

Summer

QUARTERLY

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | 2003

First Lady endorses redesign of PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE at the White House

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION



First Lady Laura Bush endorsed the final plans to redesign Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House as a grand and beautiful civic space, during a celebration at the White House on September 8, 2003. Mrs. Bush welcomed more than 150 individuals who played a role in bringing the Pennsylvania Avenue project to reality. In her remarks, the First Lady described the evolution of the avenue from farmland to thoroughfare, and she stressed the importance of renewing and preserving the historic pathway to the President’s home.

First Lady Endorses Penn Avenue	1
Downtown Circulator	3
Commission Actions	4
A Tribute to Daniel Patrick Moynihan	5
Capitals Alliance Conference	10
Commission Notes	11

First Lady endorses REDESIGN OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE at the White House



A double row of trees will enhance the pedestrian experience along this south section of Pennsylvania Avenue.

2

The plan emerged from a broad collaborative effort among numerous federal and city government agencies, the professional planning and urban design community, and the public.

In addition to Mrs. Bush, speakers at the White House celebration included NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill III, Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters, Landscape Architect Michael Van Valkenburgh, and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams. All of the speakers expressed their gratitude to the many stakeholders for their contributions to the project.

Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House was closed to vehicular traffic after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Since that time, the street has been cluttered with temporary security elements including jersey barriers, vehicles and planter pots. Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates' plans for redesigning the avenue encompass Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets, and Jackson and Madison Places adjacent to Lafayette Park. The new design will replace ad hoc security barriers with thoughtfully designed security components, a landscape design, and site furnishings. Critical elements include new paving materials and tree planting within the civic space; new security booths; a combination of retractable, removable, and fixed bollards; and a route for a planned transit system.

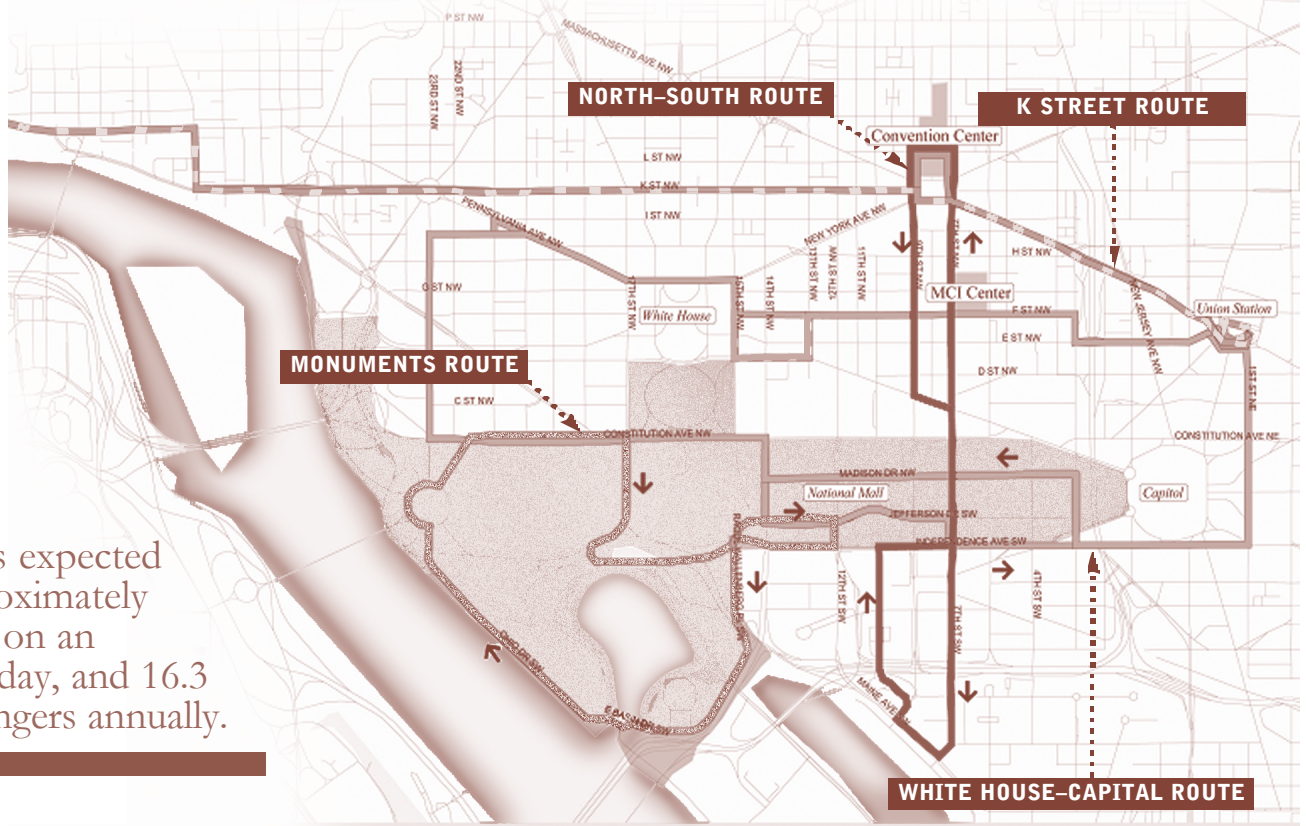
Days before the White House celebration, at its September 4th meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission gave unanimous approval to Van Valkenburgh's final plans to create a beautiful civic space along America's Main Street. The Commission requested that, prior to construction, samples of the paving materials that will be used on the avenue and on Jackson and Madison Places be submitted for review and approval.

