

January 10, 2022

Statement on Traffic to ANC 3/4G

My name is Tom Downs and I reside across from the field on Nebraska at 3035 Oliver St NW, where I have lived since 1977. I am a supporter of the Friends of the Field and a long-time admirer of the ECC.

I would like to address concerns over traffic for this development.

Our concern has been to understand the traffic impacts of this project in the face of no data available to the neighborhood. Maret has submitted traffic data to the DDOT, but has not shared any of that data with us. We need to know the peak usage data for the fields, including the lease to others. We need to understand what amount of time will be built into the schedule to ensure that there will not be pile-ups of four teams, their staff and parents for the changeover at the fields. We have asked that Maret agree to at least 30 minutes between scheduled games. We need to know what Nebraska Ave traffic will look like after Oregon Ave is reopened. Before the pandemic and closing of Oregon Avenue, traffic from the Wise Road cut thru of Rock Creek Park gave us traffic count increases every year. It is likely that Nebraska Avenue will return to its status as an arterial after Oregon is reopened.

For years we have seen visible increases in both bike and pedestrian traffic on Nebraska. We want to know if this development will make that growth slow or end. Given that Nebraska will become the default parking street for the field, there has to be controls that would make crossing Nebraska safe for everyone at the field entrance.

Given that many teams will arrive by bus, there must be a plan for parking and staging buses, especially for any teams who lease the fields. If the ECC plans for a large day care program are realized, the traffic impact of that business would have to be taken into account.

Our concern and fear is that your recommendation to the BZA will be made before you have all of the data needed to make such a recommendation, or that the community will not have that information before you make your recommendation. Your role as an ANC is to make informed decisions for this community. You cannot make that recommendation without informed input from the community. If that is the case, you need to tell the BZA that you need more time to process meaningful community input.

Thank you for hearing us on this issue,

Tom Downs