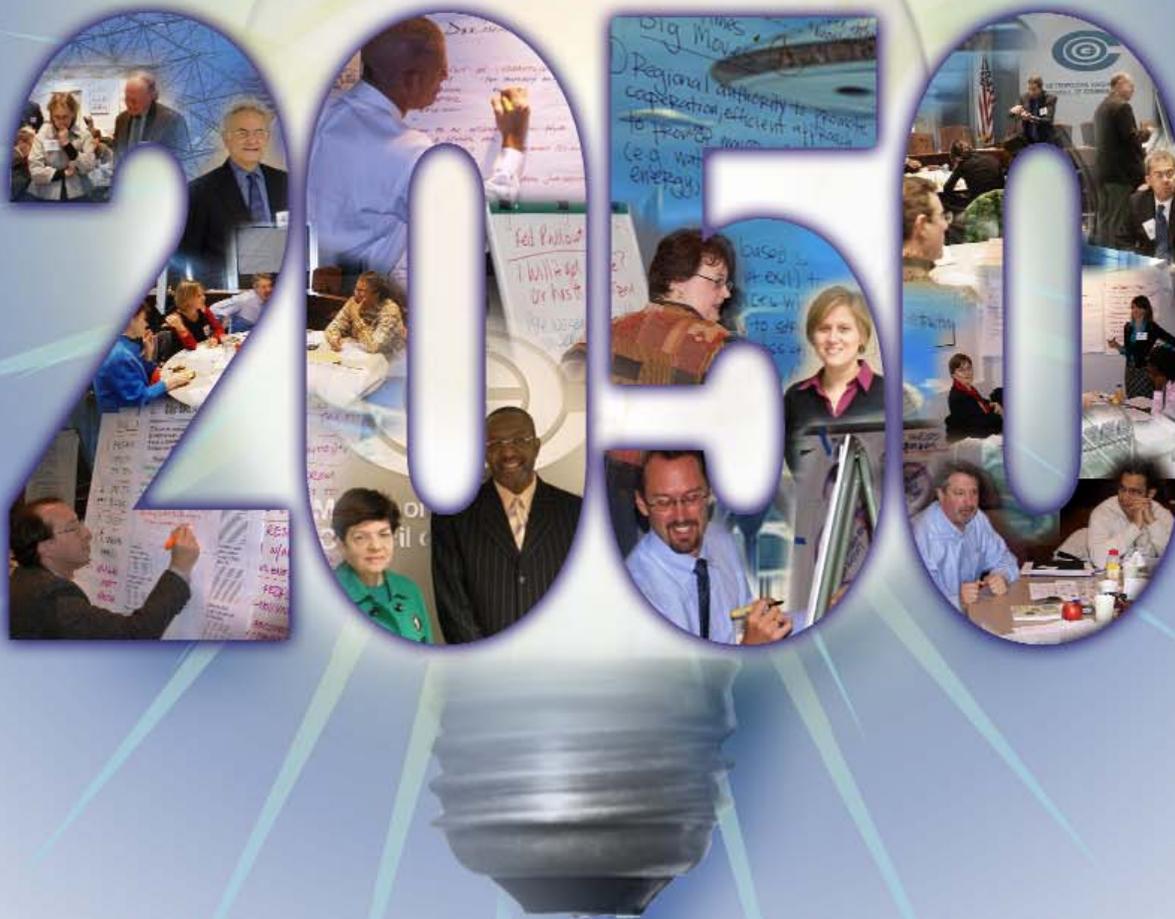


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N A T I O N A L C A P I T A L P L A N N I N G C O M M I S S I O N



## Engaging the Region in Planning for the Future

Page 2

- 3** Chesapeake Crescent Initiative Aims to Make Region a Global Powerhouse
- 4** City's Aging Sewer System is the Focus of a New Study  
Framework Plan Recognized by ASLA
- 5** Effort to Conserve Fort Circle Parks is Named a Regional Conservation Priority
- 6** Commission Actions
- 11** Agency News

# Engaging the Region in Planning for the Future



2

A diverse group of stakeholders from across the region was on hand in November as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the District of Columbia's Office of Planning (DCOP) hosted a "Scenario Thinking Workshop" in Northeast Washington.

The event was launched as part of the work of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition (GW 2050), which MWCOCG, NCPC, and DCOP are collaborating on. The workshop was designed to foster creative thinking about how important global, national, and regional trends in energy and the environment, the economy, technology and demographics might evolve and influence the region's future.

NCPC's executive director and members of the agency's planning staff attended, as did representatives of other federal agencies including the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense. They all discussed the evolving role of the federal government in the region's future.

"We recognize that the federal government plays a unique role in shaping the region's economy, its land use, transit, and image at home and abroad," said NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta. "These are important issues that need to be addressed at the local, regional, and federal levels."