Plans for Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House are being undertaken in conjunction with the Commission's *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan*, a comprehensive plan that addresses the proliferation of makeshift security measures throughout Washington's monumental core. The Urban Design and Security Plan balances the need for security with the preservation of Washington's historic streets and landscapes. The plan emerged from a broad collaborative effort among numerous federal and city government agencies, the professional planning and urban design community, and the public.

Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House was identified as one of the Urban Design and Security Plan's priority projects—a project for which Congress has already allocated \$11.1 million for planning and design, the initiation of construction, and transportation studies. The President's 2004 Budget also includes \$15 million for construction of improvements. The Federal Highway Administration will manage the construction effort, scheduled to begin in January 2004 and draw to a finish in October 2004, in time to begin preparation for the 2005 inaugural parade.



The system is expected to carry approximately 45,000 riders on an average weekday, and 16.3 million passengers annually.



DOWNTOWN CIRCULATOR

The National Capital Planning Commission first proposed the concept of a Circulator for Downtown Washington in its 1997 Legacy Plan. Envisioned as an above-ground transit system that would complement Metrobus and Metrorail in the monumental core, the Circulator is now becoming a reality. Members of the Commission and the public viewed an informational presentation on the proposed transit system at the Commission’s August meeting.

With approximately half a million residents in the District, half a million workers who commute into the city on weekdays, and an average of 20 million visitors each year, the nation’s capital will greatly benefit from a transit system that can easily and inexpensively move people within the downtown area. The Circulator will allow visitors safe and easy access between the Mall and downtown, reduce traffic congestion, help to stimulate economic activity downtown, and move workers between offices.

NCPC has partnered with the D.C. Department of Transportation, the Downtown Business Improvement District, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to oversee implementation of the Circulator. Preliminary plans include four routes:

- White House–Capitol Route: serves the White House, Foggy Bottom, the State Department area, the National Mall, the Capitol, Union Station, and Downtown Washington.

- Monuments Route: serves the Washington Monument and the Jefferson, Roosevelt, Korean War, Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, and World War II Memorials; and connects to Metrorail and to the White House–Capitol Route.
- North–South Route: serves the new convention center, the downtown area, the National Mall, the L’Enfant Plaza area, and the Southwest waterfront; and connects to the White House–Capitol Route.
- K Street Route: serves Union Station, the new convention center, K Street, and Georgetown; and connects to the North–South Route.

