

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

D. Sullivan

NCPC File No. 5211



**U.S. SECRET SERVICE HEADQUARTERS
MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PERIMETER SECURITY
950 H Street NW
Washington, D.C.**

Submitted by the General Services Administration

January 29, 2009

Abstract

The General Services Administration has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for modifications to the existing perimeter security at the U.S. Secret Service Headquarters at 950 H Street NW in Washington, D.C. The project is an in-kind bollard replacement project which involves replacing 16 hydraulic bollards with electric bollards and replacing 133 bollard covers with new stainless covers that will minimize maintenance requirements. Two existing bollards will be removed from the public space.

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site development plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §8722(b)(1) and (d).

Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

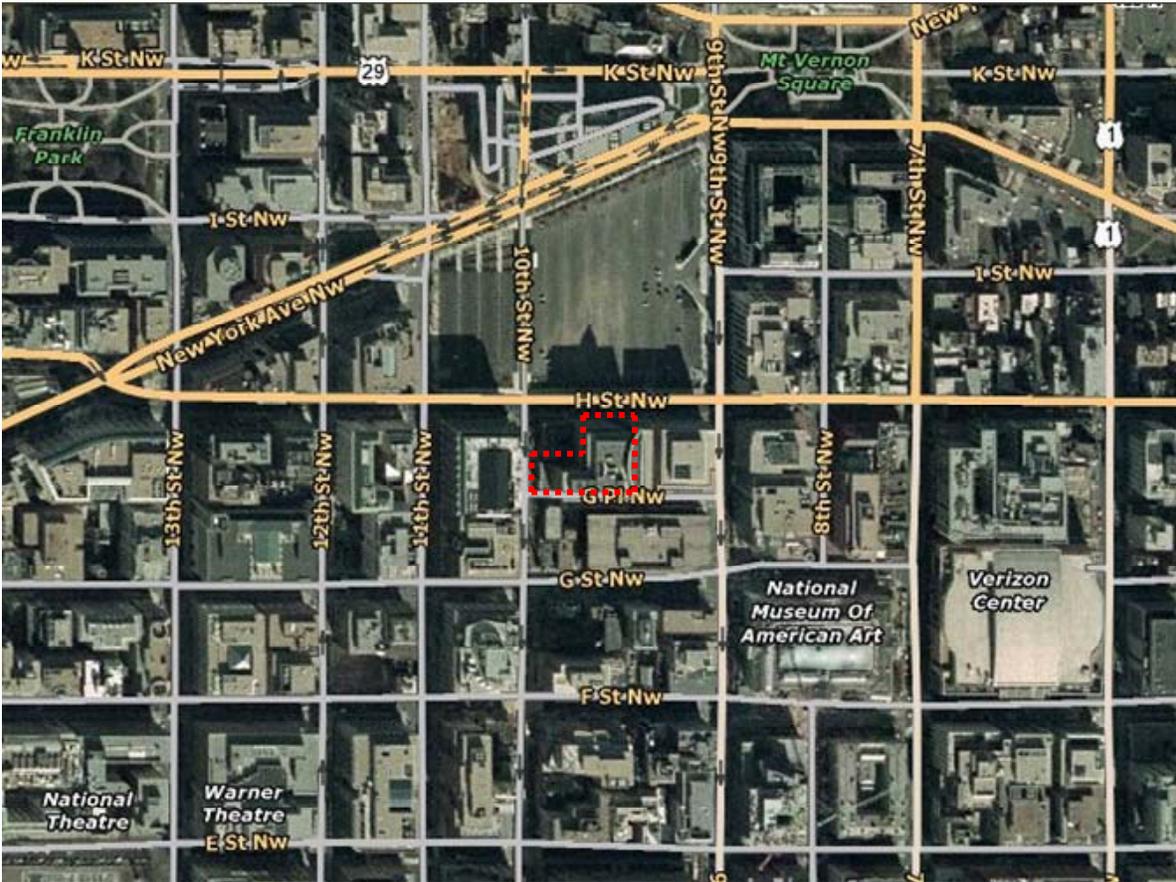
Approves the preliminary and final site development plans for modifications to the existing perimeter security at the U.S. Secret Service Headquarters, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 21.00(38.40)42703.

* * *

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The U.S. Secret Service Headquarters is located at 950 H Street, NW. The site, a portion of Square 375, is bounded on the north by H Street and the old convention center site, on the south by G Place and the Martin Luther King Library, on the east by the Victor Office Building and 9th Street, and on the west by 10th Street and the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The site is approximately seven blocks north and east of the White House. There are two other existing buildings within the square, the Webster School Building and the Victor Building.



Project Site – 950 H Street, NW

Background

In March of 1995, the National Capital Planning Commission approved the location, program and preliminary site and building plans for the U.S. Secret Service Headquarters to be located at 950 H Street NW. Following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma in April of 1995, the General Services Administration revised its building design to include blast resistance and security improvements. The Commission approved the revised plans which included perimeter security in the form of bollards surrounding the building at its March 2006 meeting. The headquarters building is nine stories above ground and three levels below ground. The building is primarily a brick structure with precast concrete spandrels and punched windows.

Proposal

The General Services Administration is submitting preliminary and final site development plans for the replacement of bollards at the U.S. Secret Service Headquarters located at 950 H Street NW. The new stainless bollards and bollard covers will prevent rust stains and minimize maintenance. The project involves three phases.

