

**BENNING NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY  
LIBRARY REPLACEMENT  
3935 Benning Road, NE  
Washington, D.C.**

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

March 27, 2008

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C §8722 (b) (1), I comment favorably on the concept design for the proposed replacement of the Benning Branch Library of the District of Columbia Public Libraries, located in Northeast Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 81.00(38.00)41522.

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As one of the first libraries to be replaced under its capital construction program, the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) proposes to demolish the aging Benning Branch Library, in operation since 1962, and to construct a new one on the same site. The site is located in Ward 7 on the east side of the Anacostia River near the intersection of Benning Road and Minnesota Avenue.

The new building will consist of two levels and approximately 25,000 gross square feet. The first level of the library, accessible via the north entrance at Benning Road, will contain a majority of the library's program which includes reference and periodical sections, adult/young reading rooms, and a children's reading area. The ground floor, accessible from the parking lot of the adjacent shopping center, will contain the library's administrative and community areas as well as access to the building's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The project is being designed for LEED Silver Certification and will include a landscaped roof to satisfy project sustainability goals.

The design concept for the building will architecturally express two distinct yet complementary intersecting volumes; the upper level containing the primary library floor functions is expressed as a copper clad box, and the lower level containing the public meeting rooms and services

functions is read as a concrete plinth. Natural light, a generously proportioned communicating stair and open expanses of glass further unify the upper and lower levels.

The total site area is 25,241 square feet, with a 15,000 square foot building footprint. The site has 83% lot coverage, with the remainder of the lot being covered by landscape and 14 parking spaces. The public space surrounding the site will be landscaped and new public sidewalks and hardscape will be provided. The parking lot will be accessed from Benning Road.

The proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, and will have no adverse effects on any other federal interests.



**Perspective from Benning Road**

As a District of Columbia project outside of the Central Area, NCPC is advisory and does not have independent responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act. The applicant is required to comply with the requirements of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) and to obtain concurrence from the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer that the project will not adversely affect any historic resources.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its March 12, 2008 meeting and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies represented, with the exception of the District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP). DCOP noted that further coordination on the project must precede project approval. The participating agencies were NCPC; the District Department of Transportation; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the General Services Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Marcel C. Acosta  
Acting Executive Director