Each of these routes will operate seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Service will be provided every five minutes at most times on weekdays and every ten minutes on evenings and weekends. The fare system for the Circulator will be compatible with WMATA’s SmarTrip, but cash and visitor passes will also be accepted—a single ride will cost approximately 50 cents. The Circulator is envisioned as a low-floor vehicle with large windows, clean fuel, and a capacity of about 55 passengers. The system is expected to carry approximately 45,000 riders on an average weekday, and 16.3 million passengers annually.

For further information on the Circulator, see the Executive Summary on the Downtown Circulator, posted on NCPC’s Publications page at www.ncpc.gov.



A new laboratory building at the National Institutes of Health will be clad with a variety of materials, including brick, glass, and metal panels.

National Institutes of Health Building 33 and Parking Garage

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is planning for a new laboratory building and structured parking garage in the northeast corner of its 322-acre Bethesda campus. The lab will fall under the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, which has led the nation's research in emerging infectious diseases. At its September meeting, the Commission approved preliminary site and building plans, and final foundation plans, for the laboratory building and structured parking garage.

The Institute conducts and supports research to understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases that threaten lives around the world. The new laboratory will become one of several new facilities to comply with President Bush's mandate, calling for the Institute to lead the protection of civilians from deadly infectious diseases, whether they emerge naturally or from bioterrorism.

The new four-level building, which is expected to house approximately 242 employees, will contain laboratories of Biosafety Levels 2 and 3. Laboratories are generally classified in a range from Biosafety Level 1 to Level 4, where Level 4 hosts researchers studying life-threatening diseases that have no available vaccine or therapy. Activities at NIH's new labs will follow guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to help ensure safety for lab workers and for the surrounding community. For security purposes, NIH identified setbacks in its site selection for the lab and garage that included a 250-foot residential buffer from the campus boundary.

The new parking structure is part of NIH's overall transportation and parking program for the campus, which calls for replacing most surface lots with structured garages. The new garage will result in a net loss of 130 parking spaces, making the campus compliant with NCPD's Comprehensive Plan's recommended parking ratio of one space for every two employees.

The Commission made several recommendations to NIH as it prepares final site and building plans. The Institute should complete a risk assessment for the laboratory building and provide final design details showing proposed building hardening and perimeter security. The Commission also asked that NIH provide a simulation showing how the garage will be illuminated at night and provide material samples and details showing the appearance, construction, and function of the aluminum garage screen.

Transfer of Jurisdiction U.S. Reservation 357

The National Park Service submitted to the Commission a proposal to transfer a portion of its property on Foxhall Road to the District of Columbia. The transfer will allow the District of Columbia to lease the transferred land to the Casey Mansion Foundation for work associated with a proposed mayoral residence. The Commission approved the transfer, requiring that the National Park Service work with the District to avoid impacts on native vegetation and to ensure that all future work is conducted outside the “no development area,” as described in the Park Service’s Environmental Assessment.

In transferring the 1.8-acre parcel, the National Park Service and the District of Columbia will sign a declaration of covenants to protect the land and adjacent park interests. Improvements to the parcel will be limited to the installation of a fence that is consistent with the Casey Foundation fence currently located on adjacent property and the provision for a gate, guardhouse, or driveway, allowing access to and from the Casey property through the District controlled parcel to Foxhall Road. Before removing any trees from the transferred property, a vegetation control program would have to be implemented and surveying for raptor nests would have to be conducted.

In its review of the project, the Commission determined that the transfer respects many of the Commission’s Comprehensive Plan goals, which include maintaining the property as open space under public ownership and providing a trail corridor from Glover–Archbold Park to Foxhall Road.

The Commission may further review the project for federal interests if the construction permitting process for the small guardhouse requires the creation of a land zoning designation.

Arena Stage – Transfer of Jurisdiction

The Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction for the Arena Stage from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia. The transfer will place the entire Arena Stage Theater, which does not affect federal interests, under the administrative and regulatory jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. Plans for the Arena Stage involve renovating and adding to the existing theater, located on the corner of Maine Avenue and 6th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. This transfer should allow the project to proceed in a more comprehensive, efficient, and consistent manner.



