



## MEDIA RELEASE

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Stephen Staudigl  
202-482-7279 or [stephen@ncpc.gov](mailto:stephen@ncpc.gov)  
William Herbig  
202-482-7270 or [will@ncpc.gov](mailto:will@ncpc.gov)

### **NCPC Approves Plans for Capital Bikeshare Installation on the National Mall** *Commission also provides comments on National Mall Phase II and III Turf Reconstruction*

**Washington, DC** – At its monthly meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved preliminary and final site development plans to install the first five Capital Bikeshare stations on the National Mall. In its approval the Commission commended the National Park Service for extending the Bikeshare program to the National Mall and providing expanded transportation options for Mall visitors.

The Commission also encouraged the National Park Service to work with the District Department of Transportation to monitor demand for the bicycles to determine if additional bikes should be added at a later date, and to examine additional locations for Capital Bikeshare stations on the Mall and in East Potomac Park.

The proposed stations would be located near some of the Mall's major visitor destinations, including:

- The Smithsonian Metro station entrance (along Jefferson Drive, near the Jefferson Drive and 12<sup>th</sup> Street intersection);
- The Lincoln Memorial (near the intersection of Lincoln Memorial Circle and Daniel French Drive);
- The Jefferson Memorial (near the intersection of East Basin Drive and the Jefferson Memorial access drive);
- The Washington Monument (along Jefferson Drive, between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets); and
- Between the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial (along Ohio Drive, near its intersection with West Basin Drive).

To view a map of the locations, please see page 4 of the [Executive Director's Recommendation](#).

All stations are single-sided with 23 bikes except for the Lincoln Memorial station which is doubled-sided with 25 bikes. Each station would use solar power and wireless technology to provide Capital Bikeshare members access to the bikes using their membership card, and include a two-sided panel that is used to display a map of the station locations throughout the entire Capital Bikeshare system. Capital Bikeshare is a joint effort between the District of Columbia and Arlington County, Virginia.

The Commission also provided the National Park Service with comments on concept designs for Phases II and III of the National Mall turf and soil reconstruction project. Phases II and III encompass the lawn panels between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW. In three phases, the National Park Service proposes to replace and reengineer the panels' lawn and soil, install a new irrigation system, and add panel curbs. Phase I, currently under construction, encompasses the three lawn panels between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW.

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Currently, soil on the Mall is highly compacted and drains poorly, and turf is worn. The proposal includes removing and replacing the top soil, adding a drainage layer, re-grading the surface, adding a slight crown in the center, replacing the irrigation system, and adding 18-inch-wide shallow curbs made of White Mount Airy granite. Improving turf conditions is a priority of the *National Mall Plan*, which also recommends widening the Mall's walkways to better accommodate public events. The submission addresses this through three different walkway alternatives based on historic plans:

- Alternative 1: Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill inspired which maximizes green space;
- Alternative 2: Frederick Law Olmsted inspired which provides panels of equal size;
- Alternative 3: McMillan Plan inspired which provides a central gathering space by 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

In its comments the Commission noted its support for the project and the National Park Service's efforts to improve the turf while providing additional space for public events in a manner that preserves the Mall's historic landscape. The Commission also expressed support for adding a civic gathering space on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NW axis that is sensitive to its historic location, and recommended that the Park Service consult with NCPC and other interested parties to refine each of the proposed alternatives.

For the next phase of review, preliminary design, NCPC asked the National Park Service to provide additional information on factors impacting walkway dimensions, sizes of existing and proposed turf and walkway dimensions, and possible maintenance requirements for turf that would be impacted by events.

This month's agenda also included four consent calendar items (no presentations given):

- A new antenna installation at the Department of Energy Germantown Campus, Germantown, Maryland;
- Temporary perimeter security/plaza barriers at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC;
- A distributed antenna system at the Harry S Truman Building, U.S. Department of State Headquarters, Washington, DC; and
- Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 37 (EastBanc-WDC Partners, LLC), Washington, DC.

In addition, the Executive Director approved [six projects](#) under the Commission's delegated authorities. The [final agenda](#) and [staff recommendations](#) for each project are available on NCPC's website.

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall 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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