



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004
202.724.8068

WENDELL FELDER
Ward 7 Councilmember

Chairperson
Subcommittee on Local Business
Development

October 20, 2026

Director Sharon Kershbaum
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Kershbaum,

Thank you for your continued work to improve transportation safety and serve communities across the District. I am writing to request information regarding the placement of Automated Safety Cameras (ASCs) throughout the District and how the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) incorporates equity considerations into its camera placement decisions.

I recognize that the ASC program is intended to promote safer roadways, reduce speeding, and prevent traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. However, the distribution of cameras across the District raises questions about how DDOT balances roadway safety priorities with equitable enforcement.

Currently, Wards 5 and 7 have the highest numbers of ASCs in the District, with 70 and 69 cameras, respectively. Each ward has more than twice the number of cameras as the next closest ward. Additionally, Ward 5 has approximately 0.429 ASCs per crash resulting in a fatality or major injury since 2024, while Ward 7 has approximately 0.408, the second- and third-highest ratios among the District's eight wards, respectively. These disparities warrant a better understanding of the criteria used to determine camera placement and whether the current distribution appropriately reflects roadway safety needs across the District.

To better understand DDOT's approach, please provide my office with responses to the following questions:

1. **Equity in Camera Placement:** How does DDOT operationalize equity when determining where to install ASCs? What specific equity measures or benchmarks does the agency use, and how are these factors weighed against crash history, speeding patterns, roadway characteristics, and other safety considerations when prioritizing locations?
2. **Geographic Distribution and Enforcement Impacts:** Does DDOT conduct periodic analyses to determine whether the distribution of ASCs and resulting citations disproportionately burdens particular wards or communities, including lower-income communities? If so, please describe the findings of these analyses and any steps the

agency has taken to address identified disparities. If not, does DDOT intend to establish such a review process?

3. **Program Effectiveness and Accountability:** How does DDOT evaluate whether the ASC program achieves its safety objectives equitably across all eight wards? Does the agency assess whether camera placement produces measurable improvements in speeding, fatalities, and serious injuries across different communities, and how do these findings inform decisions to retain, relocate, or add cameras?

I appreciate DDOT's commitment to roadway safety and recognize the importance of data-driven enforcement in protecting District residents. At the same time, it is essential that the ASC program operate transparently and that its placement methodology appropriately account for both safety needs and equitable outcomes across all eight wards.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to better understanding how DDOT ensures that the District's ASC program advances roadway safety in a fair, consistent, and equitable manner. If you have any questions, please contact my office at wfelder@dccouncil.gov or (202) 724-8068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendell Felder", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Wendell Felder
Ward 7 Councilmember