NCPC welcomed Elizabeth Moynihan, wife of the late Senator Moynihan, to its newly dedicated conference room.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

In recognition of the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s life-long advocacy for public buildings and civic spaces, the National Capital Planning Commission named one of its principal meeting spaces the “Daniel Patrick Moynihan Conference Room.”

Daniel Patrick Moynihan is known to the world as a man of vast accomplishment and to the National Capital Planning Commission as a clear-sighted visionary who insisted federal buildings should provide “visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability of the American government.”

Through Senator Moynihan’s efforts, Washington’s Union Station became a model for the rebirth of America’s great iconic public buildings; Pennsylvania Avenue was transformed into the premier address of the nation; and public architecture around the country now reflects the highest standards of design excellence. With courage and clarity, Senator Moynihan deplored the desecration of our historic streets and most cherished landmarks in the name of security. He voiced support for the Commission’s efforts to demonstrate that effective security and good urban design can be compatible.

A statesman, scholar, and urbanist, Moynihan left an extraordinary legacy to the residents of the District of Columbia and to all Americans.

Department of Energy – Security Enhancements

The Commission approved preliminary and final site development plans for vehicular security improvements at the Department of Energy's Germantown facility in Maryland; however, the Commission omitted from its approval the bollards flanking each entrance. The new elements will replace the temporary measures now installed, and allow for the reopening of the south entrance, which has been closed since September 11, 2001.

Department of Labor – Temporary Perimeter Security Planters

The Commission disapproved preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of temporary security planters at the Frances C. Perkins Building on 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. The proposed plans to install rectangular and circular planters along the edge of the curb are not consistent with The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan, which discourages the use of redundant elements and the placement of such elements in public space. The Commission recommended that the revised solution incorporate site features into the design and locate the security elements within the Department of Labor's building yard.

**Federal Capital Improvements Program
FY 2004-2009**

The Commission adopted the Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP) for fiscal years 2004-2009. The Commission prepares the FCIP each year to outline the federal government's plans for the region during the coming six years. In the FCIP, the Commission makes recommendations about federal capital investment programs in the region and advises the Office of Management and Budget on planning and budget issues. The document contains 195 projects—federal agencies submitted 155 of these, at a cost of \$9.8 billion. The remaining 40 projects, which apply to various federal agencies, were submitted by the Commission for future programming.

FDA Main Building

The Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for the main building of the central shared use facility at FDA's campus in White Oak, Maryland. The third building to be located on the campus, this structure will house various functions, including the campus-wide IT department, a fitness center, a cafeteria, a library, and training rooms. The three-story building is consistent with FDA's revised master plan, which was approved by the Commission in June 2002.

Georgetown Waterfront Park

The Commission approved the revised design concept for the Georgetown Waterfront Park from 31st Street to 34th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. In 1985, the Commission had approved concept plans for the park. Revised plans retain the essential elements, including prominent pedestrian spaces, a shoreline promenade, a bike/hike trail, overlooks, shoreline access, and a park environment that transitions from natural to urban. The Commission required that, in preparing preliminary site and building plans, the National Park Service consider how to better integrate the central water feature area with the focal point at the base of Wisconsin Avenue; increase the height of the overlook elements along the shoreline; introduce a floating boat dock for temporary docking at the concrete stepped shoreline area; and designate a memorial site as indicated in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan.



Rendering of proposed promenade along Georgetown waterfront

Marine Corps Base Quantico

The Commission approved preliminary site and building plans for family housing at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. Most of the existing housing, built from the early 1900s through the 1950s, fails to meet current military housing standards and requires extensive repair, maintenance, and upgrading. Through a public/private venture, a private developer will construct and manage the replacement housing. The new housing will reflect a combination of demolition, new construction, renovation, and preservation, resulting in a mix of apartments, townhouses, and single-family detached homes. The overall number of units will be reduced from 1,470 to 1,140.

Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House

The Commission approved final site and building plans for security and landscape improvements along Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. (See feature article, page 1)

Washington Navy Yard

The Commission approved final site and building plans for a visitor processing facility at the O Street entrance to the Washington Navy Yard. The proposed project will help to provide a secure facility by enabling the Department of the Navy to screen employees and visitors before they enter the Navy Yard. The project includes guard booths, delta barriers, and landscaping.

August

Commission Actions

District of Columbia Old Courthouse Building – Underground Parking Garage

The Commission approved—with the exception of the proposed trellis element—the conceptual site and building plans for a 255-space below-grade parking garage at 5th and D Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. This parking facility will serve the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the Old D.C. Courthouse/City Hall building, which is undergoing renovation for its future use as the D.C. Court of Appeals. The Commission selected Appurtenance Scheme 2, which concentrates the circulation and mechanical elements into two areas on the site, and Security Scheme 2, which involves bollards and the use of a 30-inch-high plinth wall that extends through the front plaza of the Old DC Courthouse/Old City Hall building and has openings for pedestrian access. In its approval, the Commission specified elements that must be part of the submission for preliminary and final site and building plans. The Commission reviewed this project at an earlier meeting, but deferred its action until receiving a draft master plan for the Courts' operations.



Proposed site for the underground parking garage on 5th and D Streets, NW

Draft Master Plan for Judiciary Square

At its July meeting, the Commission tabled consideration of a Draft Master Plan for Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. The master plan seeks to coordinate the reorganization of facilities and functions of the D.C. Courts with the overall revitalization of this historic square. The draft includes various construction projects for the Courts in addition to landscape, open space, and street treatments that would reestablish the character of Judiciary Square. At its August meeting, the Commission approved the draft Judiciary Square Master Plan, with the exception of several elements, including the realignment of traffic lanes along E Street between 4th and 5th Streets, NW and various proposed security elements. For the submission of the final master plan, the Commission has made several requirements and recommendations, including a requirement for a new landscaping and streetscape proposal, and a recommendation to include a plan that shows an assessment of potential retail sites around Judiciary Square that provides guidance to the District of Columbia in developing zoning changes that would encourage service-oriented development in the master plan area. The Commission understands that the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, Inc. and the D.C. Courts are working to resolve issues of jurisdiction and will not submit concept plans until a memorandum of understanding has been finalized.

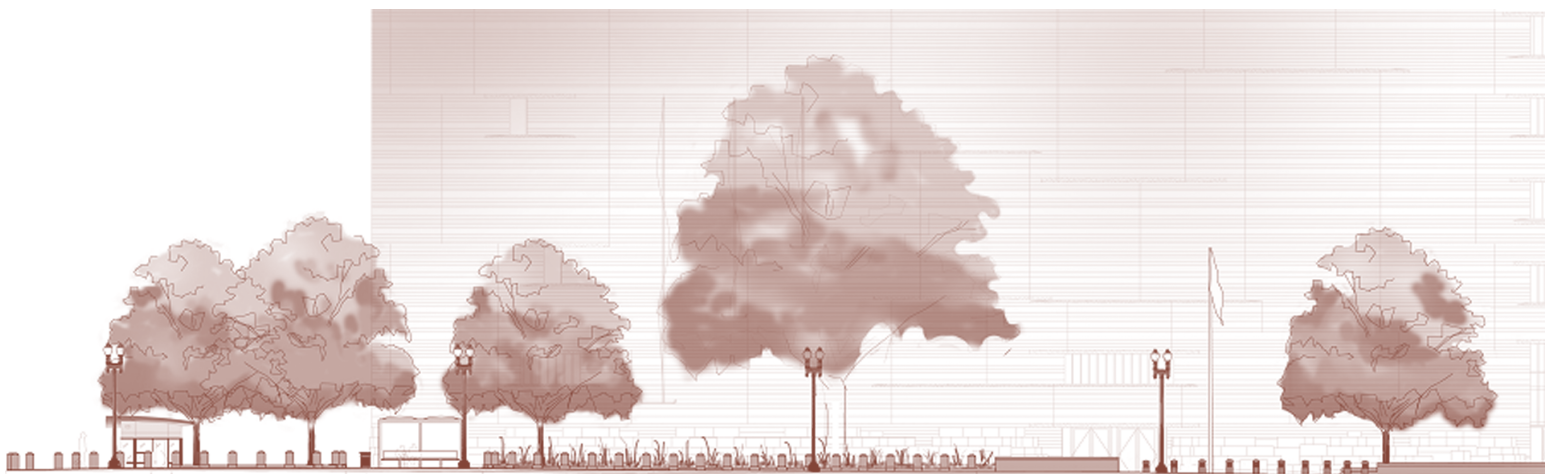
Proposed security elements along the Maryland Avenue side of the National Museum of the American Indian include bollards and seating walls.

