

MEDIA RELEASE



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For Immediate Release
November 1, 2005

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National Capital Planning Commission Wins Two Local Planning Awards

Washington, DC –The National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) will present two Chapter Awards to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) at its upcoming 2005 Awards Gala scheduled for November 8 at the International Spy Museum in Washington.

NCPC's Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements (Comprehensive Plan) will be honored with the Outstanding Award for a Plan, which recognizes a planning document that advances the science and art of planning in the greater Washington region. Released in 2004, NCPC's Comprehensive Plan recognizes the nation's capital as a unique region with special needs. Its seven elements outline broad visions, goals, and policies for federal development in the National Capital Region and the document details how to accomplish these goals through an achievable action plan. This is the second APA award for the agency's plan; the national APA Federal Planning Division recognized the document in March as an example of Outstanding Sustainable Planning.

The local APA chapter also recognized NCPC's work in developing the Circulator, a new hop-on/hop-off bus system servicing residents, workers, and tourists in downtown Washington. The project, which launched this summer, will be recognized with the Outstanding Award for a Project/Program/Tool. NCPC introduced the Circulator in its 1997 Legacy Plan, a visionary framework for future development in the nation's capital during the next 50-100 years. The Circulator is designed to improve mobility within the District by complementing existing transit options and moving people to places of work, key attractions, restaurants, and businesses. Of the four potential routes envisioned in the Legacy Plan, service began in July on the first two routes as a result of a partnership forged by NCPC with local and civic entities.

“The nation's capital has distinct planning and development needs that set it apart from other major cities,” said NCPC Chairman Cogbill. “The Comprehensive Plan and the Circulator project both serve to reinforce the standards that have made Washington a world-class capital city. It is an honor to be recognized for our work on these important planning initiatives.”

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The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. at the International Spy Museum located at 800 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. More information about the awards ceremony can be found at the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association's website <http://www.ncac-apa.org/>.

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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