

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER
SWANN ROAD LANE ADDITION AT CENSUS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Prince George's County, Maryland

Submitted by the General Services Administration

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

December 30, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary site development plans for the addition of one traffic lane on Swann Road between the Suitland Federal Center Gate No. 5 and the Census Building North Parking Structure entrance, for a total length of 440 feet, at the Suitland Federal Center in Prince George's County, Maryland as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3205.10(41.22)42942.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has requested review of preliminary site development plans for the construction of one 12-foot wide traffic lane and associated site modifications on Swann Road adjacent to the new Census Headquarters Building at the Suitland Federal Center in Prince George's County, Maryland. The proposed lane expansion provides a consistent entrance road width from Gate No.5 at Silver Hill Road that serves as a main entry point to the Census Headquarters' North Parking Garage. Presently, a portion of Swann Road narrows to three traffic lanes as vehicles pass through the four-lane security gate complex and proceed to the parking garage. The merging of traffic internally on-site, since the opening of the garage in July 2009, has created traffic back-ups onto Silver Hill Road when morning rush-hour traffic approaches the Gate No. 5 entrance. This condition presents a hazard to Swann Road drivers entering the garage due to the loss of one traffic lane along the present width of Swann Road, and also endangers drivers on Silver Hill Road attempting to turn into the Census site, with the traffic stoppage both from the east and the west.

The Swann Road lane addition will extend 440 feet north from the current four lane Gate No. 5 area and will be constructed of asphalt road pavement with curb additions creating a median area for pedestrian safety for those walking from the Census Building to the east side of Swann Road.

In conformance with its NEPA compliance procedures, the GSA completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the master plan that included the realignment and reconstruction of Swann Road. GSA completed its EIS for the Suitland Federal Center and Phase I implementation on September 21, 2001. GSA accomplished a Record of Decision pursuant to NEPA requirements in November 2001. GSA completed a Final Environmental Assessment on the Census Bureau headquarters on August 30, 2002 that included the detailed layout of Swann Road in that document. GSA accomplished a Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to NEPA requirements on September 27, 2002. No conditions or provisions of the earlier NEPA documentation are changed by the single traffic lane addition to Swann Road, including provisions for location and management of stormwater drainage that is established onsite.

The Swann Road area is a portion of the Suitland Federal Center that is not considered eligible for the National Register, and no areas of the east portion of the Census Headquarters site are considered historically significant. GSA and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (MD SHPO) concluded a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in August 2002 on the Phase 2 development at the Suitland Federal Center that included the realignment of Swann Road. The MD SHPO concurred with GSA's determination that the Phase 2 development would have *no adverse effect* on the nearby Suitland House and on the Suitland Parkway.

The project is a proposal outside the District of Columbia and consequently the Commission is advisory and does not have an independent NEPA or Section 106 responsibility in accordance with NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director