

# QUARTERLY

APRIL | MAY | JUNE | 2006

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## National Capital Framework Plan

### Moving Monumental Washington Beyond the City's Core

On May 17 the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) launched a new initiative, the "National Capital Framework Plan," a multi-agency effort to prepare a plan that will encourage the location of future memorials and museums in areas beyond the National Mall. The Framework Plan carries forward the goals first articulated in NCP's 1997 *Legacy Plan* and affirmed in the agency's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*—to preserve the historic character of the National Mall and establish cultural attractions in all quadrants of the city.



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# National Capital Framework Plan

## Destinations and Connections Beyond the National Mall

*“Washington is a vibrant city, full of life that extends well beyond the National Mall,”*

said John V. Cogbill III, NCPC Chairman, in announcing the National Capital Framework Plan at the U.S. Navy Memorial. The Navy Memorial provided an appropriate setting for the announcement because it exemplifies the kind of memorial the Framework Plan will foster: memorials located off the National Mall, which are fully integrated into the city and combine public and private uses to create a lively urban setting.



NCPC Chairman Cogbill and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton during launch of Framework Plan

### Protecting the National Mall

In 2003 Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to prohibit new construction in the central cross-axis of the National Mall, which Congress designated a “substantially completed work of civic art.”

The amendment gave the force of law to the Reserve, or no-build zone, first proposed by NCPC in its 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*.

Since the late 1990s, NCPC has advocated for locating new memorials off the National Mall. In 2001 the agency released its *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*, which identified 100 desirable sites for memorials throughout the city and has helped place five new memorials off the National Mall. However, despite this success, the demand for recreation, tourism, public events, and commemoration on the Mall continues to grow.

The Framework Plan will take the necessary next steps to relieve pressure on the National Mall by creating inviting and attractive new settings that will serve as alternative sites for commemoration, recreation, and public gatherings. Through enhanced streetscapes, visitor amenities, and improved connections among national attractions, the Framework Plan will help move monumental Washington beyond the city's core.

The Framework Plan will primarily focus on seven areas: the Northwest Rectangle, Federal Triangle, East Potomac Park, Southwest Federal Center, Banneker Overlook, the RFK Stadium site, and South Capitol Street (See map).

In the Northwest Rectangle, the Framework Plan will identify opportunities to locate nationally important attractions in the precinct, such as the planned U.S. Institute of Peace headquarters, and improve connections to the National Mall, Georgetown, and downtown. The U.S. Institute of Peace headquarters will help frame the west end of Independence Avenue as a gateway to the city.

Much of the Federal Triangle sits behind unsightly security barricades, and public access to courtyards is restricted or prohibited. The Framework Plan will explore means to restore public access to courtyards and improve amenities on the streets that link downtown and the National Mall.

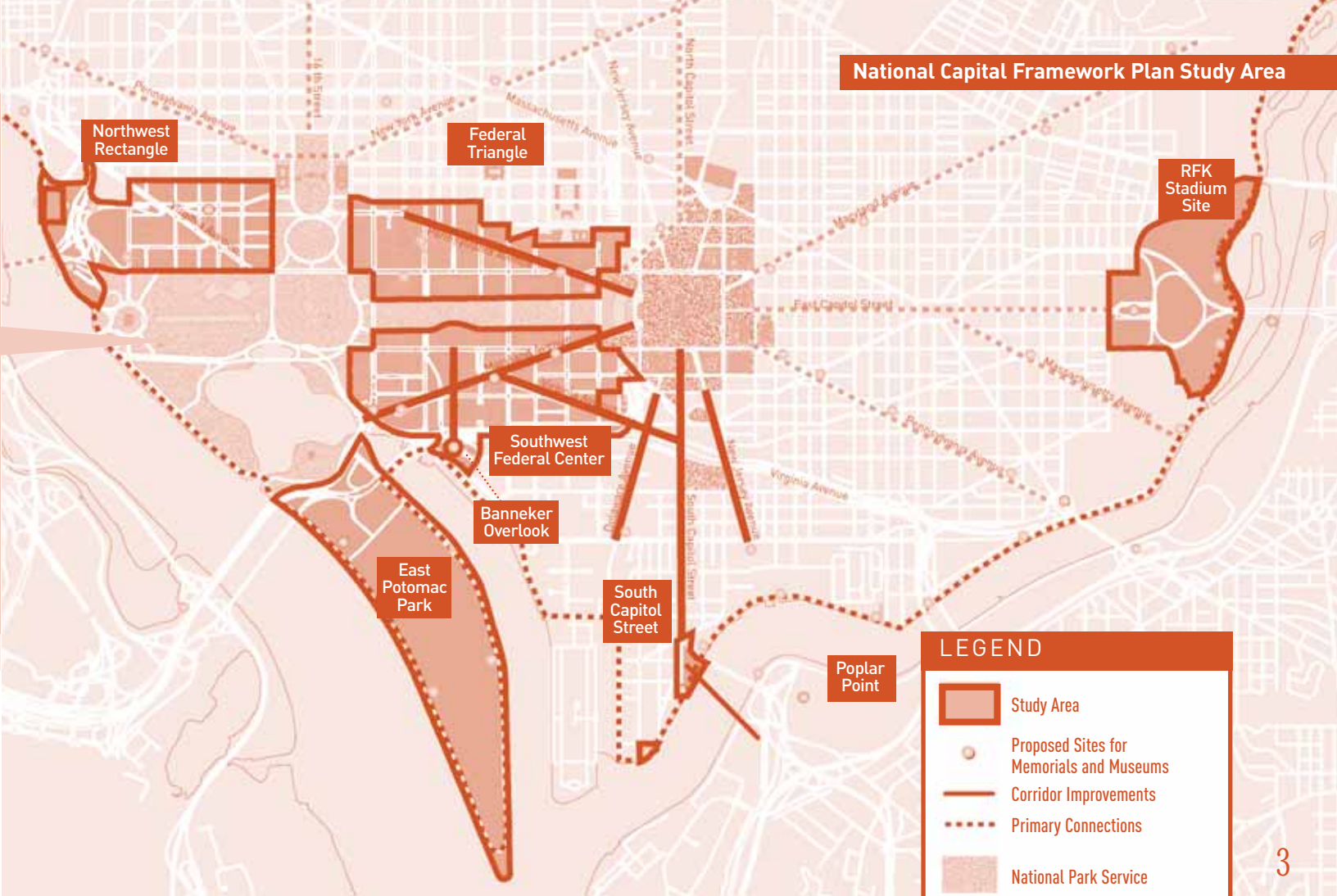
Meanwhile in the Southwest Federal Center, the Framework Plan will strive to improve streetscapes and public amenities and provide a balance of cultural, commercial, and governmental uses.