Fort Lesley J. McNair – Physical Fitness Center

The Commission approved the design concept for a physical fitness center at Fort Lesley J. McNair, located on 4th and P Streets in Southwest Washington. The proposed fitness center is consistent with Fort McNair's Master Plan. The Army advised the Commission that it is negotiating for the purchase of a vacant parcel of land immediately north of the proposed site. If that site becomes available, the Army will relocate the fitness center to that area and resubmit its new proposal to the Commission.

National Museum of the American Indian – Perimeter Security

The Commission approved final site development plans for perimeter security enhancements at the National Museum of the American Indian. In its submission, the Smithsonian responded to recommendations that the Commission had made during approval of preliminary project plans. With the exception of the security line along the street side on Maryland and Independence Avenues, the Smithsonian proposed modifications to all of the security features recommended by the Commission. Where the security line had not changed along Maryland and Independence Avenues, the Smithsonian provided sufficient justification. In its approval, the Commission stated that realigning Maryland Avenue would require the Smithsonian to redesign and resubmit plans for restoring the security elements to conform to the new road alignment. The new museum is more than 50 percent complete and is scheduled to open in September 2004. The Smithsonian intends to have the perimeter security in place when the building opens to the public.





July

Commission Actions

Rendering of American Pharmacists Association Addition

9

American Pharmacists Association – Addition

The Commission approved the concept design for an addition to the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) building on Constitution Avenue in Northwest Washington, D.C. The original structure, designed by John Russell Pope and completed in 1934, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed addition would replace a previous addition that had been constructed in 1962, behind the original building. The new five-story office building would connect to the original structure. In its approval, the Commission stated that several issues must be further developed in concept design, including the primary entrance from C Street; landscape plans; the location of the parking entrance; and the separation between the old and new structures.

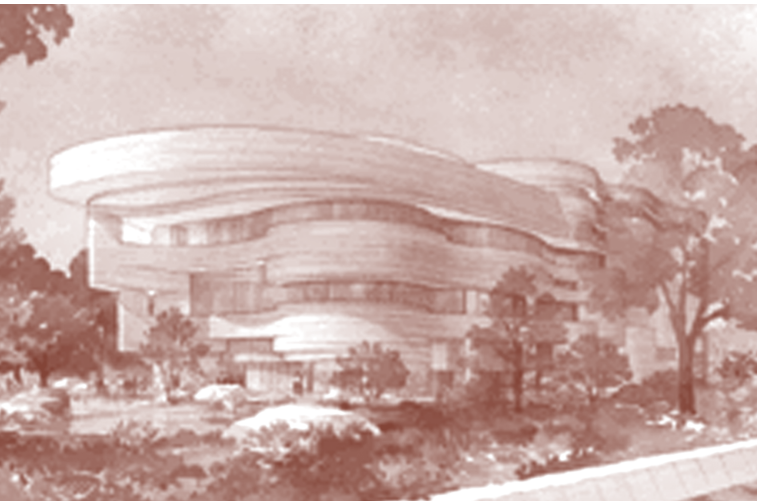
Fort Mahan Park – Transfer of Jurisdiction

The Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of U.S. Reservation 475 from the National

Park Service to the District of Columbia. The gymnasium of the Carter G. Woodson Junior High School now stands on that site and the proposed uses for the land are educational and recreational. The transfer of jurisdiction will allow the charter school, holding a 20-year lease, to secure long-term financing for facility improvements.

