Report of the Executive Director

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

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for landscape reconstruction and installation of a flagpole at St. Elizabeths’ Center Building, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. (8186)
2. Final building plans for renovation and annex demolition at Fort McNair’s Building 48, 4th A Street, SW. (8167)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building’s ABA Ramp Project, 717 Madison Place, NW. (8183)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for temporary stabilization of the C&O Canal’s wall in Georgetown, 3207 Grace Street, NW. (8188)
5. Final site development plans for the relocation of a pedestrian crosswalk at Arlington National Cemetery’s Memorial Avenue, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA. (8174)
6. Preliminary site and building plans for building envelope repairs phase 1 at the Martin V.B. Bostetter, Jr. United States Courthouse Building Envelope Repairs Phase 1, 200 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA. (8190)
7. Preliminary building plans for a new wildlife staff office at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beaver Dam Road & Soil Conservation Road, Beltsville, MD. (8184)
8. Preliminary site development plans for Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building 434 Renovation and Additions, 6900 Powder Mill Road. (8185)
9. Preliminary and final site development plans for the replacement of Garrett Park Road Bridge, No. M-0352, Garrett Park Road and Rock Creek Park, North Bethesda, MD. (8040)
10. Final site development plans for the Joint Base Andrews Taxiway Whiskey, Camp Spring, Maryland. (7711)
11. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts Tents Replacement Project, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, VA. (8187)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the Closing of a Public Alley in Square 5116 - S.O. 16-23580, 1501-1507 45th Street, NE. (8175)

Planning Updates

Interagency Security Annual Membership Meeting

On June 3, 2020, the Executive Director and staff met with representatives from the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) as part of the ISC’s annual outreach to member organizations. The discussion focused on the ISC’s annual report which highlighted compliance policies, standards and recommendations, training, and outreach. The ISC’s representatives also reconfirmed their commitment and ongoing cooperation with NCPC on the agency's Public Space and Security Initiative.
Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Federal Capital Improvement Program Funded Report

Staff developed the Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Federal Capital Improvement Program for the National Capital Region Funded Report (FCIP). The report identifies projects listed in the FCIP that have subsequently received Congressionally authorized funding. The report includes 25 projects with a total estimated cost of more than $875 million. Some of the projects highlighted in the report include $200 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home Master Plan Implementation; $274 million for the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health Surgery Radiology Laboratory Medicine facility; $95 million for the modernization of the General Services Administration Regional Office Building; and $135 million for the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum Revitalize Building Envelope and Infrastructure project. The final report will be available in August.

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group began developing stormwater management guidelines. Based on an inventory of existing conditions and historic and urban design considerations, the working group is building upon the District of Columbia’s stormwater management strategies to evaluate the best management practices that may be appropriate for use within the monumental core. With 60 percent of the monumental core located within a 100 year flood plain, stormwater management guidelines will help protect the safety and security of people, facilities, cultural artifacts, and environmental amenities. This work is expected to continue through this fall.

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

One of the Executive Committee’s goals is to enhance daily and special events to attract more people to Pennsylvania Avenue. This special place serves a critical role in our nation as an important location to protest, celebrate, and heal; and provides many opportunities for social engagement and visitor interpretation. These important roles are guiding the committee’s ideas and discussion on how to improve the Avenue’s use and improve its physical environment. Future design concepts should consider opportunities to enhance ground floor uses and outdoor public spaces to complement two of the Avenue’s active hubs at Market Square and the Willard and W Hotels. Some of these new spaces and their amenities should be more active and others more contemplative to provide diverse experiences that will attract visitors, residents, and workers.

Public Engagement

Antenna Guidelines and Tree Replacement Policy Outreach Strategies

Staff is developing outreach strategies for the Antenna Guidelines Update and Federal Environment Element’s Tree Replacement Policy Amendments and Submission Guidelines Update, pending Commission authorization to release both for 60-day public comment periods. Components include website pages, social media, online public meetings, ecards, and blogs.
Public Comment Opportunities

In June NCPC accepted feedback on Environmental Assessments for two projects on the July meeting agenda: restoration and floodplain enhancement of the Fletchers Field Park Stream in Riverdale, Maryland and replacement of the Garrett Park Road Bridge over Rock Creek in North Bethesda, Maryland. GSA also accepted comments on the master plan amendment for the consolidation of the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters on the St. Elizabeths West Campus. The Federal Railroad Administration is currently accepting comments through September 28 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Washington Union Station Expansion Project.