



MEDIA ALERT

August 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Bowser to mark the activation of the District's first HAWK signal today

Washington, DC – Today at 10 a.m., the new HAWK signal at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Hemlock Street NW will go live. Councilmember Bowser worked tirelessly for this new traffic signal to make this intersection safer for pedestrians. George Branyan, DDOT pedestrian safety coordinator, will also be on hand to demonstrate how the HAWK signal will work.

HAWK stands for **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross-**W**alk. DDOT received permission from the Federal Highway Administration in April 2009 to experiment with HAWK signals. The HAWK remains dark for traffic unless a pedestrian activates the push-button. The overhead signal begins flashing yellow and then solid yellow, advising drivers to prepare to stop. The signal then turns a solid red and shows the pedestrian a “Walk” indication. The signal will go dark again unless activated by a pedestrian.

The signal at Georgia Avenue and Hemlock Street NW will be the first of its kind in the District. The HAWK signal is a significant step forward in the city's efforts to become more pedestrian friendly because it is controlled by pedestrians.

Councilmember Bowser said “This intersection did not qualify for the installation of a conventional traffic signal. But it was imperative that something be done to make this intersection safer for pedestrians since it is located in such a heavily-traveled area.”

Just the facts

What: Press conference and pedestrian safety event for new HAWK signal

When: **TODAY, August 14, 10 a.m.**

Where: Georgia Avenue and Hemlock Street NW

Note: George Branyan, DDOT pedestrian safety coordinator, will be available to take questions from members of the media on this new signal.

For more information, contact Phallan Davis at 741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us

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