East Potomac Park, a large area bordering the Potomac River, offers much needed recreational opportunities but is underutilized and difficult to access. The Framework Plan will highlight opportunities for commemoration in the park and offer ways to enliven it and improve connections between the park and the rest of the city.

The RFK Stadium site and East Capitol Street as well as South Capitol Street are prominent gateways into the nation's capital that provide vital links to downtown. The Framework Plan will work to ensure that ongoing and future development in these areas respects the important relationship they have to the National Mall and the plan's study areas.

As part of the Framework Plan, NCPC will produce concept design studies for Maryland Avenue and Banneker Overlook in the Southwest Federal Center and East Potomac Park.

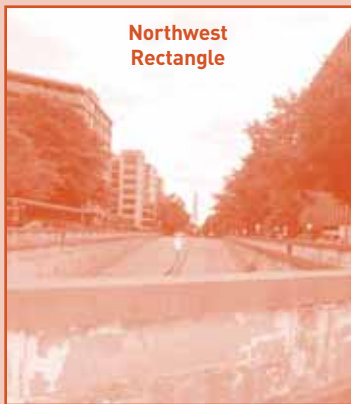
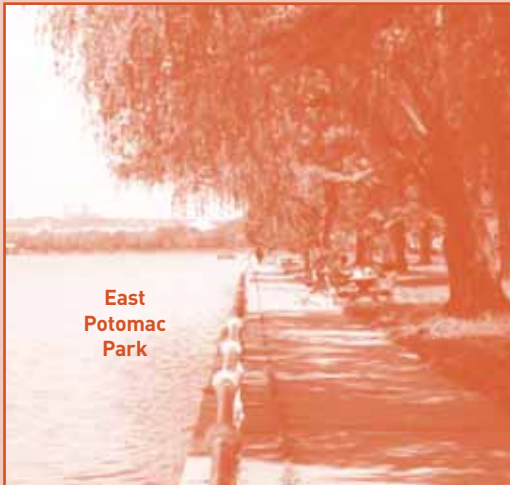
Representatives of seven federal agencies as well as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, the D.C. mayor's office, the chairwoman of the city council, and the president of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, have joined NCPC and CFA as a working group to develop priorities for the Framework Plan. The input of stakeholders, property owners, and citizens will inform the development of the plan. The first public meeting on the Framework Plan will be held at NCPC on July 25.



LEGEND

-  Study Area
-  Proposed Sites for Memorials and Museums
-  Corridor Improvements
-  Primary Connections
-  National Park Service
-  Architect of the Capital

Existing Conditions



PUBLIC MEETING

Please join NCPC for small group discussions about the future of the Framework Plan study areas.

Tuesday, July 25  
5:15-7:30 pm

NCPC Offices  
401 9th St., NW., Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004

RSVP to 202-482-7301, or e-mail  
FrameworkPlan@ncpc.gov

## NCPC Explores Potential of RFK Stadium Site

During its June 1 public meeting, NCPC announced plans to conduct an in-depth study of potential uses for the RFK Stadium site once the baseball and soccer teams currently using the stadium have relocated.

The site is on a list to receive major focus this year as NCPC's National Capital Framework Plan is developed. The Framework Plan will encourage the selection of sites off the National Mall for future memorials, museums, cultural and civic events.

The site study and the Framework Plan will build on NCPC's 1997 *Legacy Plan*, which broadly re-envisioned the site with a major memorial surrounded by new housing and commercial development.

"An urban design for the area that focuses on recreation, open space, and some private development will be important to restoring East Capitol Street and Independence and Pennsylvania Avenues as major thoroughfares through east and southeast Washington," said NCPC Executive Director Patricia Gallagher.

