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

1. Approved final site and building plans for visitor screening and conference center additions at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System William McChesney Martin Building, 2001 C Street, NW. (6985)

2. Approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a New Entertainment and Sports Arena, St. Elizabeths East Campus, Southeast. (7890)

3. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for site improvements at the American Red Cross, American Red Cross Square, 431 18th Street, NW. (7837)

4. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for a Marion Barry, Jr. bronze statue, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (7891)

5. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for solar photovoltaic panels at Payne Elementary School, 1445 C Street, SE. (7894)

6. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 339, Lot 68 (1336 8th Street SPE, LLC), 1336 8th Street, NW. (ZC 16-24)

7. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding CG Design Review at Square 613 (2100 2nd Street, SW, LLC), 2100 2nd Street, SW. (ZC 17-05)

**PLANNING UPDATES**

**Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative**

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee is preparing for a July 27 workshop to develop initial urban development objectives and near-term and long-term strategies for a future work plan for improving the Avenue’s economic and physical conditions. Several resources will be used to inform this discussion. These include the 2016 Market Study, 2016 Pedestrian Life Study, the 2017 Urban Design Analysis (which is close to completion), and a traffic study that is underway and is expected to be completed by late fall 2017.
Submission Guidelines and Environmental Policies & Procedures Update

At its May 4 meeting the Commission authorized the release of the agency’s Draft Submission Guidelines and Environmental Policies & Procedures for public comment. These are the primary guidance documents for NCPC’s review of plans and projects. The update of the guidelines and procedures will help ensure that NCPC’s review process is clear, accessible, and more efficient, leading to better planning outcomes. During the public comment period, staff held two public meetings, several individual meetings with applicants (including GSA, the Department of Defense, the Smithsonian, and the District of Columbia), and meetings with interested stakeholders. The public comment period for the Submission Guidelines closed on July 10, and the comment period for the Environmental Policies & Procedures closes on July 14.

NCPC Conducts Parking Study

NCPC staff, in partnership with Volpe, continue assessing the validity of NCPC’s current parking ratio goals for application to federal development in light of future (20-year) forecasted land use patterns, transportation network, and population demographics in the National Capital Region. This study assesses NCPC’s parking ratios for federal sites based on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s regional travel demand model, industry best practices, and parking requirements for private developments and large employment centers in the region. The study tasks include completing a literature review, conducting a regional transportation model analysis, developing a comparison of existing NCPC parking standards to local jurisdiction standards and developing a Geographic Information System application to enable NCPC staff to conduct future regional modeling. Staff will provide an information presentation to update the Commission on the study at July’s Commission meeting and will present the final report in the fall.

Parks & Open Space Element Update

Following completion of the NPS/NCPC Small Parks Management Strategies report, staff initiated work to revise and update the Comprehensive Plan’s Parks & Open Space Element. Anticipated changes include reorganized content and streamlined polices that address emerging issues such as balancing multiple uses within parks; providing access to, and connections between, parks; improving environment and landscape stewardship; building partnerships and coordination between multiple landowners and jurisdictions; and balancing park space and commemorative works. Staff also initiated research to clarify and improve polices concerning parks which fall under NCPC’s jurisdiction per the 1952 Capper Cramton Act. Staff anticipates submitting a draft of the revised element to the Commission for review and request to release for public comment in the fall.

NCPC Submits Comments on District Elements

As part of the “open call” comment process, NCPC staff submitted comments to the DC Office of Planning (DCOP) that reflect issues identified by federal agencies. The Executive Director, Policy & Research Division Director Michael Sherman, and Urban Planner Angela Dupont met with DCOP staff on June 20 where they discussed comments, and addressed issues related to parks and open space, the Central Employment Area, and urban design. DCOP will submit the revised District Elements to the Commission for review in mid-2018.
Washington-Baltimore Maglev Study Environmental Impact Statement

NCPC continues to support the Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Tier I Environmental Impact Study as a cooperating agency. On June 5 the Executive Director, Policy & Research Division Director Michael Sherman, and Urban Planner Stacy Wood met with Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail Company representatives to discuss potential MAGLEV alignments, status of the EIS process, and potential impacts to federal installations under NCPC’s jurisdiction. The Federal Railway Administration anticipates completing the Draft EIS by the winter of 2018 and the final EIS by the spring of 2019.

OPM Design Thinking Lab

On June 5, NCPC Architect Ken Walton participated in an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Lab on Human Centered Design. The lab is both a practice and a space that fosters innovation through design thinking/human-centered design. Its goal is to teach human-centered design across the federal government and help deliver innovative solutions that address complex public and cross-sector challenges. The lab brings together a unique combination of private sector fellows, public servants, and students who work collaboratively on complex cross-sector challenges to design based on the needs of those we serve. The National Park Service is applying the Human Centered Design approach to the Lincoln Memorial Restoration project. OPM invited several NCPC staff to participate in a July Human-Centered Design workshop, which focuses on the visitor experience on the National Mall.

PERSONNEL

NCPC Welcomes New Intern

Washington native David Lipscomb began his NCPC internship in the Office of Public Engagement on June 12. He is a Master of Community Planning student with a concentration in transportation at the University of Maryland. He will work on updates to NCPC’s new website, help develop a public participation plan, and assist with NCPC’s social media accounts. David holds a bachelor’s degree in print journalism from the University of Maryland and has more than 10 years of experience in journalism and communications.