



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Capital Planning Commission Approves Federal Triangle Heritage Trail Plans

*Intelligence Community Campus - Bethesda Master Plan, UDC Van Ness
Campus Master Plan and Student Center Also Reviewed*

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved preliminary and final site development plans for a Federal Triangle Heritage Trail. The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to create a sixteen sign heritage trail throughout the Federal Triangle. The signs would highlight the art, architecture, and governmental functions of the buildings, as well as the history of the area.

The idea for the heritage trail was first proposed by GSA in 1982 as part of its Federal Triangle Master Plan. The idea was carried forward as one of the recommendations put forth in NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts' *Monumental Core Framework Plan*. The self-guided walking tour would consist of sixteen 7.25' x 2.67' wide signs that utilize the same design as other heritage trail signs in Washington. The trail would traverse Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues meandering through some of the area's most prominent public spaces and past two Metro stations, Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter and Federal Triangle.

"Not only would this trail highlight the unique architecture of the Federal Triangle and the contributions of its workers, but it would also improve connections between the National Mall and downtown Washington," said NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant Jr. "Reconnecting downtown with the Mall is one of the Framework Plan's key goals, and we eagerly anticipate seeing the trail's implementation in early 2012."

In the first item on the agenda the Commission deferred action on the Master Plan for the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda in Montgomery County, Maryland and required the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to evaluate alternatives to the size, location, and capacity of the parking garage including relocation of the parking outside the secured perimeter.

The USACE proposes a complete redevelopment of the site to convert this 40-acre federal facility into a secure Intelligence Community Campus for the Defense Intelligence Agency. The USACE plans to add two new infill buildings, and retain three buildings with new façade treatments. A parking garage and new landscaping will replace existing surface parking lots and greatly decrease impervious surfaces on the site.

The campus will have a maximum of 3,000 employees, the same number as when it functioned as the headquarters of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, prior to its relocation to Fort Belvoir as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

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The Commission reviewed two proposals at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Van Ness Campus. In the first, NCPC approved the Master Plan for the UDC Van Ness Campus, however deferring action on the proposed Student Housing and Athletic Zone located on the campus's southwest corner. While NCPC noted its support for student housing at the campus, the deferral will allow the U.S. Department of State time to examine potential impacts of the proposed student housing on embassies located in the adjacent International Chancery Center.

The 2011-2020 Van Ness Campus Master Plan will guide future growth and improvements at the campus as it transitions to a selective, four-year institution. The plan includes a new student center, renovations, and improvements to "green" the campus, and new student housing for approximately 600 students. No new classrooms or parking are included.

NCPC approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a new 80,000 square-foot student center for the campus. Located at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue, NW and Van Ness Street, NW, the center will contain student-focused spaces and related support areas. A ground-level restaurant, ballroom, and fitness center will help connect the building to the surrounding neighborhood.

The Commission commended UDC for plans to further green its campus, improve the streetscape, and add retail on Connecticut Avenue, NW.

The Commission also heard two informational presentations. The first was an update on plans to build a staircase and elevator connecting the Kennedy Center's west terrace with trails along the Potomac River. The second presentation provided an update on plans to construct a Memorial to Victims of Ukrainian Manmade Famine of 1932-1933 on a triangular plot of land at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, NW and North Capitol Street near Union Station.

This month's agenda also included six consent calendar items (no presentations given):

- Preliminary and final site development plans for electric generating equipment at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for an addition to Building 49 on the St. Elizabeths West Campus, Washington, DC;
- Amendments to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Square Guidelines to eliminate the arcade requirement in Square 252, Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final site development plans for intersection improvements at Wisconsin Avenue (MD State Route 355)/Cedar Lane, at the National Institutes of Health campus, Bethesda, Maryland;
- Preliminary and final site development plans to relocate and rehabilitate the Calder sculpture at the National Museum of American History, Washington, DC; and
- Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Planned Unit Development Modification at Square 50, Washington, DC.

In addition, the Commission [delegated six items](#) to the Executive Director for review. The [final agenda](#) and [staff recommendations](#) for each project, and the video of today's Commission meeting, are available on NCPC's website at www.ncpc.gov.

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