NCPC staff has held working sessions with key stakeholders such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the District of Columbia Office of Planning, Department of Transportation, and Sports and Entertainment Commission.

The agency's outreach efforts also have included civic groups such as the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, the Hill East Waterfront Action Network and the City Council members representing the area.

NCPC's study will offer planning and design alternatives for the site in the event that the city no longer requires a stadium in that location. If a stadium remains on the site, the study could inform adjacent development.

NCPC will hold a public meeting on the RFK Site Redevelopment Study on July 19 at the Old Naval Hospital. Staff is seeking the public's input on details of the proposed design alternatives.

Based on this feedback, as well as the input of key stakeholders, NCPC will continue to refine the site proposals. NCPC staff expects to make formal recommendations to the Commission this fall.

NCPC staff looks forward to working with the city, the National Park Service, and other interested parties on the future of this site.

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## In Memoriam Jerry R. Shiplett



For the past 14 years, Jerry R. Shiplett served as a dedicated member of the National Capital Planning Commission representing the Department of Defense. During his years of dedicated service, Mr. Shiplett contributed significantly to the policies and decisions that affect federal buildings and help shape development in the National Capital Region.

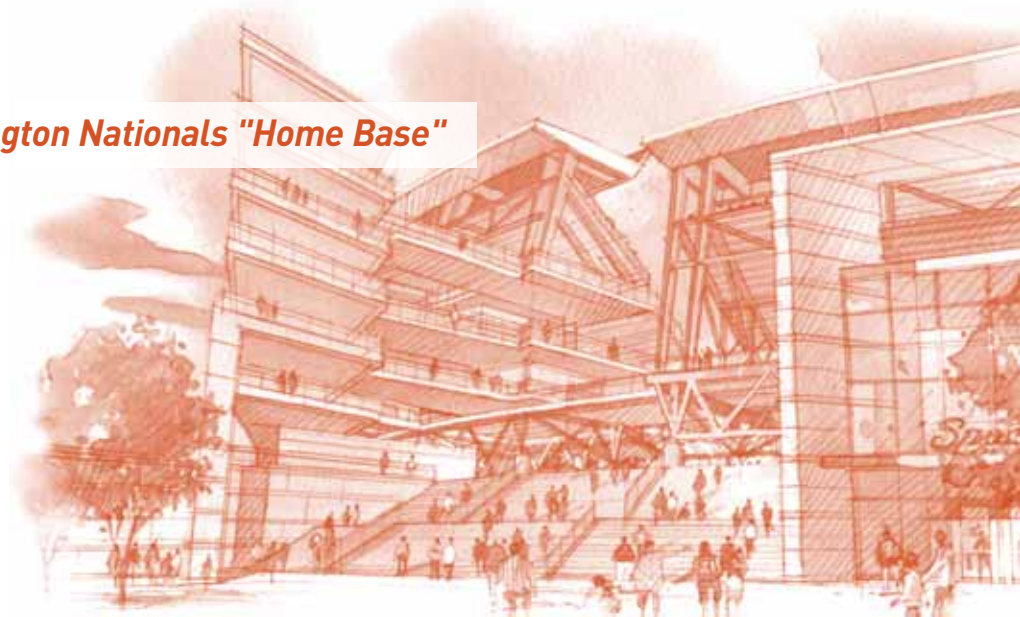
As Special Assistant to the Director of Defense Facilities at the Department of Defense, Jerry shared his professional planning knowledge during Commission deliberations and by serving on numerous NCPC task forces including, most recently, the South Capitol Street Task Force and the Interagency Security Task Force.

It was with great sadness that NCPC learned of Jerry's death from cancer on May 23. Mr. Shiplett was a strong advocate for Capitals Alliance, an international forum for senior planning professionals from around the world. He played a key role in helping launch the Alliance in 2001 with NCPC staff and representatives from Ottawa, Canberra, and Brasilia. His fellow Commissioners and the NCPC staff will miss his positive presence and professional expertise.

On June 30 a memorial service was held at Arlington National Cemetery to celebrate Jerry's life and honor his contributions to his family, community, and his country. The Jerry Shiplett Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at the Gunston Athletic Institute. The fund will provide financial assistance to enable children to play travel soccer.

## NCPC Weighs in on Washington Nationals "Home Base"

The stadium's great staircase will provide a grand entrance from Potomac Avenue, SE.



The home for the Washington Nationals, the city's new baseball team, moved another step closer to construction on June 1 when NCPC approved most of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission's site and building plans for the stadium. NCPC's firm stand on the need for retail, entertainment, and service concessions along the streets bordering the stadium lends weight to the efforts of Mayor Anthony Williams and the D.C. Zoning Commission in the discussions about the stadium's final design.

In December 2004 the District of Columbia government agreed to build the 19.74 acre complex at South Capitol Street and Potomac Avenue, SE, with a price cap of \$600 million and completion set for opening day of the 2008 Major League Baseball season. The city broke ground for the stadium in May, and Major League Baseball recently named the Lerner Group, headed by Bethesda-based developer Theodore N. Lerner, as team owner.