Meadowbrook Stables – Renovation

The Commission approved the modification to the General Development Plan for the Rock Creek Stream Valley Park, related to the renovation of the Meadowbrook Stables in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Final development of renovated and new structures includes: new exterior lighting; new outdoor paddock areas; new utility buildings; enhanced landscaping and stormwater drainage; a jumping course; a gravel walking area; and employee parking. A landscape buffer between the new proposed fence line and Rock Creek would allow public access to the Rock Creek shoreline.



The National Museum of the American Indian is scheduled to open in September 2004.

National Museum of the American Indian – Perimeter Security

The Commission approved preliminary site development plans for perimeter security enhancements at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Added elements being proposed consist of granite-clad and bronze bollards, grandfather boulders, and planter walls. In some cases, existing site features will provide security. For example a 30-inch tribal recognition wall on Jefferson Avenue, 3rd Street, and a portion of Maryland Avenue will provide the necessary security along those streets. In its approval, the Commission recommended that particular elements be modified, removed, or relocated.

Waterside Mall – Planned Unit Development

The Commission concluded that the proposed first stage planned unit development and related rezoning at the Waterside Mall would not adversely affect federal interests. The planned unit development at 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. would allow for a mixed use office, retail, and residential development at the Waterside Mall. The project also includes the reopening of the 4th Street roadway, connecting from Eye Street, SW to M Street, SW.



Capitals Alliance Conference

The National Capital Planning Commission will host planners from around the world at its National Capitals Alliance conference, to be held October 19-23, 2003.

The Capitals Alliance is a newly established forum for national capital cities, designed to provide an opportunity for senior officials to discuss issues that are unique to capital cities. The Alliance originated in July 2001, following a meeting hosted by Canada's National Capital Commission where representatives from Ottawa, Canberra, Washington, and Brasilia had an opportunity for professional exchange. Following these useful discussions, representatives of the four capital cities met in Canberra in 2002 to organize and formally launch the Capitals Alliance.

This year's conference will include delegations from Canada, Brazil, Australia, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Russia, South Africa, Japan, and Germany. Some of the conference activities will be open to the public, including a panel discussion on October 20 at the U.S. Capitol. Ray Suarez with PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer will moderate the discussion, "National Capital/Hometown City." Panelists include Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, former Office of Management and Budget Director Alice Rivlin, D.C. Planning Director Andrew Altman, and NCPC Executive Director Patricia Gallagher.

The conference program will include an event at the National Building Museum on October 21, where noted international architect Daniel Libeskind will discuss his proposal for the World Trade Center site. Also included in the conference program is a roundtable discussion on October 23 at the National Press Club, titled "Planning the 21st Century Capital City." A distinguished panel has been invited to discuss the unique planning, urban design, and development issues that affect national capital cities. Participants include Alex Krieger, chair of Harvard's Department of Urban Design and Planning; Witold Rybczynski, author and professor of architecture; Diana Balmori of Balmori Associates and Yale School of Architecture; Lawrence Vale, professor of urban design and planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Benjamin Forgey, architecture critic with the Washington Post.

For information on attending these conference events, call the Commission at 202-482-7200.

The Capitals Alliance is designed to provide an opportunity for senior officials to discuss issues that are unique to capital cities.

commission notes

Executive Director Patti Gallagher joined congressional and regional elected officials and transit and housing partners at a July press conference to kick off the Smart Commute Initiative. This housing and transportation program gives home buyers in the National Capital Region a financial incentive to purchase a home near public transportation.

On July 23, the Executive Director addressed the DC Bar Association as part of a discussion panel on “Land Use and the Federal Interest.” Serving on the panel were NCPC commission members John Parsons and Mike McGill, as well as Frederick Lindstrom of the Commission of Fine Arts and Jeff Domber of GSA. The event was well attended and provided the opportunity to discuss NCPC’s relationship with other federal agencies in regional planning and development.

