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 the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt Satellite Antenna Installation, 3521 International Court, NW. (8153)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for the Judiciary Square Building Antenna Upgrades, 633 3rd Street, NW. (8386)
3. Preliminary and final building plans for the Ariel Rios Building Antenna Array Upgrades, 99 New York Avenue, NE. (8387)
4. Preliminary and final building plans for the GSA Regional Office Building Antenna Upgrades, 301 7th Street, SW. (8388)
5. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Upper Parking Decks Demolition and Ground Level Parking Installation, 357-358 Thomas Road, SW. (8396)
6. Preliminary site and building plans for the Congress Heights Recreation Center, 611 Alabama Avenue, SE. (8398)
7. Final site development plans for Cobb Park, 200 H Street, NW. (8379)
9. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 772-N, 301 Florida Avenue, NE. (ZC 21-26)
10. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Map Amendment Change from NC-14 to NC-15, 1207 H Street, NE. (ZC 22-03)
11. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the P203 Crash Rescue Station #2 Renovation and Addition, 1057 W Perimeter Road, Camp Springs, Maryland. (8306)
12. Preliminary and final building plans for the Montgomery County Auxiliary Communications Service Antenna Replacement, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. (8400)
13. Preliminary and final building plans for the Turner Fairbank Highway Research Station Antenna Installation and Tower Permit Renewal, 6312 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia. (8399)
14. Final site and building plans for the Pentagon Corridor 8 Pedestrian Access Control Point, 200 Boundary Channel Drive, Arlington, Virginia. (7934)

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. Preliminary and final building plans for the Marine Barracks Washington Commandant’s House - Quarters 6 Renovation, 801 G Street, SE. (8389)
2. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 2704, 4608 16th Street, NW. (ZC 21-18)
3. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 3846, 2640 Reed Street, NE. (ZC 22-04)
Planning Updates

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative’s public comment period closed on July 29, with nearly 500 comments received. The comments were posted online, along with recordings from the April 13 public meeting. In July and August, NCPC staff briefed the District of Columbia Business Improvement District Council; small and large event production companies; and enjoyed sharing the vision and concepts with the public at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and Fiesta Asia Street Fair. Be on the lookout for the Pennsylvania Avenue table at upcoming events, including the Pink Walk, Fiesta DC, and Capital Harvest Farmer's Market. In late 2022, an information presentation will be provided to the Commission on key findings of comments received.

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

NCPC staff completed an inventory of small-scale streetscape elements to support the development of guidelines. The Interagency Working group is preparing guidelines for trash receptacles, fire hydrants, drinking water stations, parking pay stations, electric vehicle car charging stations, and utility boxes. This winter, NCPC staff anticipate submitting the draft small-scale guidelines to the Commission for concept review and the vertical and surface elements for final review. On August 4, members of the Interagency Working Group viewed in-field mock-ups of DDOT’s Smart Streetlights to provide feedback and inform development of lighting specifications for the monumental core.

Interagency Security Committee Annual Meeting

On July 20, the Executive Director and NCPC 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 NCPC security-specific initiatives and ISC updates.

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission Meeting

On July 27, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) reviewed the Smithsonian site evaluation study for the American Women’s History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino. NCMAC also reviewed H.R.6720 and H.R.6611/S.3579 that authorized the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work honoring Thomas Paine, and the Embassy of France in Washington, DC to establish a commemorative work honoring the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet.

Regional Plans

NCPC staff provided comments on the Draft Congress Heights Small Area Plan (CHSAP), which was developed by DC Office of Planning. The study area is bounded by St. Elizabeths and Suitland Parkway to the north; Stanton Road, SE to the east; Oxon Run Parkway, SE and Atlantic Avenue, SE to the south; and I-295 to the west. NCPC staff found the recommendations in the Draft CHSAP to be consistent with the planning principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements and the plan’s vision and policies to be a thoughtful commitment to health and racial equity. NCPC staff encouraged continued coordination with applicable federal agencies to implement the plan’s goals.
Brown-Bag Presentations
As part of NCPC’s ongoing efforts to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion into our daily work, two brown-bag presentations were conducted with speakers to better understand the efforts of other regional planning organizations. On August 4, Tanya Stern, Deputy Director with Montgomery County’s Planning Department, presented the various ways her organization has incorporated equity into their analyses, review documents, and outreach. On August 24, Anita Cozart, Interim Director; Deborah Crain Kemp, Community Planner; Martin Brown, Capital Facilities Planner; and Maxine Brown Roberts, Development Review Specialist; Jessica Williams, Community Planner; and Jordan Chafetz, Capital Facilities Planner from the DC Office of Planning presented their equity work in relation to their capital improvements program, comprehensive plan, and small area plans.

Public Outreach
Regional Facilities Outreach Program
The Urban Design and Plan Review Division has been busy this summer hosting its annual outreach meetings. Staff met with several local jurisdiction representatives and federal agencies to discuss projects anticipated for Fiscal Year 2023, including the Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters Annex, the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Army Family Housing Master Plan, the East Parklands Rehabilitation, the Pentagon Master Plan, and the Arlington National Cemetery Master Plan. Additional outreach meetings are scheduled through the beginning of October with a few remaining federal agencies. These meetings have also offered a valuable opportunity for NCPC to brief applicants on the work staff completed over the last fiscal year, including NCPC’s Equity Action Plan.

Personnel
Farewell to Summer Interns
NCPC bids farewell to Summer Intern Aashna Singh to continue her regional and city planning, civics, and African American & Diaspora studies as a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at NCPC, she assisted the Office of Public Engagement in preparation for the agency’s 2024 Centennial by researching planning documents from 1924 to the present and assessing preferred practices for online curation. Her efforts will help in the content and curation of the influential urban planning that influenced Washington and the regions’ growth, with an emphasis on equity. We wish her continued success in all her pursuits.

William Redmon completed his internship in mid-August, returning to Virginia Tech to complete his graduate studies in Urban and Regional Planning. Will successfully conducted and documented extensive field work and research to support the agency’s work on planning for NCPC’s Centennial, updated commemoration plans, helped advance the Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual, and drafted and presented streetscape design guidelines to the Interagency Working Group. Will also supported the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative by staffing information booths at several events and festivals on the Avenue and summarizing all the public comments to help the team assess public feedback. He will be missed!