At the June meeting, NCPC acknowledged the tight time constraints for completing the ball park when it gave the go-ahead to the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission's Base Plan and two options to the Base Plan. The Base Plan for the stadium and the two alternatives will give the applicant the flexibility to adapt designs to upcoming adjacent development while maintaining the tight schedule. However, the Commission noted that some details were sketchy and requested additional information on lighting, visual elements, and security.

NCPC considers retail and entertainment opportunities that would be open during off-game days, especially along South Capitol Street, essential to support neighborhood vitality and promote a healthy street life. The Base Plan would dedicate 10 percent of the building's exterior perimeter frontage to retail, service, and entertainment establishments ("preferred uses"); the two alternatives would bring preferred uses at the perimeter to 20 percent, as currently required by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission.

The Entertainment Commission's submission also included a Second Phase Plan sketched out but not put forward for formal review, which would replace the interim street-level parking lots located immediately north of the ballpark with two high-rise parking structures, bringing the total on-site parking spaces to the required 1,225.

This configuration would provide approximately 35,000 square feet of preferred-use space at street level near the parking structures. The solution would not, however, address NCPC's desire for retail and entertainment concessions in the currently underdeveloped neighborhoods along South Capitol, I, and N Streets, SE.

To facilitate retail development at the perimeter, and to preserve sight lines to and from the Capitol and Anacostia, NCPC has advocated strongly for underground stadium parking, a position shared by D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams. However, the cost of underground parking is estimated at \$50 million, while only \$21 million is budgeted.

On June 20 Mayor Anthony Williams announced a compromise that would bring in Western Development Company, owned by Herb Miller. Under the name WDC Baseball Partners, Miller would purchase land near South Capitol Street and the Navy Yard in Southeast for construction of 900 parking spaces—some above ground, some below—as well as housing, retail, entertainment, and a hotel to be completed by March 1, 2008. On July 11, the D.C. City Council approved the mayor's plan.

NCPC's position, based on the far-reaching goals of the *Legacy Plan* and the new *National Capital Framework Plan*, lends weight to solutions that will help revitalize the South Capitol-M Street corridor and the Southwest waterfront neighborhood.

## New Circulator Route Connects Mall Destinations

NCPC's planning vision is evident in the newest Downtown Circulator route, the "Smithsonian-National Gallery Loop," launched on March 21 at the National Gallery of Art. The third Circulator route fills visitors' and residents' long-standing need for a convenient way to circumnavigate the National Mall along Constitution and Independence Avenues from 4th Street, N.W. to 17th Street, N.W.

For the first time, riders can "mix and match" visits to the Smithsonian museums ringing the Mall without struggling to find parking or walking several miles. Stops along the new route include perennial draws such as the National Air and Space Museum (7th and Independence, SW), as well as lesser-known destinations such as the Sackler Gallery (10th and Independence, SW). The route connects to the north-south Circulator line that links the Washington Marina in Southwest to the new Convention Center via 7th and 9th Streets, NW. Another line provides quick transit from Union Station to Georgetown along K Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

Buses arrive every 5 or 10 minutes from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, and fares of \$1 (50 cents for seniors) beat other forms of transit. Since debuting in July 2005, the Circulator has increased ridership by 86 percent and now serves over 200,000 riders a month.

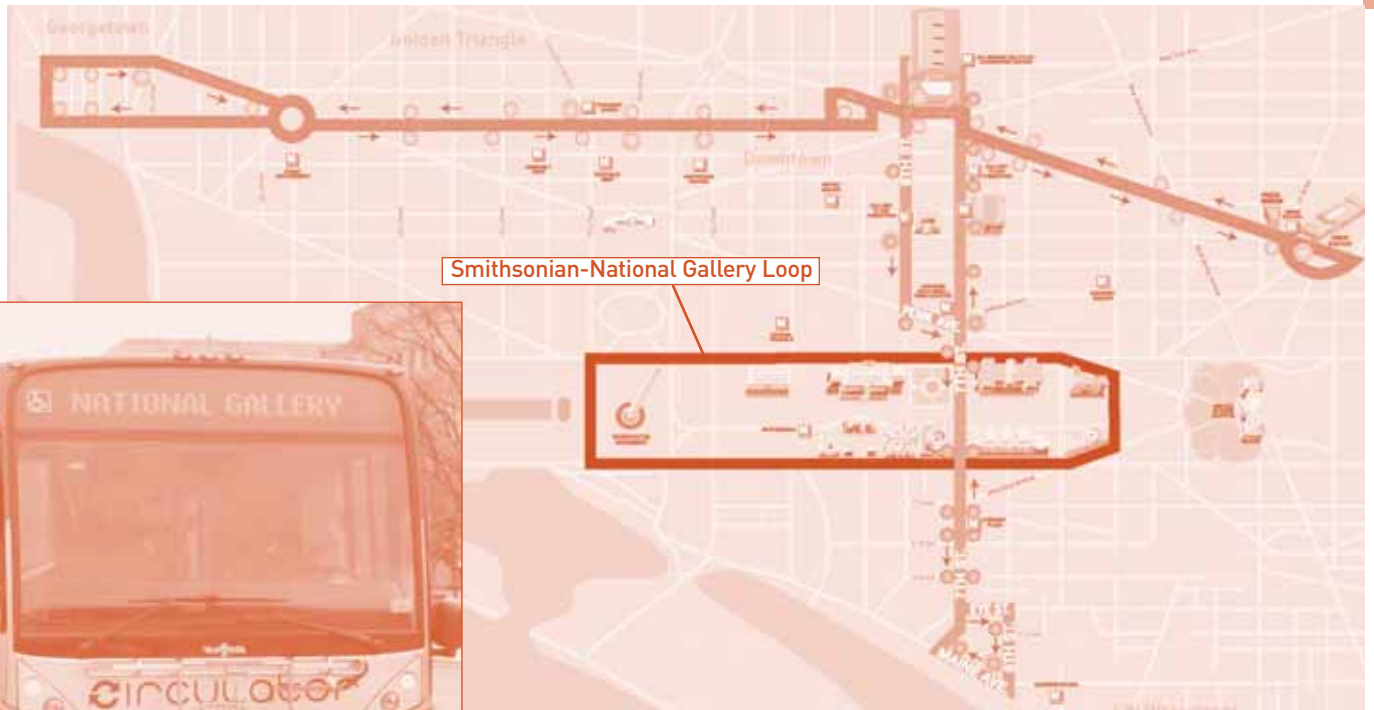
D.C. Circulator weekday ridership has grown an average of 12% per month since the start of service.

