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Lisa MacSpadden  
202-482-7263 or [lisa@ncpc.gov](mailto:lisa@ncpc.gov)  
Stephen Staudigl  
202-482-7279 or [stephen@ncpc.gov](mailto:stephen@ncpc.gov)

## **NCPC Approves Final Plans for National Mall Pylons and Map Kiosks** *Federal Capital Improvements Program authorized for circulation*

**Washington, DC** – At its July meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved final site development plans for the fabrication and installation of pedestrian guide wayfinding pylons and map kiosks for the National Mall and East Potomac Park, but deferred final approval of the pylon panel colors. It also recommended that the DC Circulator's National Mall routes be included in the sign program.

The Park Service intends to replace 102 existing signs with approximately 100 new pedestrian guide pylons and map kiosks in a coordinated design scheme. Plans call for two different sizes of four-sided pylons with pictographs to serve as orientation and directional devices. Two different sized map kiosks with more comprehensive information will be placed at key Mall entrances. The new signage program seeks to better communicate information to a variety of audiences.

The deferral on approval of the pylon panel colors is pending further consultation among the staffs of NCPC, the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), which approved a monochromatic gray scheme for the pylons and destination panels at its June meeting. The Commission's recommendation regarding the DC Circulator was opposed by the Park Service, which said it would not be able to meet this request while it has a contractual obligation with another transportation provider. Currently, the Tourmobile provides an interpretive transit service for the NPS.

This month's submission from the National Park Service is part of a larger sign system for the National Mall. In May, the Commission approved preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a UniGuide sign system for NPS facility identification signs, and rules and regulation signs. A third component, monument identification signs, has not yet been submitted for review.

The Commission today also authorized circulation of the proposed Federal Capital Improvements Program for the National Capital Region, Fiscal Years 2010-2015 for a 45-day public review and comment period. The draft FCIP contains 194 projects. 162 projects have been submitted by federal agencies. Of the 32 projects submitted by NCPC, 12 are related to the recently-adopted *Monumental Core Framework Plan*.

Of the 162 agency-submitted projects, 69 are in the District of Columbia (51 percent), 49 are in Maryland (14 percent), 42 are in Virginia (33 percent), and two are in the National Capital Region (this includes projects that are proposed across multiple jurisdictions). The top two largest requests are \$3.6 billion from the General Services Administration and \$1.9 billion from the Department of the Army.

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The FCIP categorizes each federal capital project according to one of four categories: Recommended and Strongly Endorsed, Recommended, Projects Requiring Additional Planning Coordination; and Recommended for Future Programming. Inclusion of projects in the FCIP does not indicate Commission approval, and recommendation levels are subject to revision during the review process.

The FCIP draft is normally released in June, but extra time was provided to federal agencies to allow them to make changes to their capital improvements programs in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The draft FCIP will be available for review at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov). Any additions or changes made by federal agencies to their submitted projects during the public comment period will also be available on NCPC's website.

A final draft is scheduled to be reviewed for adoption at the September 3, 2009 Commission meeting. Once the Commission adopts the draft FCIP, it will be forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget and made available to the public.

This month's agenda also included seven consent calendar items (no presentation given):

- Preliminary and final building plans for installation of a rooftop laboratory exhaust system at the National Museum of Natural History;
- Site approval and concept design comments for the Fisher House on the grounds of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Air National Guard Headquarters and Readiness Center expansion at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Maryland;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for a National Capital Region Relocation Administrative Facility at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Maryland;
- Final site and building plans for the Missile Defense Agency Headquarters Command and Control Center at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for the new North Atlantic Regional Medical Center Headquarters and Dental Clinic buildings at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia;
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for infrastructure plans at the Engineering Proving Grounds at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia;
- Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia on a Consolidated Planned Unit Development for the Friendship-Macomb Shopping Center in Washington, DC.

Information regarding actions taken at the Commission meeting can be accessed at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov).

*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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