

MEDIA RELEASE



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NCPC Senior Community Planner Addresses Perimeter Security Symposium

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission and four other federal agencies joined forces today at a perimeter security symposium for federal facilities. Held at the National Academy of Sciences, federal representatives came together to examine current security needs for federal facilities and to discuss ways to partner with private firms in developing appropriate perimeter security solutions. The more than 400 security providers and designers who were in attendance also learned about the federal government’s unique need to develop security solutions that provide efficient security without marring the beauty and historic urban design of the nation’s capital.

The half-day event featured a presentation by Elizabeth Miller, a senior community planner at the National Capital Planning Commission. Ms. Miller served as project manager for the agency’s groundbreaking National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan. In her symposium session entitled, “Designing and Securing the Perimeters of Federal Facilities,” Ms. Miller detailed how NCPC’s security plan guides perimeter security solutions for federal facilities in the National Capital Region.

Published in October 2002 following in-depth analysis and coordination with more than 75 entities, the plan proposes a wide variety of alternative security measures that can provide sound security while complementing the building’s design and streetscape. The urban design and security plan’s central theme is that good security and quality urban design are not incompatible, and when done right, the security components can greatly enhance the urban environment in which they are located. The plan offers a wide range of streetscape and landscape elements that when hardened can effectively protect a building or other structure from the threat of bomb-laden vehicles. Proposed elements include benches, lampposts, trash receptacles, plinth walls, bus shelters, and specially designed bollards and guard booths.

To date, NCPC’s plan has guided numerous federal security projects, including the redesign of Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House into a dignified, pedestrian friendly plaza; the replacement of jersey barriers at the Washington Monument with a granite retaining wall, paved pathways, new trees, and upgraded lighting; and a Mall-wide perimeter security solution for ten of the Smithsonian Institution’s facilities.

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Today's event was hosted by the Federal Facilities Council and sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to the National Capital Planning Commission, other participating agencies included the Department of State, the General Services Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central 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 projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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