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For Immediate Release
September 4, 2008

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NCPC Approves Plans for the Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorials, and the National Law Enforcement Museum *Federal Capital Improvements Program also Approved*

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) today at its monthly meeting approved preliminary and final site development plans for the location and design of a temporary vehicle security barrier on the east side of the Lincoln Memorial. Submitted by the National Park Service, the temporary barrier will remain in place across the center line of the memorial at the outer edge of Lincoln Memorial Circle for a period not to exceed two years. The temporary vehicle barrier is part of an overall plan for improvements to the Lincoln Memorial to be completed in time for the bicentennial celebration of President Lincoln’s birth in February 2009.

The Commission also approved preliminary and final site and building plans for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, submitted by the National Park Service. The final plans complete the design of the *Stone of Hope* and the *Mountain of Despair*; depict the final design of the Visitor Support Building; and adds Red Maple trees at each side of the memorial’s forecourt. The Commission, however, did not approve a request to add security bollards at the site. The Commission’s decision to reject the bollards was based in large part on information provided to them during a security briefing that they received prior to the public meeting.

The memorial will be located in West Potomac Park on the northwestern side of the Tidal Basin. The three main design elements include the *Mountain of Despair*, a curved *Inscription Wall*, and the *Stone of Hope* featuring the likeness of Dr. King. Today’s Commission action constitutes final approval for the project.

During today’s meeting, the Commission also reviewed and approved the final site and building plans for the National Law Enforcement Museum, completing the final stage of the review process. Submitted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, the largely underground museum will be constructed on federal land within the District of Columbia Courts complex in Judiciary Square.

The museum’s design includes two entrance pavilions made of a transparent low iron glass, each measuring 52 feet by 77 feet for a total of 7,695 square feet. The museum design also includes a shared surrounding plaza, retaining walls and bollards, glass skylights in the plaza, and landscaped beds complementing each pavilion.

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The final plans reflect minor changes to the preliminary site and building plans approved by the Commission at its December 2007 meeting. Changes from the preliminary plans include the removal of two elements: flush translucent pavers from the ramps leading to the Courthouse and two of the three proposed crosswalks across E Street.

The Commission also approved today the Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP) for the National Capital Region for Fiscal Years 2009-2014. The estimated total cost of agency-submitted projects in this year's FCIP is \$11.6 billion. This year's FCIP contains 190 projects submitted by 13 agencies.

The District of Columbia submitted the greatest number of projects by jurisdiction, 79, representing 46 percent, or \$5.3 billion, of the total project costs. Virginia has 55 projects representing 29 percent of the total proposed project costs, while Maryland has 54 projects representing 22 percent of total project costs. With today's Commission approval, the FCIP will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget.

Information about actions taken at today's Commission meeting can be accessed at www.ncpc.gov.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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