

Fatal Crash Follow-up

Suitland Parkway

MPD description of crash:

Preliminary investigation revealed that at approximately 8:50 am, a Chevy Traverse was traveling inbound on the Suitland Parkway, when an unidentified dark colored, possibly black, vehicle approached from behind at a high rate of speed and attempted to pass the Traverse. The operator of the Traverse lost control of the vehicle, crossed the median into outbound lanes of travel and struck a Ford Transit van head-on. The unidentified vehicle continued inbound on Suitland Parkway and sideswiped two additional vehicles and fled the scene. DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene and transported the front seat passenger of the Traverse to a local hospital for treatment of life threatening injuries. After all life-saving efforts failed, the victim was pronounced. The driver and rear passenger of the Traverse and both occupants of the Transit van were also transported to area hospitals for medical treatment of non-life threatening injuries. The drivers of the two additional vehicles were treated and released on scene.

Crash information (Source: MPD)

Date of crash	8/25/20
Crash Complaint Number (CCN)	20121331
Type of crash	Vehicle-Vehicle



Site visit notes

- Date of site visit: 9/4/20
- Agencies present: DDOT and MPD
- Street Design Context: Limited access roadway

Factors discussed on site visit:

- Case still under investigation; dark colored vehicle fled the scene.
- Crash occurred during daylight but there is no lighting at the location and there is an underground fuel line that would complicate addition of streetlights.
- Suitland multi-use trail runs along this corridor.
- There is no vertical barrier along the median of the roadway at this location.
- Speed limits and automated speed enforcement were discussed relative to the speed of the striking vehicle, which fled the scene.

Next steps

Short-term DDOT action items (timetables pending):

- Review location for pavement marking or signage improvements.

Further DDOT evaluations (timetables TBD):

- Evaluate adding barriers in the median.
- Evaluate opportunities to add lighting along the corridor, (note that lighting was added at Irving)
- DDOT will lower the speed limit at the location.