

MEDIA RELEASE



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Statement by Richard L. Friedman Chairman Interagency Task Force on Security Design

Washington, DC – Richard L. Friedman, member of the National Capital Planning Commission and Chairman of the Interagency Task Force on Security Design, made the following statement on the release of task force recommendations concerning the impact of federal security measures on the urban design of the Nation’s Capital. The task force was established by NCPC in March 2001.

At the request of federal and local transportation officials, the interagency federal task force evaluating the impact of security measures on the Nation’s Capital has agreed to delay the release of its report until the completion of a traffic analysis currently underway.

We have been working on an accelerated schedule and have made significant progress on several important aspects of our work. We have also looked carefully at existing security design guidelines for federal facilities in the Monumental Core. Our design consultants, led by the Chairman of the Department of Urban Planning and Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, have provided prototypes for urban security design solutions, using innovative landscaping, site furnishings, and other amenities. We have come to see that security installations, when designed with sensitivity and imagination, can actually beautify the urban streetscape. In addition, we have been assessing the overall security environment around the White House and the impacts of the Pennsylvania Avenue closure. The comprehensive traffic analysis is the remaining piece that we need to reach conclusions that are firmly based on solid data.

The analysis is being conducted by the Parsons Transportation Group, a leading traffic consulting firm, in conjunction with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Capital Planning Commission. The study will examine the specific traffic patterns around the White House, including the closure of Pennsylvania Avenue, and provide a comparison of alternatives to assist the task force in making final recommendations. Additional time is required to gather

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data on traffic counts and turning volumes at key intersections, run simulation models, and calculate evaluation measures such as intersection levels of service, and estimated travel times. Following completion of the traffic analysis, expected in late September, the task force will proceed with its recommendations for Pennsylvania Avenue and for design solutions for security measures throughout the Monumental Core.

Since its establishment in March, the task force has convened in numerous meetings and seminars to examine the issues surrounding federal security installations in Washington. Serving on the task force are members of the National Capital Planning Commission, including Commission Chairman John V. Cogbill III, senior representatives from the Department of the Interior and the General Services Administration, Mayor Anthony A. Williams, and District of Columbia Council Chairman Linda W. Cropp. Richard L. Friedman, a presidential appointee of NCPC, serves as Chairman of the task force. Senior representatives of other federal agencies have joined the task force in various aspects of its work. These agencies include the Department of Justice, the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Transportation, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

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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