On July 16, NCPC hosted the International Architectural Educational Exchange (IAEE), a consortium of universities that investigate the environmental, social, economic, and regulatory implications of building sustainable projects. As part of their program, students were assigned to come up with design proposals for Washington’s RFK site.

During the summer, staff welcomed two visiting foreign delegations sponsored by the Department of State’s International Visitor Program. Staff briefed the mayors of two Turkish cities who were especially interested in American historic preservation strategies and a group of five development and real estate officials from the Republic of Georgia who are dealing with the privatization of state lands. The Commission also met with two visiting delegations from Korea. As that nation considers moving its capital from Seoul to another city, the Commission offered background on the development of Washington as America’s capital city.

For the third straight year, the Commission hosted Howard University’s Historically Black College and University Faculty Conference. The 20th annual conference, held in August, brought faculty, staff, and students from around the country to train in GIS and to learn about ongoing research and geospatial applications.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King unveils the “I Have a Dream” inscription on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The Commission welcomes two new staff members.

Margie Fleming Glennon has joined NCPC as a public affairs specialist. Ms. Glennon comes to the Commission with more than 15 years of publications and communications experience and previously served as communications director for the International Center for Journalists. Margie is a graduate of Georgetown University and a member of the Public Relations Society of America. Raksha Patel joined NCPC as a management assistant in the Office of the General Counsel. Ms. Patel graduated from Clarion University, majoring in business management.

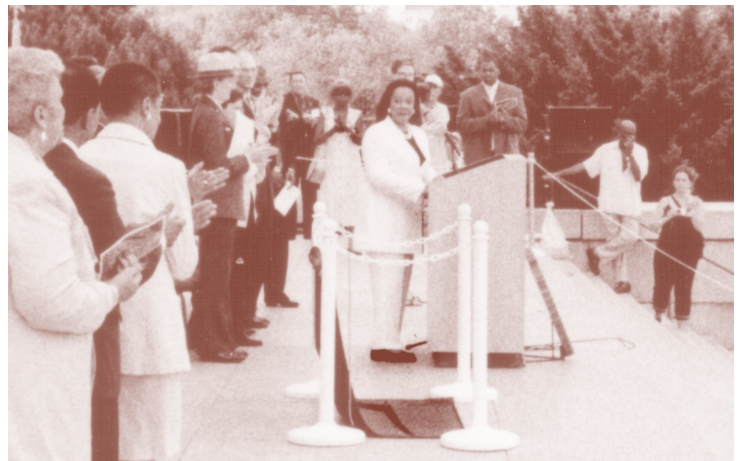
“I HAVE A DREAM” PLAQUE UNVEILED

On August 22, Executive Director Patti Gallagher and staff members attended the unveiling of a plaque to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech. The inscription is located at the Lincoln Memorial site, where Dr. King delivered his speech.

The ceremony—held just a few days before the 40th anniversary of that famous delivery—was attended by Dr. King’s widow, Coretta Scott King, and his children. Ceremony participants discussed Dr. King’s legacy and the civil rights movement.

The concept for the monument was suggested by Thomas Williams, a tourist from Kentucky who sought out a marker of Dr. King’s speech during his 1997 visit to the Lincoln Memorial. Finding none, Mr. Williams wrote to Congresswoman Anne Northup in 1997—a letter that brought about this important tribute.

In its initial review of the commemoration to Dr. King, the Commission had rejected a proposal by the National Park Service to locate the inscription near the bottom of the memorial’s steps. Instead, the Commission strongly urged that the inscription be placed as close as possible to the location where King delivered his speech—a location that was also supported by Mrs. Coretta Scott King and by nearly a dozen congressional members. The new plaque is now installed in that spot, allowing visitors to visualize the event as Dr. King did.



QUARTERLY

NCPC Quarterly

SUMMER | 2003

July | August | September

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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