An estimated one hundred people listened as Sharon Bulova, chair of the GW 2050 Coalition convened the meeting. During her address she touted the preeminent mass transit entity in the region as an example of what can be accomplished through cooperation. "The Metro system was the result of a compact," said Bulova.

Harriet Tregoning, Director of the DC Office of Planning encouraged the group to think about how they might work together to produce accomplishments down the road. "Let's stretch our minds and think about what might be happening in the decades to come, not in the years to come," she said in her opening remarks. "Today, let's all be futurists."

To provide some perspective on major issues that could be facing the region in the future, local radio and television journalist Kojo Nnamdi introduced a group of distinguished panelists. They included William Halal, a science professor at George Washington University; Anna Motschenbacher, a fellow at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change; and Alice M. Rivlin, a visiting professor at Georgetown University and a senior fellow in economics at The Brookings Institute.

The panel focused on the economy, technology, and climate change as related to the environment. Ms. Rivlin addressed the nation's current economic challenges and shared how the local economy benefits from its unique attributes. "This region is better positioned than most," said Ms. Rivlin. "We never had a manufacturing base that we had to downsize. We don't have much of a financial service industry either. We are not New York."

What the city does have in its favor is a vast knowledge base according to Ms. Rivlin. Fellow panelist William Halal agreed. He advocated turning the region into a global knowledge center.

"We asked them to develop strategic responses or big moves in each of the four scenarios."

John Mataya  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

“Knowledge is the most valuable resource we have, and the region has it in spades.”

William Halal  
Professor, George Washington University

“Knowledge is the most valuable resource we have and the region has it in spades,” said Mr. Halal. He referred to a chart to illustrate how knowledge and technology will be influencing our world in the decades to come. “We’re going to see an explosion of more IT and e-commerce in the next five or so years,” he said. “We are forming the central nervous system of the planet and it’s going to happen very quickly.”

Panelist Anna Motschenbacher focused her talk on rising sea levels, droughts, floods, and disruptions to the planet’s biosphere based on climate change. She also addressed the likely implications these disruptions will have on the region. Her remarks were followed by an active question and answer session.

Attendees were then divided into nine groups. They each received four scenarios depicting conditions in the year 2040 written by futurist Bob Olson. The titles included “Hot and Gridlocked,” “Federal Dispersal,” “Cooperation in Hard Times,” and “High Tech Green.” The groups were asked to read the scenarios, all of which predicted a set of future challenges, and then brainstorm on different approaches to deal with them.

“Participants were asked to explore the scenarios to better understand their implications on the region,” said NCPC’s Julia Koster, director of NCPC’s Planning Research and Policy Division.

“We asked them to develop strategic responses or big moves in each of the four scenarios,” said John Mataya, regional planner with MWCOG and an organizer of the event. “We then identified the common strategic responses that could address issues or conditions in all four scenarios,” he explained.

Several themes emerged from the exercise and the results will be summarized in a report that will be presented to the GW 2050 Coalition in early 2009. Another mini-workshop, which NCPC will coordinate, is also being scheduled. The goal is to provide federal representatives with an opportunity to further brainstorm about the scenario alternatives and how the federal government should respond to regional changes.

“Effectively blending the federal government’s role with the efforts of regional authorities is critical to enabling the area to work together to successfully address key challenges of the future,” said Dave Robertson, executive director of MWCOG.

Mr. Acosta agreed. “If we work together, we can not only be well prepared for the future, we can also make this one of the most forward thinking regions in the country.”

## Chesapeake Crescent Aims for Region to be a Global Powerhouse

The Chesapeake Crescent, a regional non-profit organization working to foster regional coordination and prosperity, welcomed NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta to its board in November.

The organization is a public/private partnership designed to advance innovative technology, clean energy, workforce housing, and transportation in the Chesapeake Crescent region, which spans Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Founded by government leaders and entrepreneurs, it is a unique collaboration of stakeholders committed to working together to advance important goals for the region.

“The Chesapeake Crescent is an excellent example of the power of collaboration,” said Marcel Acosta, NCPC’s executive director. “The region is home to an unrivaled concentration of resources, including government, military, civic, and business. By pooling together these important sectors, Chesapeake Crescent is helping to secure the region’s leadership role on a wide range of vital issues, such as the environment, transit, and renewable energy sources.”

At its most recent gathering on November 12, board members focused on the organization’s strategic overview and operating plan for 2009. Objectives include curtailing suburban sprawl, working with the government on the location of federal facilities and employment centers, and reducing the region’s consumption of natural resources.



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## NCPC Hosts Applicant Workshops

On October 29, in an effort to improve the plan review process, NCPC’s Urban Design and Plan Review Division hosted two Applicant Workshops. The meetings were the first in a series of sessions that will be dedicated to familiarizing applicants with the agency’s mission and submission review procedures.