Planners estimate that 4.6 million people will use the system annually by 2008. The flow of people moving comfortably and efficiently through the city is expected to amply return the annual operating costs of \$4 to 5 million.

The idea for the Circulator originated in 1997 with NCPC's *Legacy Plan*, which proposed a supplementary transit system to connect major landmarks and link Washington's monumental core to downtown and other parts of the city. The system will help NCPC meet a key goal of its new National Capital Framework Plan—improving connections among the city's national attractions.

Initially championed by the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), the system is managed by D.C. Surface Transit, Inc., a nonprofit consortium including NCPC; the Downtown, Georgetown, and Golden Triangle (i.e., Dupont Circle) BIDS; the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation; the D.C. Department of Transportation; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. First Transit, Inc., a commercial bus line, provides the service.

### New D.C. Circulator Route Along National Mall



## APPROVAL ON WASHINGTON NATIONALS BASEBALL STADIUM

The Commission approved site and building plans for the Washington Nationals Baseball Stadium at the intersection of South Capitol Street and Potomac Avenues, SE, with the exception of a few elements that require additional design information. Members requested more detailed specifications regarding the impact of lighting and signage on sight lines to and from the city's monumental core, provision of space for retail, entertainment, and service concessions around the exterior of the stadium, and perimeter security. The Commission also required building and site plans for a Second Phase to include additional above-ground parking and some potential retail space. The stadium (See story pg. 5) is expected to anchor revitalization of South Capitol Street, a goal of NCPC's new National Capital Framework Plan .

## U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE HEADQUARTERS DESIGN CONCEPT GETS GREEN LIGHT

NCPC gave the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) the go-ahead on its preliminary plans for a new Headquarters and Public Information Center at the corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The six-story, 279,000 square-foot complex will replace a sloping parking area on the three-acre site.

The two-wing structure will help to fill in the Northwest Rectangle, one of the areas that NCPC targeted for improvement in its recently announced National Capital Framework Plan (See story pg. 1). The Commission noted that the undulating translucent glass roof, which suggests a dove in flight, will significantly enhance the Constitution Avenue gateway.

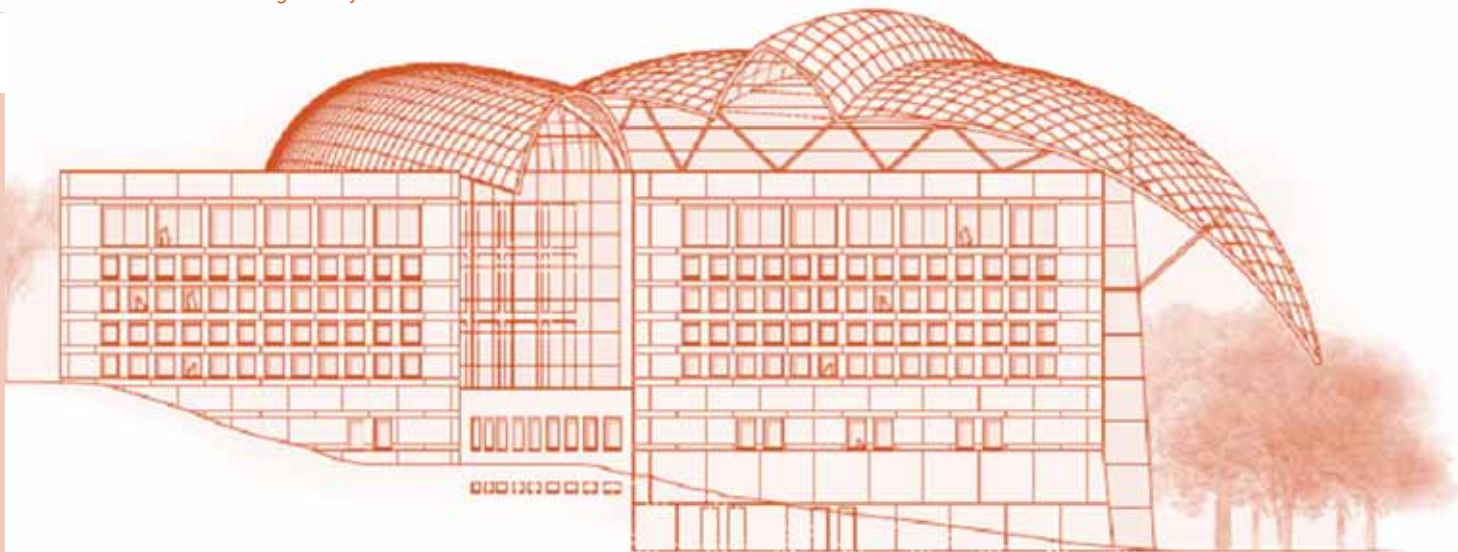
NCPC Commissioners requested that USIP address several issues in future submissions. These include the boundaries of a planned garden, elements that would link the headquarters to the Kennedy Center, and the impact of planned lighting on sight lines to and from the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, the National Mall, and the Lincoln Memorial.

