



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BICYCLE TRANSIT CENTER
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

April 27, 2007

Pursuant to delegation of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the final site and building plans for the Bicycle Transit Center at 750 1st Street, NE, adjacent to Union station, in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.11(38.00)42219.

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The D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) has submitted final site and building plans for a Bicycle Transit Center (BTC) to be location west of Union station, facing 1st Street, NE. The proposed building site is in front of the west ramps leading the parking garage behind Union Station. The area is an unattractive, asphalt-paved expanse with confusing pedestrian and vehicle paths. The CTC will provide a welcome focus and use for the site. The site also has the advantage of adjacency to both the Metro escalator and to the Metropolitan Trail on 1st Street, NE.

The BTC will provide bicycle parking, rentals, and repair and retail accessories in a distinctive structure of about 1700 square feet. It measures approximately 105 feet in length, 27 feet in width, and 17 feet in height. The building will have space for at least 150 parked bikes, changing rooms, and small lockers. Bicycle owners will be able to park for a cost of about \$1 per day or \$100 annually. There will be about twenty free spaces at outdoor racks.

The center will cost an estimated \$1.5 million to construct, with an additional \$400,000 for associated improvements. DDOT expects that revenues from rentals, repairs, and retail accessories will offset the expense of operating the bicycle parking. It will be operated by an organization to be selected by the District. It is expected to open in the spring of 2008.

To be constructed of glass and steel in a unique, modern design, the structure will bring welcome 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 prior to its preliminary site and building review and approval at the October 2005 Commission meeting. The project is not subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act, although it has been reviewed by the D.C. Historic Preservation Division.

In the staff's judgment, the innovative structure will be compatible with Union Station, Columbus Plaza, and the monumental setting. The architects have used a "pavilion in the plaza" design approach 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 modernity, coupled with the view of the bicycles on racks, make obvious the purpose of the building at this important transportation hub in the city.

The Commission soon will be reviewing other projects at Union Station and Columbia Plaza; staff has reviewed the BTC with that in mind and is confident that the projects have been sufficiently coordinated among the District and federal agencies with responsibilities for the other projects as well.

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

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director