“Fifty people participated in the first two workshops and NCPC will schedule additional workshops in early 2009 to accommodate those who couldn’t attend,” said David Levy, director of the Urban Design and Plan Review Division.

Topics included agency background, types of projects the Commission reviews, planning policies, the submission process for projects and master plans, as well as the Commission’s statutory authorities and obligations. Attendees were provided with a copy of the Commission’s submission guidelines and supporting documents.

The workshops are just one part of a process improvement plan being undertaken by the Urban Design and Plan Review Division. The plan also includes standardizing formats for Executive Director Reports and project presentations, as well as improving electronic record keeping.

## Flood Mitigation Efforts to Include Study of City's Aging Sewer System

To help minimize the risk of potential flooding caused by poor drainage in the monumental core, federal and local officials recently commissioned a \$500,000 study of the sewage system near the Federal Triangle in downtown Washington, DC.

The study, which is slated to begin in the next few months, is a joint effort among the D.C. Department of the Environment, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, the General Services Administration, the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and NCPC.

The study will determine the capacity of the existing sewer system, predict the ponding level of water in the area, assess the impact and probability of interior flooding, and identify alternatives to improving the sewer system while providing costs and benefits.

The drainage threat stems from underground streams that have existed since sections of what is now Constitution Avenue were constructed over the former Washington Canal. A number of government buildings in the area, including the IRS headquarters, the U.S. Commerce Department, the U.S. Justice Department, the National Archives, and the National Gallery of Art all flooded during a tropical deluge that occurred in June 2006.

The incident prompted NCPC staff to study the risks of flooding in the downtown area. According to NCPC planner Michelle Desiderio, who authored the 2008 flooding report, costs for the sewer study will be split by the federal and District governments.

"The methodology of the study includes assembling existing sewer maps, examining rainfall conditions, and installing a flow meter in the Constitution Avenue storm sewer to determine the likelihood

of future flooding under different weather patterns," explained Ms. Desiderio. "The study also calls for a closed circuit television inspection of the sewer system." Data collection will take nearly three months to complete and a draft report is expected to be released in nine months. It will outline three alternative solutions.

Meanwhile, efforts to meet a FEMA-imposed November 2009 deadline that will protect the National Mall and monumental core from future river flooding continue to move forward.

NCPC's 2008 study had identified possibilities for strengthening the Potomac Park levee system near 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The National Park Service (NPS) has worked closely with NCPC, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the District of Columbia government to pare five possible solutions down to two alternatives.

Both proposals hinge on building a temporary post and panel flood wall across 17th street near the Washington Monument while adding a system of concrete and stone retaining walls. The Park Service plans to submit its preferred alternative to NCPC for concept design review in January 2009.

"As a result of NCPC's ongoing work in this area, the agency was in a good position to coordinate an intergovernmental and interagency response."

Christine Saum  
NCPC Senior Urban Designer



4

## Potomac Chapter of ASLA Recognizes National Capital Framework Plan

The Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects recognized the National Capital Framework Plan with an Honor Award in the "Planning" category during an awards ceremony on December 9 in Baltimore.

"We are very proud that the ASLA recognized the quality of the planning work we have done with our partners at the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and our consultants at EDAAW," said Bill Dowd, director of NCPC's Plan and Project Implementation Division.

Efforts to finalize the plan include working through a high volume of public comments received on a draft version, which was released jointly by CFA and NCPC in July.

"Sustainability needs to be the bedrock upon which any great plan for the future must be built."

Harriet Tregoning  
Director, DC Office of Planning

Outreach efforts included a public hearing before CFA, two evening presentations at NCPC, and visits to a dozen organizations where it was viewed by more than 900 people. In addition, NCPC and CFA hosted two symposiums and three round table

discussions. Comments came from numerous agencies, interest groups, and members of the public. More than 150 pages of comments received via emails, letters, and blog posts are being considered as staff shape a final version of the plan.

Members of NCPC's partnering agency, CFA, expressed a desire to place more emphasis on the emerging issue of green design, a goal that the District of Columbia government supports.

"Sustainability needs to be the bedrock upon which any great plan for the future must be built," says Harriet Tregoning, director of the DC Office of Planning. "The Plan's focus on improving place and connectivity offers an opportunity to align the recommendations with today's challenges, global climate change, and Washington's local environmental issues," said Ms. Tregoning.

The District also requested more focus on efforts that enhance urban vitality and mass transit. The plan is currently being revised and will be submitted to the Commission for final review in spring 2009.

# Washington Smart Growth Alliance Recognizes Effort to Conserve Fort Circle Parks

A circle of Civil War forts and earthworks erected in defense of the nation's capital is one of six areas recently named by the Washington Smart Growth Alliance (WSGA) as a 2008 regional conservation priority.

The Fort Circle Parks have long been envisioned as part of a regional park system, connected by a parkway or greenway. In 1902, the McMillan Plan designated the forts as a belt of green parkland around the city, and a 1964 plan called for a drive connecting the forts. While the earlier plans weren't implemented, the proposal received renewed attention as part of CapitalSpace, a joint parks initiative undertaken by the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service, and the District of Columbia.

"As part of the CapitalSpace project, the partners aim to link the parks through a system of pedestrian friendly streets and trails that connect to surrounding communities, waterfronts, and other trail systems," said NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta. "Our goal is to increase awareness about the cultural and historic significance of the forts while also enhancing access to the region's remarkable park system."

In addition to the Fort Circle Parks, the Washington Smart Growth Alliance named the following as 2008 conservation priorities:

- Restoration of 40 original boundary stones that outlined the District of Columbia
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail along the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay
- Long Bridge Park in Arlington County
- Dove's Landing in Prince William County
- George Washington's Maryland Conservation Area across the Potomac from Mount Vernon

The 2008 Conservation Priorities report concluded that by 2030, the National Capital Region will increase by two million people and more than 1.6 million jobs, therefore adding pressure to historic sites and natural environments.

"We focus on preserving green space, capital projects that will benefit the natural environment and the restoration of blighted parcels, places or resources," said Lee Epstein, lands program director at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and chairman of the Alliance's conservation jury.

The Alliance noted that smart conservation can help shape growth patterns, as well as enhance land stewardship, air and water quality, and quality of life. For more information on Fort Circle Parks and the other conservation priorities, visit [www.capitalspace.gov](http://www.capitalspace.gov) or [www.SGAlliance.org](http://www.SGAlliance.org).



"We can't predict the future,  
but we must do what we  
can to plan for it."

Marcel Acosta  
NCPC Executive Director



## The Future of the National Mall

The National Mall is home to many of the country's most important memorials and museums as well as a place of great history making. Annually, the Mall is the backdrop for many gatherings, including the Fourth of July celebration, national protests, marches, recreational activities, and more. The Mall and its many uses are the focus of a new book NCPC contributed to, "The National Mall: Rethinking Washington's Monumental Core."

Published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, the book includes ten essays that examine the past and present status of the Mall and what might lay ahead for this iconic location.

"Throughout our history both citizens and city stewards have been responsible for ensuring that Washington represents the best this nation has to offer, as both a city and a symbol," said Marcel Acosta, NCPC's executive director. "For the past two hundred years the National Mall has been the focus of much of that effort. It has evolved as both a site for commemoration of our history and as a stage for America's historical events. It has been greatly successful at both."

5

Mr. Acosta participated in two recent events focusing on the book and the Mall's history. On October 24, the United States Capitol Historical Society hosted a panel discussion in the Russell Senate Office Building as part of its 2008 fall program. Mr. Acosta was joined by the book's co-editor Cynthia R. Field, architectural historian emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution; Judy Scott Feldman, president of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall; and James F. Cooper, founding director, Cultural Studies Center for the Newington-Cropsey Foundation. All of the panelists contributed to the book. Don Kennon, chief historian with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, moderated the event.

A second discussion took place on December 1 in the auditorium of the National Building Museum. Washington Post columnist Roger Lewis, professor emeritus at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation moderated the panel discussion. Mr. Acosta, Cynthia Field, and Judy Scott Feldman participated in the discussion.

Mr. Acosta focused on the need to have the city take on a greater role in filling the need for commemoration, a key theme in NCPC's major planning efforts including the 1997 Extending the Legacy Plan, the 2001 Memorials and Museums Master Plan, and the current National Capital Framework Plan.

"We can't predict the future, but we must do what we can to plan for it," said Mr. Acosta. "We need to ensure that centuries from now the National Mall can still serve as the nation's preeminent gathering place as well as a site for reflection and renewal."

# December

December 4, 2008

## Text Amendment to the Zoning Regulations and Related Map Amendment to Extend the Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay District

(File Number Z.C. 08-09)

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) determined that a text and map amendment to extend the existing Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay District would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital nor adversely affect any other federal interests. The Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia referred the project to NCPC for its review. The amendment will expand the overlay district to include Squares 2708 through 2716, bounded by Colorado Avenue on the north, 16th Street on the west, 14th Street on the east, and Decatur Street on the south.

Advisory Neighborhood Council (ANC) 4C petitioned the Office of Zoning in April 2008 for the text and map amendments to conserve low density, single-family neighborhoods for housing and neighborhood-related uses. The existing overlay district was established in 1994.

## Staff Reports Now Online

NCPC's staff recommendations to the Commission, known as Executive Director's Recommendation (EDRs), are now available online prior to each Commission meeting. Staff will post the EDRs as Adobe Acrobat pdfs by noon on the Monday prior to the meeting.

If you are interested in a project, please visit [www.ncpc.gov/meetings](http://www.ncpc.gov/meetings) and click on the final agenda to view the full reports.

## National Capital Planning Commission Policy for Adopting Planning Documents

(File Number 6893)

The Commission approved a staff submission regarding procedures for adopting and releasing agency planning documents. The new procedures are designed to assist staff members in implementing adopted plans. They will provide guidance to Commission members and applicants for utilizing these plans during the review of future projects.

The new measures recognize planning work by "adopting" plans and "reviewing" studies. Similar to current project submissions, each new plan or study will now be accompanied by an Executive Director's Recommendation (EDR) which will convey how each project will be used and implemented by staff. EDRs will vary for each project according to the scope of work and type of recommendations included in the document.

6

## DECEMBER INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

### The National Capital Framework Plan

NCPC Senior Urban Planner Elizabeth Miller provided the Commission with an informational update on the National Capital Framework Plan. Ms. Miller presented a summary of input received during the public comment period. A majority of the feedback came from major stakeholders, government agencies, and private citizens. "We received more than 150 pages of comments," stated Ms. Miller. "Our goal is to now revisit the plan, incorporate feedback to the extent possible, and prepare a finalized report by early 2009."



**National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Curtis Davis, project executive for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Harry Rombach, associate director for facilities master planning at the Smithsonian Institution, provided members of the Commission with an update on the future museum.

The Smithsonian has finished the programmatic requirements for the projected 350,000-400,000 gross square foot building. Forty percent of the space will be devoted to permanent and temporary exhibitions and twenty-one percent to other public uses. The Smithsonian anticipates having outdoor public spaces, incorporating perimeter security elements into the design, and making sure that green design and sustainability are major design features.

The Smithsonian has requested qualifications from potential architects and plans to hold a design competition in early 2009. Submissions should show how the future museum would fit into the composition of the National Mall, including the grounds of the Washington Monument. The architect and/or design team will be chosen in late summer to develop three design concepts, which the Smithsonian anticipates will be ready to present to the Commission in late 2009. The project's estimated completion date is November 2015.

**Potomac Park Levee**

Representatives of the Olin Partnership, the landscape design team working on plans to address potential flooding in the monumental core presented two preferred alternatives for an improved levee system on the Mall.

The linchpin of the plan is a yet-to-be-built flood wall that would stretch across 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The flood wall would be a temporary structure that will be assembled on an as-needed basis using a post and panel system. When the wall isn't in use, it would be disassembled and then stored in an inconspicuous location nearby.

The first alternative would be located near the Washington Monument. Under this scenario, the flood wall would connect to a partially buried retaining wall that would extend onto the monument grounds. The second plan has the flood wall moving farther south on 17th Street. Both plans would require the removal of several trees and the erection of concrete retaining walls that would eventually be finished in natural stone. Both alternatives received positive feedback from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

NCPC, the National Park Service, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the District Office of Planning are currently working on a consensus plan that will bring a solution before NCPC for concept review in early 2009.

# November

November 6, 2008

**National Zoological Park Master Plan**

(File Number MP053)

The National Capital Planning Commission reviewed and approved a submission by the Smithsonian Institution to update its 1988 master plan for the 163-acre National Zoological Park, subject to the implementation of required mitigation actions. The National Zoo is located on Connecticut Avenue, NW adjacent to Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC.

The new master plan lays out the Smithsonian's proposals to upgrade zoo facilities and infrastructure, and to provide flexibility for future exhibits and collections. The Zoo's primary pedestrian pathway, the Olmsted Walk, will be flanked by large, multi-species exhibits. Current exhibits would be revitalized and flat land now being used as parking lots would be converted to exhibit space.

As part of the plan, the Zoo's three main entry points at Connecticut Avenue, North Road, and Harvard Street would be refurbished and they would feature improved visitor facilities. In addition, the Connecticut Avenue entry point would offer a plaza for events. The plan includes a new structured parking facility, improved accessibility for disabled patrons, new shuttle services, and an aerial tram. The tram would connect the zoo's entry points and offer visitors a unique interpretive experience and aerial perspective of the zoo and Rock Creek Park.

The Commission did not, however, approve a proposed 300-space underground parking deck and request for 35 official guest and volunteer parking spaces. The Commission noted that the applicant's Transportation Management Plan did not demonstrate that the spaces would be consistent with policies outlined in the Federal Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital nor did it properly address potentially negative traffic impacts on surrounding roads and intersections. (continued on next page)



(continued from previous page)

The Commission's approval is contingent upon the applicant implementing required mitigation actions in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued by NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta on October 31, 2008. The FONSI notes that the applicant must implement erosion and sediment control measures during design and construction that meet District of Columbia Department of the Environment and DC Department of Health requirements. In addition, a Memorandum of Agreement must be accomplished with the District State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) that identifies requirements and mitigation measures. The measures will be used during individual project development phases that the DC SHPO determines would have an adverse impact on historic resources.



