

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**BICYCLE TRANSIT CENTER**  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C.

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

October 6, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary site and building plans for the Bicycle Transit Center at 750 First Street, NE, adjacent to Union Station, in Washington, D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.11(38.00) 41687.

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The D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) has submitted preliminary site and building plans for a Bicycle Transit Center (BTC) to be located to the west of Union Station, facing First Street, NE. The proposed building site is in front of the west ramps leading to the parking garage behind Union Station; the area is now an unattractive, asphalt-paved expanse with confusing pedestrian and vehicle paths. The BTC will provide a welcome focus and use for the area. The site also has the advantage of adjacency to both the Metro escalator and to the Metropolitan Trail on First Street, NE.

The BTC will provide bicycle parking, rentals, and repair and retail accessories in a distinctive structure of 1750 square feet that measures 105 feet in length, 27 feet in width, and 17 feet in height. The building will have space for approximately parked 200 bicycles, changing rooms, and 40 lockers. Constructed of glass and steel in a unique, modern character, its design is intended to bring attention to its use and to DDOT's commitment to bicycle transit in the District of Columbia. This will be the first facility of its kind on the East Coast; similar bicycle transit facilities can be found in other American cities.

The project was coordinated at the preliminary review level by all agencies attending the September 14, 2005 meeting of the Coordinating Committee. The project is not subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act.

In the staff's judgment, the BTC will be compatible with Union Station and Columbus Plaza. The architects have used a "pavilion in the plaza" design concept that is appropriate for its location in the underutilized side plaza adjacent to the historic and monumental Union Station. The BTC's scale, transparency, and distinctive design, coupled with the view of the bicycles on racks, make obvious the purpose for the building at this important transportation hub in the city.

I am pleased to commend DDOT for this architecturally innovative and visible support for bicycle use in the District of Columbia.

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Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director