Report of the Executive Director

In response to the guidance for COVID-19, NCPC's offices are closed, and agency staff are working remotely. In general, all work in support of the Commission meetings and other initiatives are proceeding, although some public events and stakeholder meetings have been postponed. Projects for review are coming in using the digital submission portal, and agency staff have set up the technology and procedures to allow virtual Commission meetings. The Commission conducted a special meeting on April 29, which enabled the Commission to test the virtual meeting platform and hear a staff presentation on antenna guidelines. The agency is following federal and regional guidance to ensure the safety of staff and the public. Thanks to Secretary Julia Koster and her Office of Public Engagement team (Paul Jutton, Steve Morgan, and Stephen Staudigl), and Office of Administration Director Debra Dickson and NCPC’s IT team (Tony Champ, Grace Kim, and Solomon Gossaye) for their hard work to make this event possible.

Delegated Actions and Exceptions

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 building plans for an enclosed loading bay addition and egress door in Square 457, 601 D Street, NW. (P8158)
2. Final site development plans for the Potomac Annex Permanent Fence, 2300 E Street, NW. (8150)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for demolition of Building 502, sheds, and pavilions at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, 20 MacDill Boulevard, SE. (8159)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for renovation and modernization of the Marine Barracks Washington's Building 8, 8th and I Streets, SE. (8160)
5. Preliminary and final site development plans for a temporary display at the National World War I Memorial's sculpture fountain, Pershing Park. (7682)
6. Comments on concept plans for a security panel installation at the Pentagon Metro Entrance Facility, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. (8165)
7. Preliminary building plans for the renovation of Building 48 at Fort McNair and the demolition of its annex, 4TH A Street, SW (8167)

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

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for a terrace benches guardrail at the National Museum of Natural History’s south entrance accessible approach, Madison Drive between 9th Street, NW and 12th Street, NW. (7753)
Planning Updates

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Executive Committee’s working group continues to explore potential concepts for the Avenue. Options will consider how to improve connectivity and potentially reallocate uses within the right-of-way to improve modes of travel for pedestrians, personal vehicles, transit, bicycles, and other transportation options. The concepts will build on the committee’s prior research and analysis of the Avenue, which is available on the project website. Concurrently, the committee continues to discuss potential long-term special event opportunities with stakeholders. There is interest to explore developing nationally significant special event themes and the partnerships needed to implement them.

Monumental Core Streetscape Framework

Since the close of the Urban Design Streetscape Framework public comment period, the Interagency Working Group has begun analyzing and drafting guidelines for street trees and stormwater for public spaces within the project boundary. This work will continue through early fall.

Comprehensive Plan: Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements

Staff is revising the draft narrative and polices for both the Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements and continues working with federal and District agencies to refine the Transportation Element’s policies. Staff is also conducting outreach to key agencies and stakeholders regarding the proposed Transportation Management Plan monitoring procedures and parking ratio policies presented to the Commission at its March meeting. Staff plans to bring the draft Federal Transportation Element to the Commission in July, and the draft Workplace Element in the fall.

Public Outreach

Transportation Land-Use Panel

Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster chaired the Transportation-Land Use Connections grant panel on behalf on the Transportation Planning Board. The panel selected 15 regional projects for planning and design consulting support, totaling $857,266. Projects ranged from pedestrian and bike connections to new transit lines, reimagining outdated road infrastructure, and innovative safety and access projects, such as a pilot to improved pedestrian connections to a Metro station for the visually impaired.