares where they are often traveling at excessive speeds and it is not clear that they have just entered a residential neighborhood with many pedestrians. This intersection is dangerous to pedestrians and action is needed to prevent tragedy and loss of life.

Major Dangers at this intersection

1. Pedestrian visibility

It is unclear that this intersections heavily used by pedestrians. Add enhanced crosswalks and street markings to make this clear.

2. Turning from North Capitol Street

It is very unclear from south or northbound N Cap that when a vehicle turns onto RI Ave, they need to stop almost immediately once they cross the overpass. The other direction of N Cap has a green light. Car run this light daily and there are accidents here weekly. It is extremely dangerous for pedestrians when they have the right of way to walk, but cars run this red light. There is no overhead traffic light and one needs to be added.

3. Turning from Rhode Island Avenue

Northbound turns from RI Ave to N. Cap are extremely dangerous and uncontrolled. Cars turning northbound are only looking at oncoming RI Ave vehicle traffic. They rush to make the turn without looking for pedestrians. Compounding this is that turning vehicles are four lanes away from the pedestrians who have the right of way. This long distance makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians and pedestrians to see cars. Pedestrians are almost hit daily and it is only a matter of time before there is a tragedy at this intersection.

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1. Add **Barnes Dance timing** for lights/crosswalk lights (protected pedestrian signal phase; pedestrian scramble) to give pedestrians time to cross while all traffic has red lights. Timing should be triggered by a button at each corner so that the pedestrian signal phase would only be triggered if there are pedestrians present.
2. Add a **high visibility traffic light** for Rhode Island Avenue eastbound. The current lights are on the sides of the road and are not working/sufficient. Raise and extend the light to the center of the road and fix coloring so that it is visible.
3. Add **brightly colored, enhanced crosswalks** to all pedestrian areas at this crosswalk
4. Add **turning lane, traffic light arrow, and marking for left turn** from eastbound Rhode Island Avenue to northbound North Capitol Street (similar to westbound/southbound turn). Add red arrows for north and southbound turns off RI Ave and only allow turns on the green arrow. Add appropriate signage.
5. Add **signage and road painting** to make it more clear to motorists that they need to stop if they turn from North Capitol Street onto Rhode Island Avenue
6. Add **No Turn On Red** signs to north and southbound North Capitol Street and both directions of Rhode Island Avenue.
7. Add **road painting to clearly mark no parking** within appropriate distance of the intersection.
8. Add **red light cameras** for running red lights and illegal turning on red
9. Add **speed camera** on Rhode Island Avenue – both directions – prioritize westbound
10. Add **fence** along walking path on overpass to protect pedestrians

Rhode Island Avenue & North Capitol Street Pedestrian Safety Proposal - Examples

- 1. Turning from RI Ave – 4 lanes between pedestrians and turning vehicles:



- 2. No overhead traffic light for eastbound traffic:

