

## Report of the Executive Director



2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following action under the Commission's delegation authority.

1. Approved a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a First Stage Planned Unit Development Modification, Second Stage Planned Unit Development, and Related Map Amendment at Square 75, Lots 50 and 51 (George Washington University and Boston Properties), 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (ZC 06-120)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria.

1. A Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment from MU-4 to MU-7 at Square 1732, Lots 45 and 49 (Wisconsin Owner, LLC), 4620 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. (ZC 16-26)
2. A Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment from MU-3 to MU-5-A at Square 5196, Lots 17, 37, and 814 (Warren Group), 5127 Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE and 612 Division Avenue, NE. (ZC 17-10)



### PLANNING UPDATES

#### Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan Draft EIS

On December 11 and 18, 2017 NCPC hosted public meetings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan. The EIS includes three action alternatives and one no action alternative for the master plan, which includes the Smithsonian Castle and adjacent museums and facilities by the National Mall. As the lead federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act compliance, NCPC will evaluate the plan's potential environmental impacts. The Commission will provide comments on the concept master plan and draft EIS alternatives at its January 4, 2018 meeting. NCPC anticipates reviewing the preliminary master plan in March 2018 and the final master plan in May. The draft EIS is online ([www.ncpc.gov/projects/southmall/](http://www.ncpc.gov/projects/southmall/)) and available for review and comment through January 16.



#### Dockless Bicycles in the Nation's Capital

NCPC continues to coordinate with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and multiple federal agencies to identify impacts dockless bikes may have on federal facilities, lands, maintenance, and operations. A demonstration project began in September and runs through April 2018 with four dockless bike companies participating. NCPC hosted interagency meetings in November/December and will provide DDOT with a consolidated report summarizing federal concerns and recommendations as DDOT continues to evaluate the system's benefits and impacts. Issues raised to date include where the bicycles are parked (specifically, on federal parkland), secured perimeters, and public ingress/egress areas.

## Federal Capital Improvements Program Training Webinar



On November 29, 2017, NCPC staff conducted a training webinar on the Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP) in advance of preparation for the Fiscal Year 2019-2024 edition (agency submissions open early this year). The webinar focused on requirements for submitting projects to NCPC, FCIP web portal changes, NCPC review of submitted projects, and improved agency submission processes. More than 15 employees from various submitting agencies in the National Capital Region participated. The National Capital Planning Act requires that NCPC annually review and recommend a six-year program of regional capital projects. Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all federal agencies consult with NCPC in advance regarding any proposed development or land acquisition in the region.

## Baltimore-Washington Superconducting MAGLEV Project



On December 7, 2017, staff participated in an interagency webinar on the preliminary alternative screening results for a possible new high-speed rail system connecting Washington with Baltimore. The webinar provided updates on the project, discussed public comments received on preliminary alternative alignments, and next steps in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation. The EIS will evaluate the feasibility and potential impacts of this superconducting magnetic levitation system proposed by Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail. In development since 1962, the magnetic levitation system uses powerful magnetic forces for all aspects of operation—acceleration, deceleration, guidance and levitation—resulting in operating speeds of more than 300 miles per hour.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

### Executive Director Discusses Temporary Commemoration



On December 6, 2017 the Executive Director presented on temporary commemoration as a placemaking strategy at a ULI Washington Placemaking Initiative Council meeting. The presentation covered the unique opportunity to include commemoration as one of Washington's placemaking strategies, and highlighted the Memorials for the Future ideas competition and the recent Monument Lab work in Philadelphia where artists developed city-specific temporary memorials in public spaces. The Executive Director is a member of the council that provides a forum where public and private sectors can share best practices in urban design, mixed-use development, and planning.

### NCPC Releases Year in Review



In December, NCPC released its digital Year in Review that recapped the agency's major reviews and projects over the past year. Through three themes—Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness; Transforming Landmarks; and Shaping the Future—the visual report highlighted items such as approval of the new submission guidelines and agency environmental regulations; the federal parking study; and the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. A new section focused on major projects the Commission reviewed such as the National Air & Space Museum, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, and the Eisenhower Memorial. The report is available online at [www.ncpc.gov/ar2017/](http://www.ncpc.gov/ar2017/).



### Staff Briefed on Highway Plan

On December 13, 2017 DC Office of Planning Program Manager **Chris Shaheen** provided a presentation to NCPC staff on the Highway Plan and Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s impact on the development of Washington, DC. Developed between 1891 and 1898, Olmsted and his firm developed a street plan for the outlying areas of the city that included arterials extending into Maryland, broad avenues connecting large parks and open spaces, and winding parkways that responded to topography. This Highway Plan would influence the work and recommendations of the McMillan Commission.



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## PERSONNEL

### NCPC Bids Farewell to Barry Socks

On January 3, NCPC Chief Operating Office **Barry S. Socks** retired after 42 years in federal service. Barry joined NCPC in 2004 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We thank Barry for his outstanding contributions to the agency, and wish him the best in retirement.