



**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE NEW CARROLLTON FEDERAL BUILDING
MODIFY ESCALATOR AND ADD PROTECTIVE SCREENING**

5000 Ellin Road,
Lanham, Prince George's County, Maryland

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 approve the preliminary building plans to modify the escalator at the New Carrollton Federal Building pedestrian bridge, including the addition of a new escalator protective screen, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3203.00(38.00)-42482.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has requested preliminary and final approval of building plans for the replacement of the GSA escalator and modification of the escalator enclosure at the site of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) New Carrollton Federal Building in Lanham, Maryland. The project is near the New Carrollton Metrorail Station. The covered concrete walkway and bridge over Ellin Road connect the IRS building to the Metrorail station, but the covered pedestrian bridge structure and escalator are owned by GSA and were built in 1997. The escalator and bridge are primarily used by IRS employees as the safest and quickest direct access to the Federal Building from the Metrorail Station and adjoining Amtrak Station. Because of exposure to weather, the GSA escalator is consistently under repair and frequently out of service. Adjacent to the escalator is an aging concrete stairway with significant cracks and spalling of the concrete surface.

In addition to repairing the stairway and replacing the escalator, the plans also seek to install a side enclosure for the escalator below the canopy eaves. The enclosure support will be constructed of 4-inch square painted steel-tubing connected to the concrete structure of the escalator base. Atop the frame will be 3 inch steel tubing vertical posts. On the posts, GSA will install 17-inch high by 14-foot long Plexiglas clear panels attached to both the front and back of the posts, in a staggered fashion that creates a weather-shield extending beneath the canopy. The Plexiglas panels will be aligned in a horizontal direction stepping with the stairway until they reach the horizontal platform at the bottom and top of the escalator. Because the weather panels

are offset approximately two feet away from the escalator handrail, the panels will be difficult to reach by passing pedestrians, making them less likely to be vandalized.

While the applicant has requested final design approval, staff has determined that the design documentation submitted by GSA is sufficient for preliminary, but not final approval by NCPC. Required but missing information includes final color finishes, dimensioning of all work, and construction details for connections. Once GSA has completed final project design documents for the proposed enclosure, the project is required to be submitted for final approval in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1).

GSA has applied a categorical exclusion to the project under GSA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing procedures, finding the proposal eligible under its Categorical Exclusion 5.3 (k) as a project of repair and alteration, where no hazardous materials are utilized or present; the building footprint or envelope will not be increased; and no buildings or properties are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As a project in the environs, NCPC is advisory and does not have independent NEPA responsibility for the project.

There are no structures that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places located in, or adjacent to, the 1994 acquired 30.2 acre IRS building site.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director