



Commission Action

November 1, 2012

PROJECT Draft 2013 Campus Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan National Institutes of Health, Bethesda Campus 9000 Rockville Pike Bethesda, Maryland	NCPC FILE NUMBER MP02
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Health and Human Services	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 3101.20(05.14)43630
	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on draft master plan
	ACTION TAKEN Approve with comments
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The Commission:

Provides the following comments on the draft 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan and draft Transportation Management Plan for transmittal to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and National Institutes of Health:

Commends NIH for developing a thorough draft 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan that will develop the campus into a more environmentally-sustainable place by reducing impervious surface; removing surface parking; increasing open/green space; and requiring future development to meet the policies contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and the 2011 HHS Sustainable Buildings Plan.

Recommends that NIH revise the draft Transportation Management Plan to include all the information that is required by NCPC submission guidelines for master plans, as follows:

- (1) a description of existing and projected peak hour traffic by mode, with indicated points of entrance and exit, the number of existing and proposed bicycle spaces, as well as transit routes and stops and pedestrian facilities serving the installation, both on-site and in the nearby area; and a summary of existing and proposed parking by type of assignment (official cars, vanpools, carpools, single-occupant vehicles, handicapped persons, visitors, etc.);
- (2) a description of the Federal agency's existing strategies for assisting employees' commute to work;
- (3) stated goals and objectives for the TMP, such as trip reduction, mode split changes, or vehicle occupancy rate increases;
- (4) an evaluation of projected transportation impacts resulting from master plan developments and description of potential TMP mitigation measures;
- (5) a description of the process for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of goals and objectives and adjusting TMP strategies, as needed; and

(6) a summary of the relationship of the TMP provisions to transportation management and air quality requirements of local, state and regional agencies, including provisions for working cooperatively with affected agencies to address those requirements.

Recommends that NIH revise the draft Transportation Management Plan to include background information on the NIH commuter survey (frequency, method of delivery, how the survey respondents are selected, etc.) and a complete set of usable survey results that show breakdowns for how each survey question was answered.

Recommends that NIH amend the draft 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan to adhere to the applicable 2004 Comprehensive Plan employee parking ratio goal of 1:3; does not support the addition of 1500 net new parking spaces and urges a reduction in parking spaces until the 1:3 parking ratio is achieved.

Recommends that NIH work with Montgomery County, State of Maryland, Naval Support Activity Bethesda, and local community to help implement the planned underpass/high speed elevators project; a potential future “Kiss-n-Ride” area along the east-side of Rockville Pike, potential future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes along Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Road, and a future Bikeshare station in the vicinity of the Medical Center Metrorail Station.

Recommends that NIH study the potential traffic impact of any new driveway along West Cedar Lane in greater detail; to design any new driveway to be consistent with the character of the adjacent residential neighborhood; and to work in consultation with the community and the M-NCPPC during the project’s planning and design phases.

Recommends that NIH carefully consider and incorporate all DEIS and draft Master Plan comments into the final Master Plan to the maximum extent feasible.

Recommends that NIH refer a draft final version of the 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan to M-NCPPC for review, prior to submission to NCPC for final review.

Recommends that NIH revise draft Master Plan Section 3.3 to accurately reflect Montgomery County’s planning initiatives, and to revise any affected Master Plan recommendations to ensure that the 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan’s recommendations are as consistent with County policies to the maximum extent feasible.

Recommends that NIH explore the feasibility of complying with Montgomery County’s Forest Conservation Plan standards and develop an Urban Forest Conservation Plan to reflect the final 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan that meets the County standards.

Recommends that NIH revise the 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan to include stormwater management, forest conservation, historic resources, and energy conservation.

Recommends that NIH strive to eliminate construction staging and temporary parking within the campus’s 250-foot buffer to the maximum extent feasible, and to reflect this goal in the final 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan.

Recommends that NIH strive to minimize the visual impact of the existing Commercial Vehicle Inspection facility from Rockville Pike to the maximum extent feasible, and to reflect that goal in the final 2013 NIH-Bethesda Campus Master Plan.

Recommends that NIH coordinate all significant new construction projects with M-NCPPC and the local community, in addition to the NIH Community Liaison Council group.

Deborah B. Young [Date]
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission