

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TEMPORARY PERIMETER SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS ON
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT THE NEWSEUM
555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

May 27, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of temporary perimeter security measures on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the Newseum at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.21(38.40)41595.

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The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted plans for the installation of the approved Pennsylvania Avenue streetscape elements to be used as temporary security measures on the western portion of the 500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, NW in front of the Newseum, soon to be under construction. NPS has jurisdiction of the first fifty feet of the sidewalk, measured from the curb. The Newseum is also responsible for other streetscape improvements closer to its building on Pennsylvania Avenue, as well as for the public space on 6th Street and C Street, NW. These additional plans will be reviewed under my authority under the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan Memorandum of Agreement.

The proposed perimeter elements are part of the current suite of elements now in use along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW: wooden benches, round concrete planters, the low Pennsylvania Avenue light standard, the Washington Globe light standard, and the Pennsylvania Avenue 4-inch by 4-inch paver. The inside two rows of street trees will be extended as far as possible in front of the Newseum and the outside row of trees along the curb will extend across the entire frontage. The benches are interspersed with the round concrete planters that are also in use on the Avenue. These elements will be in use while a long-range, comprehensive security design is developed for the Avenue.

The project was coordinated by all agencies attending the April 13, 2005 Coordinating Committee meeting. NPS has determined that the temporary installation of security elements will not constitute an adverse effect on the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site; the SHPO concurred with this determination. NPS further determined that the project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under its environmental procedures developed pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

I am pleased to recommend the installation of temporary security elements from the existing approved palette of Pennsylvania Avenue streetscape elements, to be installed on the portion of the sidewalk in front of the Newseum within the National Park Service's jurisdiction for a period of 24 months. I also recommend the installation of trees and sidewalk pavement in this portion of the sidewalk, as specified in the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director