Watha T. Daniel Neighborhood Library

**Watha T. Daniel (Shaw) Neighborhood Library**

(File Number 6519)

The Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a new Watha T. Daniel (Shaw) Neighborhood Library that will achieve the LEED silver rating for green building design. Located at 1701 8th Street, NW, the new facility will replace the previous library, which has already been demolished.

The Commission commended the District of Columbia Public Library and its design team for a well developed, sophisticated, and complementary addition to the surrounding Shaw neighborhood. The new three-story 8,164-square-foot library will feature translucent panels, structural glass, and a metal sunscreen. Two of its three stories would be aboveground, with all but community meeting spaces on the first or second floors.

In response to comments provided by the Commission at its concept design review in April 2008, the applicant adjusted the building's entrance to make it more prominent. Construction of the new library is expected to begin in January 2009. The new library is anticipated to open in March 2010.

NOVEMBER INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

**Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial**

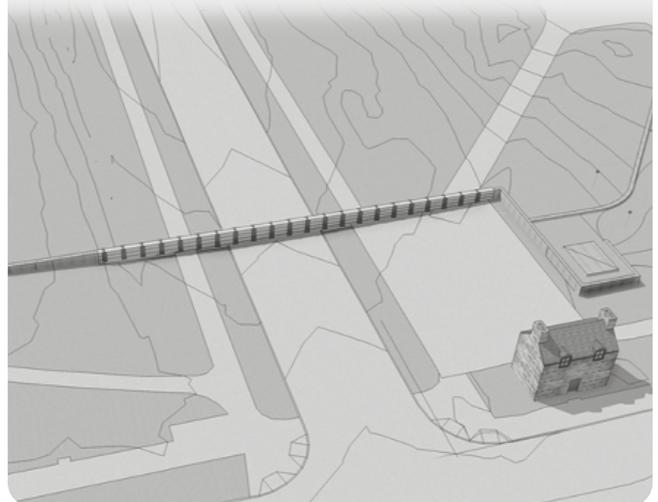


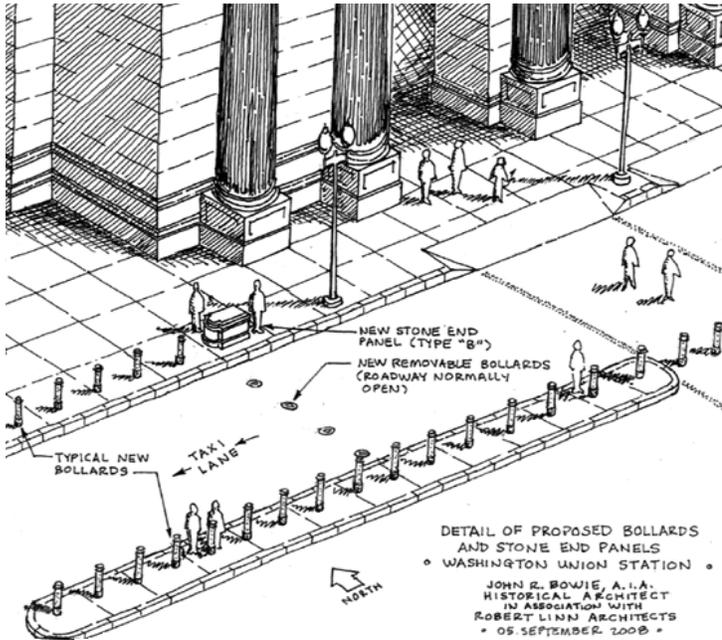
Representatives of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission provided a status report on plans to build a memorial honoring America's 34th president. The memorial will be located on a four-acre site on Independence Avenue, SW across from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The Commission received an overview of key objectives and critical design elements that will reflect Eisenhower's best known roles as Supreme Allied Commander in World War II and later as President of the United States. The Memorial Commission said its goal is to transform the site into a great urban space that can serve as a benchmark for memorialization in the 21st century.

The memorial will be located on a four-acre site on Independence Avenue, SW across from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The Commission received an overview of key objectives and critical design elements that will reflect Eisenhower's best known roles as Supreme Allied Commander in World War II and later as President of the United States. The Memorial Commission said its goal is to transform the site into a great urban space that can serve as a benchmark for memorialization in the 21st century.

**Potomac Park Levee**

A second informational item presented to the Commission was an update on plans to improve the Potomac Park levee on the National Mall in the area of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. A new, temporary design solution is required to be in place by November 2009. Commissioner Peter May, who represents the National Park Service, outlined the purpose and need for an improved levee system and provided an analysis of five potential design alternatives. The National Park Service anticipates coming to the Commission for review of concept design in January 2009.





## Washington Union Station - Perimeter Security

(File Number 6855)

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) reviewed and approved a submission from the Federal Railroad Administration, AMTRAK, and the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation for preliminary and final site development plans for perimeter security at Union Station. The approved plans involve a line of bollards and other security elements around the south, east, and west sides of the portico at the front of Union Station, along with widened sidewalks at the south and east sides of the station and associated modifications to the curb line.

The perimeter security plans include 194 fixed and eleven removable bollards designed to meet architectural and urban design considerations appropriate for the station. The bollards will be painted black to correspond to the historic rostral columns in Columbus Plaza. Four new granite neoclassical elements will be added to punctuate the bollard line at prominent piers on the station's façade.

The Commission based its approval on both a threat assessment and an Environmental Assessment provided by the applicants. The project design was developed and modified through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) processes to balance urban design and pedestrian circulation requirements with the security requirements for the station.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial - Motion to Amend the Commission's September 4, 2008 Action

(File Number 5907)

The National Park Service withdrew its request for the Commission to reconsider a security proposal for the MLK Memorial. In September, the Commission had approved the memorial's final site and building plans, except for security bollards proposed by the Park Service. The Commission's September action constituted a final design approval for the project.

## Memorial to Victims of Ukrainian Manmade Famine of 1932-1933

(File Number 6863)

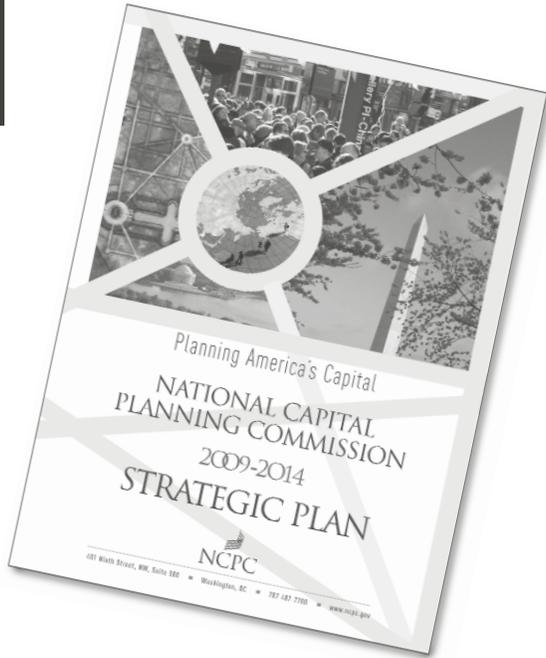
The Commission approved a parcel of federally owned land west of Union Station as the site for the Memorial to Victims of the Ukrainian Manmade Famine conditioned upon mitigation required in the Executive Director's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the site selection. Reservation 78, which is 3,100 square feet in size, was one of two sites submitted by the National Park Service on behalf of the Government of Ukraine. The site is located at the intersection of North Capitol Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and F Street in Northwest Washington, DC near the National Postal Museum.

The Commission selected the site over the National Park Service's preferred site, Reservation 196; a 3,800 square-foot triangular park that is located four blocks north of the U.S. Capitol along New Jersey Avenue.

The proposed memorial has not yet been designed, but the applicant has stated that it is expected to be a contemplative space with a small-scale memorial element appropriate for a landscaped setting.



Reservation 78, site of the Memorial to Victims of Ukrainian Manmade Famine



**National Capital Planning Commission Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2009-2014**

(File Number 6400)

The Commission adopted the Strategic Plan for the National Capital Planning Commission for Fiscal Years 2009-2014. The final plan reflects feedback received during the 45-day public comment period, as well as consultation with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires each agency to submit a strategic plan spanning a minimum six-year period; the fiscal year it is submitted and five years forward. The new version, which reflects the views and comments of NCPC staff, is a comprehensive reworking of the current strategic plan covering FYs 2004-2009.

The new strategic plan articulates NCPC's functions and operations, with revised vision and mission statements and five strategic goals to guide the agency's work over the next six years. It also sets out the specific means for fulfilling the strategic goals and identifies performance targets for measuring the agency's progress toward achieving its objectives.

**OCTOBER INFORMATION PRESENTATION**

**St. Elizabeths Hospital**

Representatives of the General Services Administration (GSA) provided the Commission with an informational update on its plans to locate the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security on the grounds of what was formerly St. Elizabeths Hospital. The National Historic Landmark, located in Southeast Washington, is divided into two campuses; the 183-acre West Campus, which is federally owned and managed by GSA, and the 173-acre East Campus, which is owned by the District of Columbia.

GSA's plans include building approximately 4.5 million gross square feet of office space on the West Campus plus space for parking. An estimated 750,000 gross square feet of office space would be located on the East Campus, in addition to parking. In presenting to the Commission, GSA discussed impacts of the plan on view sheds, transit, and historic preservation. GSA also discussed benefits to the community that would result from the federal/city partnership.