## NCPC SEEKS FEEDBACK ON 2007-2012 FEDERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

In June NCPC released its draft recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget for capital improvements to federal buildings and land over the next six years. Affected agencies, organizations, and citizens have 45 days to comment on the document, *Federal Capital Improvements Program for the National Capital Region, Fiscal Years 2007-2012*.

Of 230 proposed projects, NCPC recommends 189 for immediate funding at a combined cost of \$7.5 billion. An additional 41 projects are recommended for future funding.

Comments may be mailed to NCPC or emailed to [stacy.wood@ncpc.gov](mailto:stacy.wood@ncpc.gov). The deadline for public comment is July 28.



# May

May 4, 2006

## COMMISSION COMMENTS ON ADDITIONS TO CHANCERY OF ISRAEL

The Commission commented favorably on the concept site and building plans for a 2,767-square-foot, three-story addition to the Chancery of Israel located in the International Chancery Center at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street, N.W.

The proposed structure will attach to the northwest corner of the existing chancery and will include decorative elements and site improvements. An internally illuminated, artistically etched glass curtain will cover the building's exterior. An engraved, curved metal wall will replace corner segments of the existing brick security wall.

The Commission advised the chancery to submit justification and waiver requests for the following minor deviations from NCPC's "Development Controls for the Chancery Section of the International Center in the District of Columbia" in its next submission:

- Exceeding the maximum allowable lot occupancy area.
- Locating buildings on the property line and within the setback area.
- Locating the proposed curved metal wall and interpreted temple foundation outside of the chancery property line and within the property of the U.S. Department of State.

The preliminary plans submission must include State Department permission for the construction of the proposed metal wall and temple foundations on its property; additional lighting information, and foot candle modeling describing the illumination of the proposed addition as well as documentation of compliance with NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures (69 FR 41299), adopted April 1, 2004.

The Commission also encouraged the applicant to minimize tree disturbance and depict the existing and proposed tree canopy in its next submission.

## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ADVISED TO MODIFY SECURITY FEATURES

The Commission commented favorably on the concept site and building plans for perimeter security for the Office of Personnel Management's Theodore Roosevelt Building located at 1900 E Street, NW.

The Commission recommended that the applicant integrate the 30-foot-high air-intake enclosures flanking the south entrance into the architecture of the building design; modify the design of the proposed security elements crossing the south entrance plaza on Virginia Avenue to accommodate visual and public access; replace the proposed bollards in the green space of the north plaza on E Street with benches, or relocate the line of proposed benches and bollards north to align with the back edge of the raised planters; ensure that the perimeter fence along Virginia Avenue is designed to protect the roots of existing trees; integrate the proposed security wall along 19th Street into the landscape; and provide multiple openings through proposed continuous perimeter barriers to allow public access into the building yard.

The Commission also advised the applicant that if the project as proposed does not meet any of the Commission's criteria for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment may be required to accompany the preliminary submission.

## LAFAYETTE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The Commission approved preliminary building plans for extensive renovations to modernize the General Services Administration (GSA) Lafayette Building located at 811 Vermont Avenue, NW. The proposed renovation will refurbish interior and external elements; upgrade building systems to bring the structure to GSA class A status; and replace temporary security features with permanent elements.

The Commission recommends that in further development of perimeter security GSA diversify hardened streetscape elements along Vermont Avenue; coordinate the design with structures on the other side of Vermont Avenue; preserve the building's historic retail uses along 15th street; work with retail tenants and the Downtown Business Improvement District to ensure that security elements do not impede the area's commerce and vitality; coordinate with the adjacent property owner to plan for perimeter security at the public alley from 15th Street; provide an alternative design for moving the security elements toward the curb line; and work with the District Department of Transportation to integrate the use of the parking meters into the bollard line.

The Commission also advised the applicant that if the perimeter security portion of the project as proposed does not meet any of the Commission's criteria for exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment may be required with the preliminary submission.



