Report of the Executive Director

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission’s delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Final site and building plans for a vehicle and pedestrian access control point at the Pentagon North Village, Arlington, VA. (7958)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for a new salt and sand shed at the National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland (8154)
3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the renovation of Buildings 46 and 67 at the Washington Navy Yard, 1314 Harwood Street, SE. (8157)
4. Final site and building plans for a visitors center at the Herbert R. Temple Jr. Army National Guard Readiness Center, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, Virginia. (8135)
5. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Map Amendment at Square 982, 1101-1125 H Street, NE. (ZC 19-25)

Planning Updates

NCPC’s Office is Closed, but the Agency is Open for Business Online

The National Capital Planning Commission’s office is closed, but the agency is open for business through online services, including digital project submissions. All employees are currently teleworking and available by email or phone.

Comprehensive Plan Federal Elements: Transportation and Workplace Elements

Following the information presentation on the Transportation Element during the March Commission meeting, which covered proposed Transportation Management Plan monitoring procedures and parking ratio policies, staff continues to work with federal and District agencies to refine element policies. Staff is revising the draft narrative and policies for both the Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements and expects to bring final drafts to the Commission this summer for approval.

Monumental Core Streetscape Framework Guidelines

The 60-day public comment period closed March 14, and these comments will be considered as the initiative advances. NCPC staff and the National Mall Roads Interagency Working Group are currently developing street tree guidance, which will be followed by stormwater analysis and guideline development that will begin this summer.

Federal Capital Improvements Program for the National Capital Region: FY 2021 - 2026

Staff is requesting additional information from agencies through a second data call which runs from March 13 to April 4, 2020. They will then prepare the document for submission to the Commission in July for review and approval to submit it to the Office of Management and Budget. To date, staff received 65 total projects with a total estimated cost is $4.73 billion.
Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

At the direction of the Executive Committee, an agency-level working group is developing early concepts exploring potential physical improvements to Pennsylvania Avenue. This collaborative effort is a precursor to a public engagement process, helping federal and local agencies determine the range of potential change feasible for the Avenue. If agencies identify a range of feasible opportunities, this will be used for NEPA/106 scoping and public outreach. This effort is part of the Executive Committee’s Findings and Strategies Summary, released in May 2018 and available on the project website: www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/.

After a quiet winter season, spring is bringing changes to the Avenue. The National Children’s Museum located at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, opened to the public on February 24. The museum, geared towards children up to 12 years old, will be open seven days a week once it is safe to do so. Construction is underway at 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, which will include a new main entrance. The building is expected to reopen this fall. Public space improvements courtesy of the DowntownDC BID are also underway; the seasonal planters will have new annual plants, and Indiana Plaza will soon have new planters and seating for visitors to enjoy.

Alexandria City Manager’s Proposed Capital Improvement Program

Staff reviewed the Alexandria City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2021-2030 Proposed Capital Improvement Program to determine its potential impact on federal properties or other federal interests in the National Capital Region. None of the capital projects appear to have any adverse impacts and are consistent with the principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements. The following projects particularly support Comprehensive Plan policies: Braddock Area Plan Park, City Historic Facilities Capital Facilities Maintenance Program including Fort Ward and Union Station, the Citywide Parks Improvements Plan and the Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation. Multiple projects support Comprehensive Plan policies related to integrated regional transit, including the Alexandria Mobility Plan, Alexandria Transit–Driving Alexandria Safely Home, Bicycle Parking at Transit, and the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

Loudoun County’s Amended Capital Improvement Program

Staff reviewed Loudoun County’s Fiscal Year 2021–2026 Amended Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to determine the program's potential impact on federal properties or other federal interests in the National Capital Region. None of the capital projects appear to have any adverse impacts and are consistent with the principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements. The CIP includes multiple projects that will improve regional mobility, which is particularly important for the effectiveness of the federal workforce. Some of the items in the CIP are the Linear Parks and Trails System, Metro Station Area Pedestrian Improvements, and Transit Buses acquisition projects, all of which support Comprehensive Plan policies related to integrated regional transit.
Fairfax County’s Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Advertised Capital Improvement Program

Staff reviewed Fairfax County’s Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Advertised Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to determine the program’s potential impacts on federal properties or other federal interests in the National Capital Region. None of the capital projects appear to have any adverse impacts and are consistent with the principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan’s Federal Elements. The CIP includes multiple projects that will improve regional mobility, which is particularly important for the effectiveness of the federal workforce. These projects include planned investments in the Dulles Corridor Rail Project, commuter rail, and the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit Initiative Project, which support Comprehensive Plan policies related to integrated regional transit. The CIP also features several important resource stewardship projects including the Bull Run Regional Park and W&OD Railroad Regional Park projects.

Prince William County’s Proposed FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Plan

Staff reviewed Prince William County’s Proposed FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to determine the program’s potential impact on federal properties or other federal interests in the National Capital Region. None of the capital projects appear to have any adverse impacts and are consistent with the principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan’s Federal Elements. The CIP includes multiple projects that will improve regional mobility. These include the county’s continued commitment to transportation improvements near Marine Corps Base Quantico with the Fuller/Fuller Heights Road Improvements project. The CIP also includes planning investments in the Trail Development and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail projects, and the County Watershed Project.

Public Outreach

“Adapting Designed Landscapes” Wins National Award

The American Planning Association honored an article written by NCPC Senior Urban Planner Sarah Ridgely for Best Original Newsletter Article. Congratulations to Sarah! The article is available on NCPC’s website at www.ncpc.gov/news/item/64/.