# Agency News

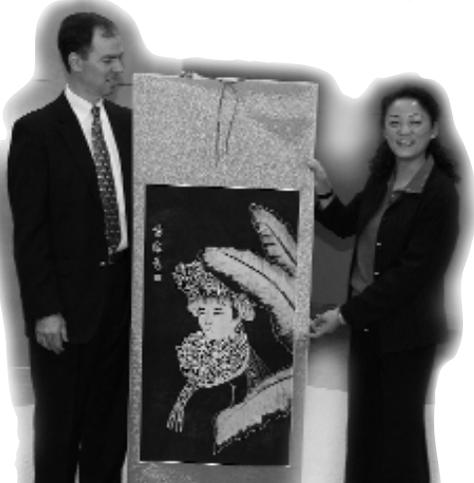
## Agency Initiatives Promoted at Economic Forums

Two recent conferences provided NCPC staff with the opportunity to highlight the agency's major planning initiatives. On October 2 staff participated in the **Washington, DC Economic Partnership's Annual Meeting and Economic Development Showcase** held at the Washington Convention Center. The gathering drew several hundred developers, architects, government agency representatives, and civic leaders. On October 14 staff participated in the **Urban Land Institute's Economic Partnership Symposium**. This daylong event featured keynote speakers and roundtable discussions with noted development and transportation experts, as well as dozens of federal and private sector exhibitors.

## International Visitors

On October 17, Community Planner **Carlton Hart** joined members of the District's Office of Planning to brief a visiting delegation from the port city of Hai Phong, Vietnam. Mr. Hart provided the group with an overview of NCPC's role in the capital city and explained the function of the Federal Capital Improvements Program. The group had a specific interest in learning how planners in Washington, DC balance security needs with design aesthetics and how federal and local interests are coordinated.

Three international delegations from China recently visited the National Capital Planning Commission offices to learn about the agency's work in planning for the nation's capital. On November 3, **Bill Dowd** (pictured below), director of the Plan and Project Implementation Division, spoke to a group of twenty professionals from the Guizhou Land & Resource agency. On November 24, Chief of Staff **Mike Sherman** spoke to a large gathering from the Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning & Design. The visitors were interested in how NCPC engages the public in its work. On December 10, Mr. Dowd spoke to a group from the Anhui Provincial Department of Construction. They were primarily interested in federal land ownership and zoning matters.



## Metro's New Rapid Bus Service

It was standing room only the night NCPC hosted the Coalition for Smarter Growth forum, "New Rapid Bus Service-Metro's Plan and the Region's Response." Held on Monday, December 1, the discussion focused on WMATA's plan to expand the number of express bus routes from five to 24 in the next six years. Speakers included **John Catoe**, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) general manager; **Neil Pederson**, Maryland State Highway Administration administrator; and **Chris Zimmerman**, WMATA board chief and Arlington County board member.

## Staff Announcements

NCPC welcomes several additions to the staff. **Long Diep** is the new program/management assistant for both the Office of the Secretariat and the Urban Design and Plan Review Division. Prior to joining the agency Mr. Diep worked for Exit First Realty and Lucent Technologies in Baltimore. He has a degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in Information Systems and Computer Science.

**Camille Lewis** joined the Office of Administration as a human resources assistant. She has experience working for the federal government as a staff assistant (HR) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Headquarters Personnel Services Branch, and also as an assistant in the Office of the Under Secretary. Ms. Lewis graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she received a joint degree in Social Work and Health Administration & Policy.

**Scott Sowers** is on temporary assignment as a writer with the Office of Public Affairs. Mr. Sowers has many years of experience as a freelance architecture and design writer with articles published in the Washington Post, the AIA/DC News, Chesapeake Home, Capital File, and DC Modern Luxury. He has a degree in business administration from Youngstown State University.

**Patricia Thompson** is the agency's new receptionist. Prior to joining NCPC, the DC-native served as the concierge for Market Square North. Ms. Thompson, who is involved in charitable work in Washington DC, was named NBC 4's October 2008 Morning Person for being someone who inspires others.

## NCPC Launches Combined Federal Campaign

Staff members of the National Capital Planning Commission raised more than \$10,000 during an auction that launched the agency's participation in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Plan and Project Implementation Director **Bill Dowd** manned the gavel, enthusiastically supporting staff as they bid on items ranging from concert tickets to homemade cheesecake. Community Planner **David Zaidain** is leading this year's CFC efforts at NCPC.

# QUARTERLY

## Coming Soon

### January 2009

Capitals Alliance Summary Report Available Online

### February 2009

NCPC Releases its 2008 Annual Report

### March 2009

National Capital Framework Plan to be Submitted for Commission Adoption

## Commission Members

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman, Presidential Appointee

Herbert F. Ames, Presidential Appointee

Jose' L. Galvez, III, Presidential Appointee

Arrington Dixon, Mayoral Appointee

Stacie S. Turner, Mayoral Appointee

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable James A. Williams  
Acting Administrator of General Services Administration

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Executive Director  
Marcel C. Acosta



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The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's 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 construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

