

Civic League of North Portal Estates Update

16th Street Circle Re-signalization Project

Remain vigilant!

Updated on November 19, 2020

On October 21, 2020, NBC News 4 televised this very telling two-minute report about our 16th Street “Circle of Death.”

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/transportation/confusing-16th-street-traffic-circle-gets-makeover/2450619/>

“The 16th Street traffic circle on the D.C.-Maryland line has a new look. Transportation reporter Adam Tuss takes us for a ride through.”



CIRCLE OF CONFUSION



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16th STREET TRAFFIC CIRCLE MAKEOVER

4:58 75°

WORKING
4
You

Twitter Facebook Instagram @NBCWASHINGTON



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16th Street Circle, NW

“Traffic Signalization & Safety Upgrade Project”

- **Purpose:**

- To improve multimodal safety and reduce conflicts between various vehicular and pedestrian movements by fully signalizing all crosswalks and approaches at the intersection.

- **Planned Improvements:**

- Provide traffic and pedestrian signalization for all approaches and crosswalks, including within the Maryland right-of-way.
- Realign all existing crosswalks and install an expanded pedestrian refuge/sidewalk between the 16th Street crosswalks on the south side to increase pedestrian visibility, shorten crossing distances, improve pedestrian mobility and protect pedestrians.
- Upgrade all facilities for ADA compliance.
- Install new upgraded signing and pavement markings.
- Revise signal timing and phasing.
- Upgrade all signal infrastructure and install LED streetlights.

- **Schedule:**

- January to October 2020.

Reference: DDOT project notice, January 2020

16th Street Circle, NW

CLNPE Concerns with DDOT's Plan

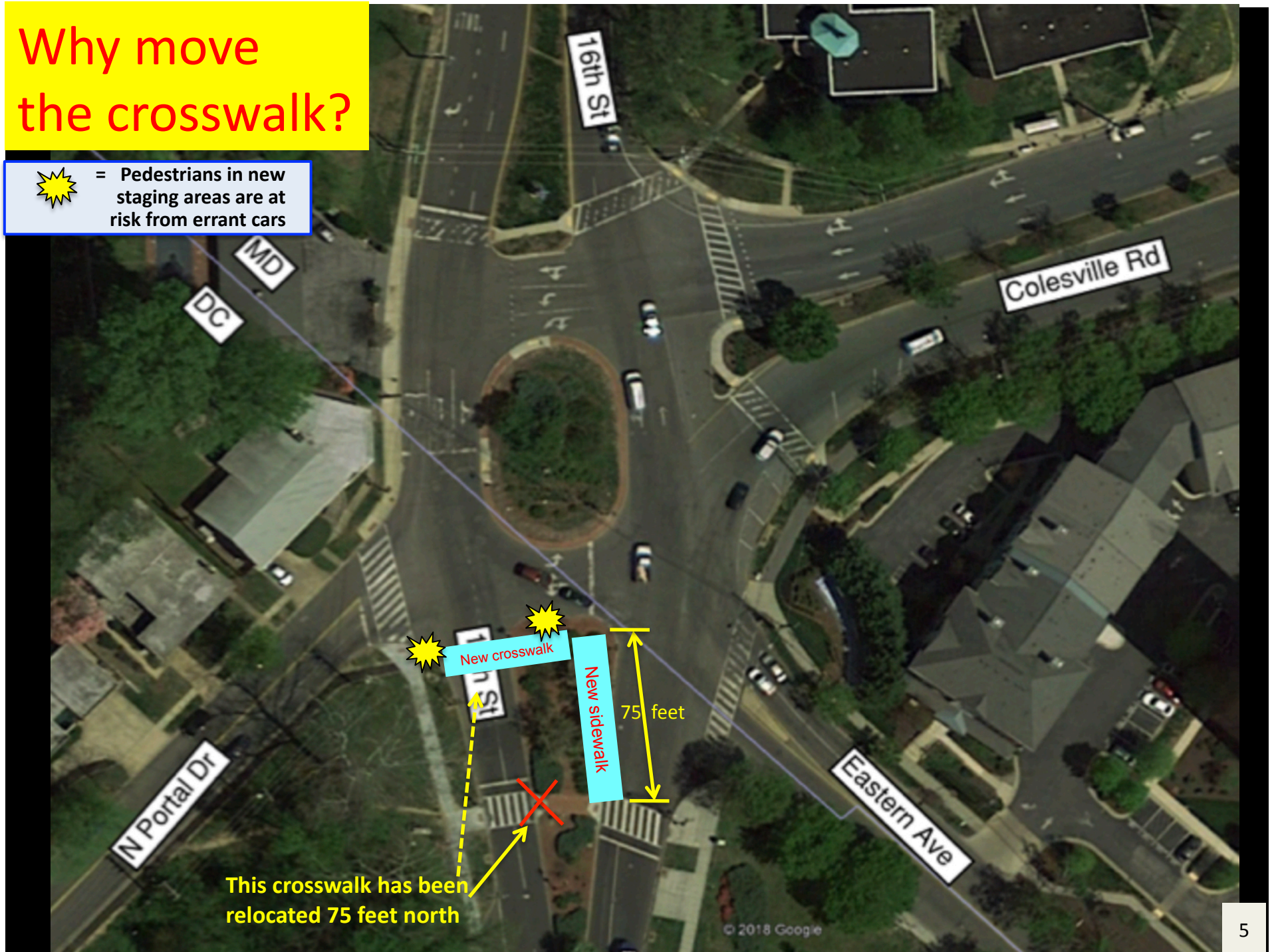
1. Pedestrian Safety
 - a. Crosswalk relocation (south side)
 - b. Access to and use of north side crosswalk
2. Vehicular Turning Movements and Travel
 - a. Traffic patterns entering and exiting Circle
 - b. Obstructed sight lines in Circle
 - c. Right turns at 16th St. and North Portal Dr.
3. Colesville Rd. Traffic Egress
 - a. No traffic controls
4. Vehicular Traffic Clearance at Intersections (“Do Not Block the Box”)
 - a. Northbound 16th St. between Eastern Ave. and Circle’s northern rim
 - b. Southbound 16th St. at Circle

