

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6423



**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MALL-WIDE BUILDING PERIMETER SECURITY
CONCEPT DESIGN**

The Mall, between Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue
and 4th Street, NW and 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Submission by the Smithsonian Institution

February 5, 2004

Commission Action Requested

Approval of concept design pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Commends the Smithsonian Institution and its consultant team for an inclusive public process and incorporating the guidelines of the *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* into its building perimeter security plan by balancing security requirements with appropriate urban design principles and historic preservation requirements, and maximizing the opportunities to enhance and complement the Mall facilities and environment for visitors.

Approves the concept design for the Smithsonian Institution Mall-Wide Perimeter Security Improvements at the Mall in Washington, DC as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.00(73.10)41295

Recommends the applicant refine the design during development of the preliminary site and building plans:

- Redesign the security line at the entry islands in front of the Museums of American History and Natural History on Constitution Avenue to incorporate security into the design of an entry feature or site amenity, and to accentuate the entries to the museums and break-up the expanse of the low freestanding walls.
- Design openings in the freestanding walls to allow access to the lawn areas at the Museums of American History, Natural History, and Air and Space, to allow pedestrians to access the lawns for sitting.

- Redesign the security barrier at the entry stairs at the Museum of Natural History on Madison Drive by modifying the design to relocate bollards from the curb line to the base of the stairs to reduce the visual and physical impact of security at this location.
- Reconsider and/or redesign the bollard line in front of the Quad's decorative fence that runs across the lawn and sidewalk on Independence Avenue and consider hardening the fence in order to avoid adding elements to the landscape that detract from the fence.
- Redesign the bollard placement at outer sidewalks near the Freer Gallery and the Arts and Industry Building on Independence Avenue to reduce unnecessary turns and improve bollard placement relative to corners.
- Relocate the proposed bollards at the Air and Space Museum located at the three eastern pedestrian walkway entrances that align with the site walls to the bottom of the adjacent stairs, as well as the bollards at the pedestrian walkway on 4th Street. This will accentuate these entry areas, de-emphasize the bollards and break the visual monotony of the security line along these streets.
- Evaluate how the low freestanding wall to be placed at the outer edge of the Air and Space Museum's west lawn at Independence and 7th Street will impact the visual quality of this corner and the landmark sculptural element and fountain. If the wall is determined to be a visual impediment, consider relocating the security line to the east, or incorporating it into the sculpture/fountain design.
- Consider integrating the guard booths into low retaining walls, and integrating signage and trash receptacles into the security line as hardened elements where possible to avoid redundant elements and reduce clutter along the street.
- Design a structural soil system, or equivalent planting detail, in those areas where significant new tree planting is proposed.
- Propose a method to improve the appearance of the cable beam barrier to be used at the inside barrier line of the proposed sally ports. Consider painting the cable beam mechanical box to reduce its visual presences in the landscape and incorporate signalization into the design of the security booths or cable beam barriers, versus mounting the equipment as an appendage.
- Detail and submit design details for the realignment of Jefferson Drive and for the various security elements to be used on each block including sketches or cross sections to convey visual impacts and spatial relationships.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission