



MEDIA RELEASE

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NCPC Provides Favorable Comments on Commerce Headquarters Perimeter Security Improvements

Commission approves foundation plans for National Museum of African American History and Culture

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) commented favorably on concept designs submitted by the General Services Administration (GSA) to add perimeter security and other site improvements to the Herbert C. Hoover Building, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Plans call for the majority of elements to be located inside the building's property line and not in public space including the sidewalks. Proposed elements include a cable rail system that will mostly be incorporated into stone-clad walls and piers, hardened flag poles and lights, bollards near building entrances, and vehicular barriers.

Among its comments the Commission recommended that GSA simplify the overall security design by decreasing the number of elements types, develop a pattern and style so the elements better align with the building's architectural features, refine the cable rail details so they better complement the building and landscape's architectural and historic components, and modify some of the security elements' spacing to improve pedestrian passage.

"This project is very important, not only due to the building's prominence and location, but also for its innovative approach to perimeter security design," said NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant Jr. "We are pleased that this significant building will set a precedent in perimeter security design."

Located at 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, the Hoover Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the Department of Commerce, it also houses the White House Visitor Center and the National Aquarium. When it opened in 1932 it was the largest office building in the world.

The Commission approved plans submitted by the Smithsonian Institution for the final building foundation for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The plans to construct the museum's foundations include steel bearing piles, supporting columns, and a mat slab foundation system.

The Commission also heard three information presentations. The first was a description about the District of Columbia Commission on Arts and the Humanities' 5 x 5 Temporary Art Program. In the second presentation the Commission learned about DC Water's DC Clean Rivers and Green Infrastructure projects. The third presentation provided an update on plans for Phase I (North Campus) of the Intelligence Community Campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

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

- Final site and building plans for Phase 1 for a Travel Camp on Fort Belvoir's South Post, Fairfax County, Virginia;
- Preliminary and final site development plans for electric generating equipment at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC;
- Final site development plans for electric generating equipment at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia.

In addition, the Executive Director [approved eight projects](#) under the Commission's delegated authorities. The staff recommendations and project materials 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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