



Proposed Fort Reno lighting fixtures (1.)



Fort Belvoir Data Storage Center (2.)



# 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. Preliminary and final site development plans for Trail Improvements at Fort Reno, 4000 Chesapeake Street, NW. (8250)
2. Preliminary and final site and building plans for Phase 3 of the Data Storage Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (8233)

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

1. Preliminary and final building plans for a building canopy at the Sherman North Building, 3700 North Capitol Street, NW. (8249)

## Planning Updates

### Comprehensive Plan: Federal Workplace Element

Following the draft update of the Federal Workplace Element, the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and resulted in immediate changes to the economy and federal workplace operations. Staff put the update on hold because of the unknown implications on the federal workplace and will examine potential long-term impacts to the planning, location, and design of federal workplaces post-COVID-19. Once this is done the element will be updated accordingly.

In the meantime, the Commission will be asked to approve changes to the element's Central Employment Area (CEA) component developed by NCPC and the District of Columbia. Proposed changes include one joint update to the CEA boundary in both the Federal and District Elements. This update reflects the District of Columbia's priority areas for commercial, mixed-use development, and transportation investments.

### District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

On February 5, 2021 NCPC staff provided initial comments to the Council of the District of Columbia as part of its review of Bill 23-736, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2020, DC Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2020. Pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8721, within 60 days after receiving an element or amendment from the Council of the District of Columbia, NCPC shall certify whether the element or amendment has a negative impact on the interests or functions of the federal establishment in the nation's capital. NCPC is working collaboratively with Council and DC Office of Planning staff to resolve the areas of concern and ensure consistency with the federal elements prior to the Commission's formal federal interest review later this year.





### Public Space and Security Staff and Stakeholder Workshops

NCPC continues to explore security and public space issues and is conducting a series of virtual workshops to examine different types of urban public spaces to better understand their security needs. These efforts done in collaboration with the National Charette Institute, seek to develop a criteria toolkit to assist in the evaluation of security interventions, with application to a variety of public space types in Washington and beyond. The first workshop, held on February 10 and 16, examined Farragut Square as an example of a small urban park. Other stakeholders include local Business Improvement Districts, the National Park Service, United States Park Police, DC Office of Planning, DC Department of Transportation, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Metropolitan Police Department, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, New York Department of Transportation, and New York City Public Design Commission.



### Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group met in February to refine the scope of the Streetscape Construction Manual update. Staff are advancing development of landscape and pavement design guidelines through the spring.



### Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

One of Pennsylvania Avenue's character-defining strengths is its tree canopy that contributes to the Avenue's unique civic quality and cultural landscape. The current linear arrangement of willow oak trees unify the street, frame the Capitol vista, create a cathedral-like allee, and connect the Avenue's public spaces. As the initiative's Executive Committee explores how to potentially transform the Avenue, future design concepts will build on this character intent and consider opportunities that promote and sustain a healthy tree canopy. The Urban Design Analysis, found on the project website, provides more detail on the Avenue's strengths and challenges informing the concept work.

## Public Outreach

### Tidal Basin Ideals Lab Lunchtime Program

On Wednesday, February 24 NCPC hosted a brownbag presentation on the Tidal Basin Idea's Lab for federal and local agencies. **Teresa Durkin**, Executive Vice President, Trust for the National Mall spoke about the Tidal Basin's current conditions and ideas on how to preserve this iconic cultural landscape and public space from the effects of land subsidence and flooding. **Sean Kennealy**, Chief of Professional Services, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service provided introductory remarks and **Seri Worden**, Senior Field Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation was on hand to participate in Q&A. The Ideas Lab is a partnership between the Trust for the National Mall, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.





## NCPC Hosts SUNY Albany Planning Students Online

On Friday, February 12, NCPC welcomed SUNY Albany Urban Planning undergraduates involved in Washington internships this semester. Senior Urban Designer **Matt Flis**, and Urban Planners **Jamie Herr**, **Kael Anderson**, **Karin Schierhold**, **Melissa Lindsjo**, and **Johanna McCrehan** provided an introduction to the agency's work and answered questions concerning current and emerging planning topics and career perspectives.

## Recent Blogs: Exploring Washington's Memorials to African Americans and Martin Luther King Jr. Library Renovation

NCPC's **Bsrat Mezghebe** wrote about several memorials in the nation's capital that celebrate the accomplishments of lesser-known African Americans who have left an indelible mark on this country. Spotlighted are Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune, and African American Civil War troops. Also, **Steve Morgan** revisits the Commissioners' tour of the first major renovation of the historic Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. Learn about their experience and the project's efforts to balance historic preservation with updated elements that offer more openness and better connect the library to its surroundings.