Phase 1

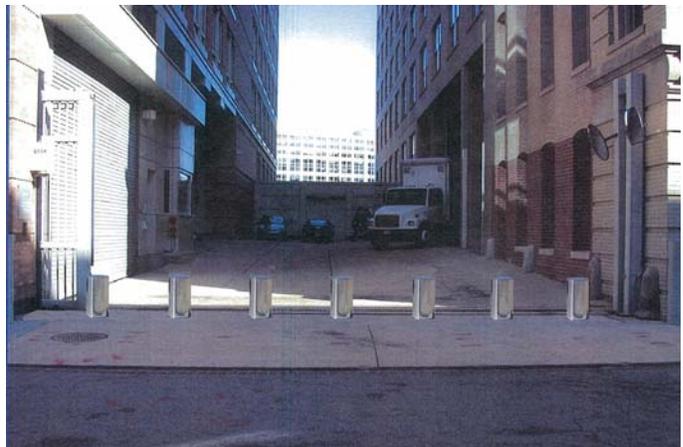
In this phase, GSA will replace the seven hydraulic bollards in the loading dock area on G Place with electric bollards. These bollards are being replaced in the same location within the property line.

Phase 2

In this phase, GSA will replace the three hydraulic bollards at the garage entrance on H Street and the six hydraulic bollards at the garage entrances on G Place with electric bollards. The new bollards will be positioned immediately in front of the old bollards in the public space because an existing slurry wall beneath the ground cannot accommodate the new bollards in the same location. GSA is also removing two of the existing bollards in the public space to create better access. At the garage entrance on G Place, the existing call box which sits in the middle of the sidewalk will also be removed to improve access along the sidewalk.



Phase 1 Before: Existing hydraulic bollards at the loading dock entrance on G Place.



Phase 1 After: Rendering of new electric bollards at the loading dock entrance on G Place.



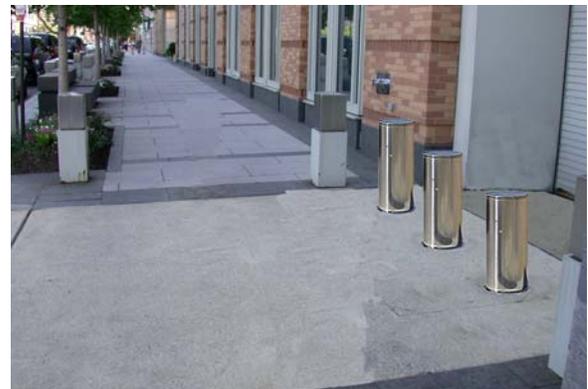
Phase 2 Before: Existing bollards and call box at the garage entrance/exit on G Place.



Phase 2 After: New bollards and call box removed at the garage entrance/exit on G Place.



Phase 2 Before: the three existing hydraulic bollards in front of the garage on H Street, NW (center bollard missing).



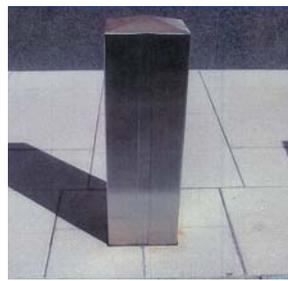
Phase 2 After: New electric bollards on H Street, NW. Two existing bollards with square covers will be removed for ADA accommodations.

Phase 3

In the final phase, GSA will replace the bollard covers of the existing 133 bollards surrounding the building with maintenance free covers that will prevent deterioration and rust stains. The new cover size is slightly smaller than the existing covers and has been designed to architecturally blend with the building.



Phase 3 Before:
Existing bollard cover



Phase 3 After:
New bollard cover

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff recommends approval of the preliminary and final site development plans for the in-kind replacement of 16 hydraulic bollards with electric ones and the replacement of 133 bollard covers. The project has received a public space permit from the District of Columbia.

The proposed design of the replacement bollards and the bollard covers will have a positive impact on the building. The new stainless bollards have clean lines and a durable attractive finish. The new bollard covers are also slightly smaller in size which will increase the amount of useable space in the public realm. All three phases of the project will improve the overall streetscape from its current condition by eliminating rust stains and leaking oil on the sidewalk.

The project will also improve public access with the elimination of two bollards in the middle of the sidewalk on H Street and the elimination of the call box on G Place. Furthermore, in response to DDOT concerns, the applicant is repouring the garage apron on G Place to improve accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan

The perimeter security at the U.S. Secret Service Headquarters was approved in 1997 prior to the development of the *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* in 2002. The proposed project is only an in-kind replacement project that will exchange hydraulic bollards with electric ones, install new bollard covers, and remove two bollards in the public space. The replacement project will improve the overall streetscape and the public realm.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, GSA has applied its categorical exclusion 5.3 (k) to the project. NCPC staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(C)(2) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. The initial perimeter security was approved in 1997 and the extent and character of the security barrier has not changed with the current submission.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

GSA has determined that the project is not subject to further Section 106 review since the building is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the building and perimeter security were reviewed and approved in 1997 and the extent and character of the security barrier has not changed with the current submission. Staff concurs with GSA's determination in meeting our agency's responsibilities for Section 106 compliance.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on January 14, 2009, and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all participating agencies, except the District of Columbia Office of Planning. The representative for DCOP noted concerns about the placement of bollards in the public space; however, these concerns have now been addressed. The participating agencies were NCPC; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Subsequent to the meeting, the representative from the D.C. Office of Planning concurred in the coordination of this proposal.