## FINAL APPROVAL OF PATENT OFFICE BUILDING REDESIGN

In April, the Commission revisited plans for the Old Patent Office Building, home to the National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery, which reopened to the public on July 1.

The Commission previously granted approval to enclose the building's historic courtyard with a glass canopy provided the Smithsonian reconstruct the F Street staircase and revise its concept designs for the building's courtyard.

NCPC stipulated that these exterior improvements be made to restore the original facade and return the site to its setting prior to the reconfiguration of F Street, which led to removal of the historic staircase.

The Commission approved the most recent set of plans, which also will extend the south lawn, relocate the historic fence, and add trees, street lights, and sidewalks to the building's perimeter.

The reconstructed courtyard will feature black granite flooring, white marble planters, and a museum café. The Commission rejected, however, three proposed catering benches noting that they would detract from the character of the courtyard as a public space. Members also asked the Smithsonian to refine the design of a proposed water scrim that will traverse the length of the courtyard and to submit proposed perimeter security features.

## REVISED CONCEPT DESIGN FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NATIONAL MEMORIAL

NCPC commented favorably on a revised design concept for the proposed Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial. The selected site for the memorial is a four-acre triangular parcel of land located on the northwest corner of the Tidal Basin at Independence Avenue, SW. Key design elements include a mountain of despair—a 30-foot-high stone sliced in half that will serve as the main entrance to the memorial—and a stone of hope that will be engraved with Dr. King's image. The elements are intended to express the monumentality of the problem of racism, and the power of the spiritual force that can rectify this tragic error. A variety of landscaping elements will complement the existing layout of the Tidal Basin.

In response to the Commission's December 2005 review, the memorial organizers eliminated a proposed memorial walk and panels beneath flowing water, inscribed with Dr. King's orations.

In response to one change, widening the entryway, the Commission recommended that the sponsor return to the original 12-foot-wide passage to maintain the appropriate relationship between the mountain of despair and the stone of hope. NCPC also asked the sponsor to work with the National Park Service on designing and locating a visitor information kiosk.

## PRELIMINARY BUILDING AND SITE PLAN APPROVED FOR FDA'S CENTER FOR DEVICES AND RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH OFFICE BUILDING

The Commission approved building and site plans for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's six-story Center for Devices and Radiological Health Office Building, with the exception of security plans. The center will be located at FDA's consolidated campus at the White Oak Federal Research Center in Montgomery County.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING MODERNIZATION MOVES FORWARD

NCPC approved most aspects of the concept plans for modernizing the Department of Commerce Herbert Hoover Building, located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW in the Federal Triangle. As part of the plan, the National Aquarium will move from the 14th Street side of the building to a location fronting Constitution Avenue with its own entrance. The building's perimeter security and related streetscape elements are deferred pending development of a comprehensive security plan for the Federal Triangle.



## CapitalSpace Conducts Stakeholder Interviews

CapitalSpace, a joint initiative of NCPC, the National Park Service, and the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation, is making progress toward developing a coordinated system of parks in the nation's capital.

A CapitalSpace consultant team recently completed 13 interview panels with key stakeholders, including the District of Columbia's Office of Planning, Department of



Transportation, Public School System, and Department of Parks and Recreation. The Rock Creek Park and National Capital Region—East units

of the National Park Service also were interviewed along with civic groups interested in trails, recreation, and historic, and ecological resources. The team developed six case studies of best practices in park planning, management, and private fundraising based on successful programs in Chicago, New York, Minneapolis, Denver, and Portland. The CapitalSpace partners plan to hold a public meeting in the near future.

## NCPC Hosts Brown Bag on Green Building

On May 11, NCPC staff hosted a brown-bag lunch on the economics of green building construction and operation. Greg Kats, president of Capital E, a premier provider of research and consulting services in the clean energy industry, has collaborated with numerous private and public organizations to finance green buildings. He emphasized that although green building practices cost more than traditional construction, they return the investment through energy savings.

## NCPC Hosts Federal Executive Institute Leadership Training Program

On April 12, NCPC hosted a Federal Executive Institute (FEI) training session for a group from the U.S. Department of the Army. The FEI is a training facility dedicated to developing career leaders for the federal government. During the visit, the group took a break from their training to meet with executive staff members and receive a presentation on the agency's mission and special initiatives from Deputy Executive Director Marcel Acosta and Bill Dowd, director, Plan and Project Implementation.

## NCPC Hosts Students from the University of California

On May 18 NCPC hosted students from the University of California's Washington Center Program, which enables students to spend a semester working and studying in Washington to gain insight into the American political

process. NCPC Executive Director Patti Gallagher briefed the students—who were enrolled in a class entitled "American Memory, Monuments, and National Identity"—on NCPC's role in determining the location and design of monuments in Washington.

## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

### Deputy Executive Director Briefs Republic of Korea Delegation on NCPC's Role

On April 7, NCPC hosted 18 representatives of the Korea Land Corporation and the Korea National Housing Corporation. Deputy Executive Director Marcel Acosta briefed the delegation on NCPC's role in planning for the National Capital Region and fielded numerous questions from the participants.

