



MEDIA RELEASE

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NPCPC Comments on Herbert C. Hoover Building Site Improvements and Perimeter Security Plans

*Commission Approves Preliminary Plans for Intelligence and Security
Command (INSCOM) Fort Belvoir Expansion*

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today, Thursday, February 7, 2013, the National Capital Planning Commission (NPCPC) provided comments to the General Services Administration (GSA) on GSA's revised concept designs for site improvements and perimeter security at the Herbert C. Hoover Building, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The submission is similar to the concept design previously reviewed by the Commission with a few changes. Proposed security elements include a cable rail system that will mostly be incorporated into stone-clad walls and piers, hardened lights, bollards near building entrances, collapsible concrete, and vehicular barriers. Unlike the previous submission, the revised concept design includes some security elements along 14th and 15th Streets, NW that are in public space.

While noting that locating these security elements in public space is not consistent with NPCPC policy, the Commission did agree to a partial exception if GSA demonstrated that doing so would provide increased public benefit. Means to provide these benefits include integrating security barriers into the urban landscape as best as possible; improving the pedestrian experience along Pennsylvania Avenue and in the Federal Triangle by adding seating, trees, and other plants; capturing and mitigating storm water runoff; providing a pedestrian environment that minimizes bollards as much as possible; using pavement materials and streetscape elements consistent with existing area design guidelines; and coordinating public space elements with the District Department of Transportation.

The Commission approved preliminary site and building plans submitted by the Department of the Army for phase 1 of the proposed renovation and expansion of the Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) on Fort Belvoir's North Post. Plans call for the renovation of the existing 234,000 sq. ft. building, adding a 382,000 sq. ft. addition, and building a new 1,421 space parking deck.

In its preliminary approval the Commission recommended that the Army evaluate moving the parking deck closer to the building to reduce tree loss; working with Fairfax County to provide bus service to, and a bus shelter near, the facility; and adding bike lanes to adjacent streets and providing bike amenities including covered bike parking. The Commission also requested that the Army provide several pieces of information prior to NPCPC's review of final site and building plans, including responses to NPCPC, Fairfax County, and Virginia DOT's comments, and a Transportation Management Plan for the facility, along with a draft Transportation Management Plan for the entire base.

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

- Final site and building development plans for a new commissary on Fort Belvoir's North Post, Fairfax County, Virginia. (7150)
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for expansion of the Navy Lodge at Naval Support Activity Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland. (7426)
- Comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Text Amendment to the Reed-Cooke Overlay. (ZC 12-17)

In addition, the Executive Director approved eleven items under authorities delegated by the Commission. Staff recommendations are available on [NCPC's website](#).

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall 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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