

7.2.2 Southwest Quadrant

The Southwest Quadrant, like the Northwest Quadrant, abuts the Capitol Hill federal office complex immediately to the west, and includes some federal facilities in its far northwest corner. The Southwest Quadrant also includes Capitol Hill's largest commercial area, the area around Eastern Market and along Pennsylvania Avenue SE and 8th Street SE ("Barracks Row").

The Southwest Quadrant is shown in **Figure 7-9**.

Figure 7-9: Southwest Quadrant



Major areas of concern within the Southwest Quadrant include:

- § One-way and high speed traffic on Independence Avenue SE
- § Traffic operations around Seward Square
- § Traffic operations and pedestrian safety around the intersections of 7th Street, 8th Street, Independence Avenue, and North Carolina Avenue SE
- § Pedestrian circulation to and around Eastern Market and Eastern Market Metro
- § Traffic operations at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue / Independence Avenue, 2nd Street and 3rd Street SE
- § High speed traffic on 11th Street SE
- § Pedestrian safety area-wide
- § Parking enforcement and parking shortages around Eastern Market and in the western part of the study area

Hot Spot related recommendations are presented in detail below for the following locations:

- § 2nd Street / 3rd Street / Pennsylvania Avenue / Independence Avenue SE (**Figures 7-10 to 7-11**)
- § Seward Square (**Figures 7-12 to 7-13**)
- § Eastern Market (**Figures 7-14 to 7-15**)
- § 7th Street / 8th Street / North Carolina Avenue / Independence Avenue SE (**Figures 7-16 to 7-17**)

Generally, recommendations include the following:

- § To de-emphasize Independence Avenue SE as a commuter street and return it to neighborhood use, operate as a 2-way street at all times. This improvement is tested in Scenarios 1 and 2.
- § To improve pedestrian safety in the area around Eastern Market and Seward Square, upgrade all pedestrian infrastructure: improve signage, re-paint crosswalks for higher visibility, install countdown timers at all signalized crossings, and ensure MUTCD-compliant school zone signs throughout the area.
- § Improve signage area-wide, especially around the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue SE and Independence Avenue SE. Remove inaccurate signs directing traffic to Eastern Market. Ensure high visibility signage warning of one-way streets and preventing turns where warranted.
- § A new traffic signal is planned for the intersection of 7th Street SE and Independence Avenue SE; improve pedestrian signage and signals at the intersection of Independence Avenue SE, South Carolina Avenue SE, 7th Street SE and 8th Street SE.
- § To help ease traffic flow along Pennsylvania Avenue, restrict left turns at Pennsylvania and North Carolina Avenues SE in favor of routing turns via 4th Street SE and 6th Street SE.
- § Improve pedestrian facilities area-wide: ensure pedestrian countdown timers at all signalized intersections; re-paint all crosswalks with ladder-stripe patterns; ensure all crosswalks have ADA-compliant ramps.