### Historic Preservation Topic of People's Republic of China Briefing

Daiyuan Wang, Deputy Director of the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, People's Republic of China, met with Jeff Hinkle of NCPC's Planning Research and Policy Division on April 13 to discuss historic preservation. The official visited as part of the International Visitor Leadership program, one of the U.S. Department of State's most prestigious exchange programs.

### Bangkok Planners Visit NCPC

On May 15 NCPC planning and public affairs staff met with a large group of municipal planners from Bangkok, Thailand. Leading the delegation was the Director-General of the Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning. He was joined by 14 other planning officials and three consultants. Julia Koster, director of the Planning Research and Policy Division, provided an overview of NCPC's roles and responsibilities with a particular emphasis on our Comprehensive Plan.

### Executive Director Addresses Moroccan Delegation

A delegation from the Moroccan Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Moroccan House of Representatives, visited NCPC offices on Friday, June 16. Executive Director Patti Gallagher gave an overview presentation that included details of NCPC's involvement in Capitals Alliance, an international forum for senior planners from capital cities around the world. Other executive staff members met informally with the delegates including Chief Operating Officer Barry Socks and General Counsel Lois Schiffer.

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Office of Public Affairs

**Marybeth Murphy**, senior writer/editor in the Office of Public Affairs, left NCPC at the end of April to work as web content manager with the General Services Administration. During her eight years with NCPC, Murphy contributed to many key agency publications, including the Quarterly newsletter, the Annual Report, the Comprehensive Plan, and the *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan*. Murphy also played a major role in establishing and maintaining the agency's website.

**Roland McElroy** joined OPA on a temporary part-time basis to handle media relations while OPA Director Lisa MacSpadden is out on maternity leave. McElroy has more than 35 years of government and public affairs experience and is president of McElroy and Associates, a strategic communications firm. Previously, McElroy served on Senator Sam Nunn's staff for 15 years, first as press secretary and later as chief of staff.

**Perry Frank**, who is a writer with a doctorate in American studies, also joined OPA on a temporary part-time basis to work on the updated edition of *Worthy of the Nation*, a book on Washington planning originally written by Frederick Gutheim and published by NCPC in 1977. The forthcoming revision by Dr. Antoinette Lee is scheduled for publication in November. Frank will oversee the final phases of the book's production and organize an exhibition on the volume's release.

### Technology Development and Applications Division

Technology Development and Applications Division Director **Michael Sherman**, a long-standing member of the U.S. Army Reserves, was called up for active duty this spring. Major Sherman will be serving overseas for approximately 18 months as a facilities and infrastructure engineer. NCPC recognizes the sacrifice that he and his family are making, and we are proud of his service to our country.

**Lucy Sherman** joined NCPC's Technology Development and Applications Division as a Community Planner (GIS). She holds a Master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia and a certificate in Historic Preservation. Sherman has worked for the D.C. Downtown Business Improvement District and the Office of Economic Development in Charlottesville, Virginia. She has experience in urban planning research and geographic information systems.

### Plan and Project Implementation Division

**George Toop**, urban designer and architect, retired from NCPC on June 30 after nine years of service. He made tremendous contributions to the agency from his work on the World War II Memorial to the new convention center to the development of several major foreign missions. He was a driving force behind the Memorials and Museums Master Plan, the National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan, South Capitol Street design scenarios, and planning initiatives for foreign missions. His expertise will be greatly missed.

NCPC's Plan and Project Implementation Division welcomed University of Virginia School of Engineering student **Marin Odioso** for a summer internship. Odioso is working on transportation projects, specifically road configuration for the RFK Stadium site and the Rail Realignment Feasibility Study.

### Planning Research and Policy Division

**Carlton E. Hart** joined the Planning Research and Policy Division as a community planner assigned to the CapitalSpace parks and open space initiative. Hart has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology and has completed course work toward a Master's degree in regional planning at the University of Massachusetts. Before joining NCPC, Hart worked as a planner with the Arlington County Government and as a neighborhood planner with the City of Cambridge from 1995 to 2000.

**Alan Turnbull**, a community planner with the Rivers and Trails Program of the National Park Service (NPS), recently completed a 90-day detail at NCPC. Turnbull worked on CapitalSpace, a joint initiative of NCPC, NPS, and the District of Columbia.

### Urban Design and Plan Review Division

**Ellyn P. Goldkind** has joined NCPC's Urban Design and Plan Review Division as an architect/urban designer. Before joining NCPC, Goldkind worked with the Architect of the Capitol and served as a historical architect with the NPS. She received her Master of Architecture degree from Tulane University, and is currently a degree candidate for a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation from Goucher College.



NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
401 9TH STREET, NW, NORTH LOBBY, SUITE 500  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

# QUARTERLY

April | May | June | 2006

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.

National Capital Planning Commission  
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Fax 202.482.7272  
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## Commission Members

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman, Presidential Appointee

Herbert F. Ames, Presidential Appointee

José L. Galvez, III, Presidential Appointee

Arrington Dixon, Mayoral Appointee

Patricia Elwood, Vice Chair, Mayoral Appointee

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Lurita Alexis Doan  
Acting Administrator of General Services

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Tom Davis  
Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Linda W. Cropp  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Executive Director  
Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP