



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NCPC Hears Information Presentation on Options for a Permanent Visitor Screening Facility at the Washington Monument**

*Commission provides comments for Moultrie Courthouse Addition and  
Perimeter Security, and Plans to Close Water Street, SW*

**Washington, DC** – At its monthly meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) provided favorable comments on concept designs for an addition and perimeter security at the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse located at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW in Washington, DC.

The applicant, the District of Columbia Courts, proposes to add a 111,700 gross-square-foot addition to the courthouse's south façade and renovate 64,100 gross square feet of internal space for six new courtrooms, associated chambers, juror amenities, related operational uses, and circulation.

The addition will have a green roof and be designed to meet the LEED Gold standard for new construction. The submission calls for a security barrier line and related streetscape and landscape improvements on the building's C Street side. As part of the proposal the C Street roadway would be narrowed to its historic width of 38 feet. In its comments the Commission recommended that the District of Columbia Courts continue consultation with relevant agencies and noted that the Courts will submit a proposed Judiciary Square Master Plan modification to the Commission at a later date.

The Moultrie Courthouse, constructed in the early 1970s, is the largest courthouse in Judiciary Square. It houses the District of Columbia Superior Court, Family Court, the majority of court support functions, and the United States Marshall Service.

The Commission also provided comments on the District's plan to close Water Street, SW and portions of 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and N Streets, SW, and M Place, SW. The proposed street closings, submitted by the District of Columbia Office of the Surveyor, will facilitate the planned redevelopment of the Southwest waterfront and total 6.2 acres of land.

In its comments the Commission noted that the aforementioned plans would not adversely affect identified federal interests, including that service access to the Maine Lobsterman Park and public access to the waterfront would be maintained, and that the House of Representatives is reviewing legislation regarding transfer of land to the District of Columbia that includes Water Street, SW. The Commission also recommended that the District continue working with NCPC staff regarding concerns expressed by the Southwest Ecodistrict Task Force about the maintenance of reciprocal views between Banneker Park and the waterfront, and the importance of strengthening pedestrian connections between the waterfront and the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

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Before adjourning the National Park Service (NPS) briefed the Commission on options it is considering to replace the existing temporary visitor screening facility at the Washington Monument with a permanent one. The NPS presented five options, four of which would locate the new screening facility below grade, and a fifth option that calls for the screening facility at grade.

All would replace the temporary structure that has been attached to the monument since shortly after September 11, 2001. No action was taken for this informational presentation. The Commission will review concept, preliminary, and final designs for the proposed new permanent structure at a later date.

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

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for a temporary modular office trailer at the National Park Service's National Mall and Memorial Parks Headquarters on West Ohio Drive in East Potomac Park;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for expansion of the Central Utility Plant at the Food and Drug Administration's White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, Maryland;
- Final site and building plans for a WMATA Metrobus garage and maintenance facility located in DC Village in Southwest Washington, DC.

*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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