Conveyed to DDOT November 20, 2019, both in writing and in on-site discussion

Why move the crosswalk?



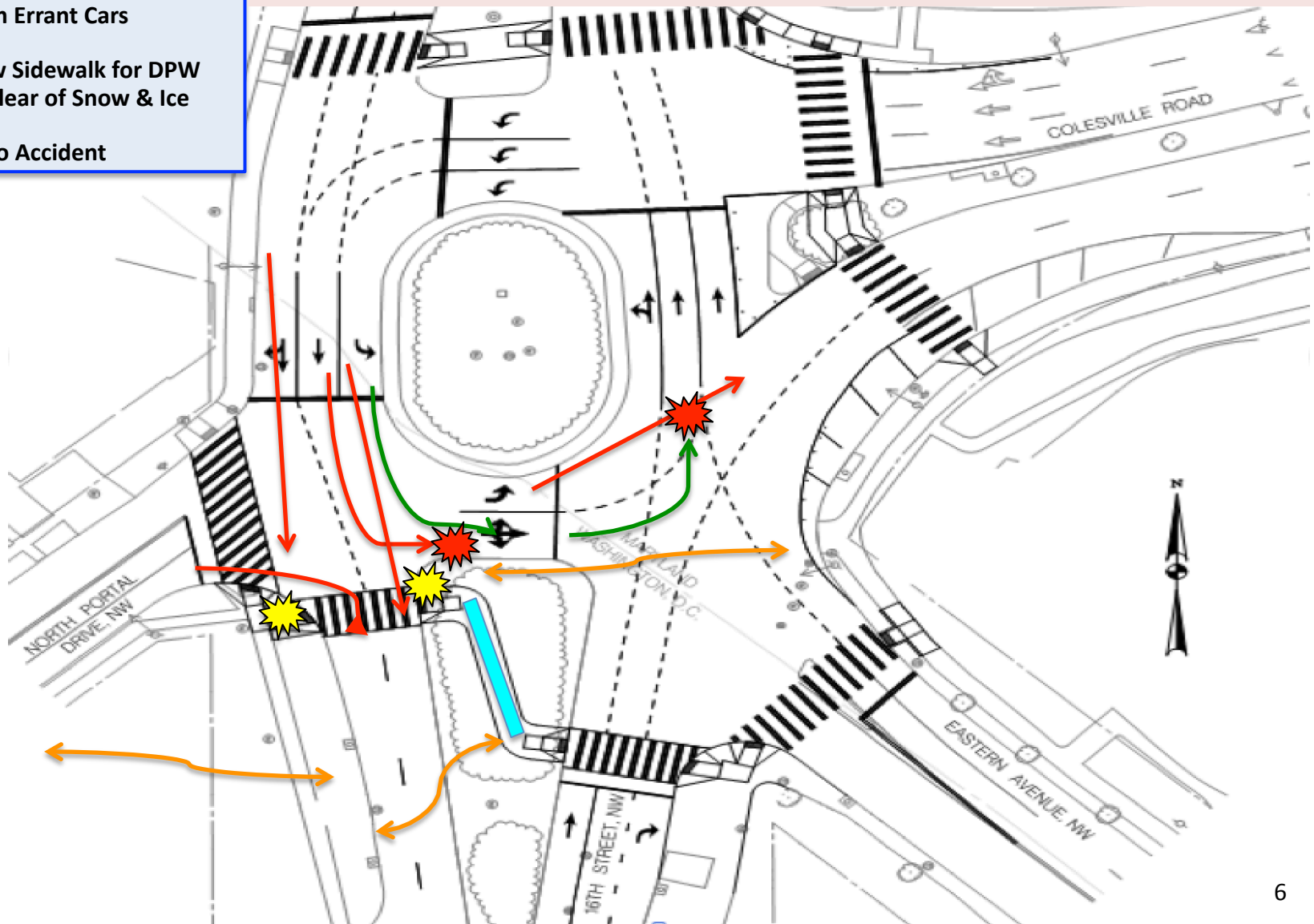
= Pedestrians in new staging areas are at risk from errant cars



Legend

-  = Likely Pedestrian Shortcuts
-  = Vehicular Errors
-  = Pedestrians at Risk from Errant Cars
-  = New Sidewalk for DPW to Clear of Snow & Ice
-  = Auto Accident

- Be extra careful of errant vehicles as you drive through the 16th Street Circle!
- Get into the safest/best lane for your route of travel in advance.
- Report light timing problems and report + photos accidents to: CLNPE.icommittee@gmail.com so CLNPE can inform DDOT



- This photo is reflective of the dangerous situation CLNPE has predicted since Nov 2019.
- The errant vehicle jumped the curb and encroached toward the pedestrian staging area that was inaugurated in Oct 2020.
- Auto and pedestrian traffic volumes were minimal due to coronavirus and the time of day.
- **Be watchful and careful as you walk this route!**
- **Report concerns and photos to: CLNPE.icommittee@gmail.com so CLNPE can inform DDOT**



16th Street Circle, NW

Next Steps

- DDOT ongoing evaluation of traffic operational effectiveness.
 - Continue through end of pandemic → resumption of normal traffic volumes.
 - Identify evaluation metrics for “before” and “after” traffic scenarios.
 - As needed:
 - Install additional signage and lane markings for Circle.
 - Refine signal timing phases as appropriate.
 - Modify signalization design as needed.
- “Minor” accidents are typically not reported to MPD or DDOT. Consequently, they are not accounted for in the City’s metrics.
- CLNPE’s continued monitoring of traffic operations. NPE citizens’ reporting is essential:
 - *Send concerns and photos to: CLNPE.icommittee@gmail.com*
- DDOT/CLNPE consultation.

*North Portal Estates will be...
as safe, functional, and beautiful
as we all strive to make it!*