

RECONFIGURATION OF STARBURST INTERSECTION
MARYLAND AVENUE AT H STREET & BENNING ROAD, NE,
Washington, DC

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

September 1, 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 realignment of Maryland Avenue, and reconfiguration of streets that intersect in a “Starburst” at H Street between 14th and 16th Streets NE, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 42.00(41.22)41672, in anticipation of a future plaza at the intersection, and reminds DDOT that NCPC looks forward to reviewing the plaza design.

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The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) proposes to reconfigure H Street, Bladensburg Road, Maryland Avenue, Benning Avenue, and 15th Street NE where they intersect in a “Starburst” pattern. Roadwork will extend as far west as 14th Street, and will encompass a leg of Florida Avenue that joins H Street west of the intersection, and as far east as 16th Street NE. A short segment of Maryland Avenue, which already splits to intersect with Bladensburg Road north of the intersection, will be closed where it crosses now. All other streets’ existing cartways will remain, but their turn lanes and medians will be reallocated, and crosswalks will be reconfigured to ease pedestrian crossing once Maryland Avenue is realigned.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed and coordinated the proposal at its August 17, 2005 meeting. As a District of Columbia agency project, outside of the central area of the District on non-federal property, the National Environmental Policy Act does not apply to the proposed construction. The District of Columbia has reviewed the action and determined that it qualifies as an exempted action in accordance with the implementing rules of the District of Columbia Environmental Policy Act of 1989. Located just east of the L’Enfant City, the vista and clear sightlines that run southwest along Maryland Avenue and terminate at the Capitol dome are of Federal interest and must be preserved and the right-of-way maintained in the future plaza. NCPC staff looks forward to reviewing the plaza design and its preservation of the right-of-way and the vista towards the Capitol along Maryland Avenue.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director