



## National Capital Planning Commission

As the central planning agency for the federal government, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is responsible for preserving the unique beauty and historic urban design that have made Washington one of the most admired capital cities in the world. Due to Washington's dual role as the seat of government and the symbolic heart of the nation, planning in the capital city must balance federal, regional, and local interests.



NCPC maintains this balance through a diverse 12-member Commission, which meets publicly every month. The Commission's work centers on four key activities. It provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the 2,500-square-mile National Capital Region, which includes the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. In addition, NCPC oversees long-range planning for future development; monitors capital investment by federal agencies; and continues Washington's tradition of visionary planning that began more than 200 years ago when President George Washington hired Frenchman Pierre L'Enfant to design the city.

At the National Capital Planning Commission, we work diligently to push federal plans off the printed page and into the streets and public spaces of the nation's capital.



Through its signature planning initiatives, NCPC strives to preserve L'Enfant's vision of broad avenues and expansive public spaces, while offering bold proposals that improve transportation, revitalize communities, and preserve open space. NCPC has developed numerous plans that expand the reach of public transit; reclaim the capital's historic waterfront; spur economic development; create opportunities for new memorials and museums; and ensure that all quadrants of Washington benefit from the federal presence.

Nearly 10 years ago, NCPC introduced *Extending the Legacy*, its visionary guide for long-term growth in the nation's capital. It was in *Legacy* that NCPC first introduced its vision for a supplementary transit system called the "Circulator." Promoted as a means to make Washington a more enjoyable experience for the city's residents, commuters, and millions of visitors, NCPC believed this new service could fully complement Washington's existing public transit systems and spur economic development by providing an inexpensive and convenient method of getting people around the city.



NCPC is extremely pleased to support the expansion of the Circulator from two routes, introduced in July 2005, to an additional route along the National Mall. This expanded service will connect even more people with the city's restaurants, businesses, and attractions. The Circulator serves as a testament that dreams can be realized through hard work, visionary planning, and fruitful partnerships.