



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: May 5, 2016

PROJECT
FY 2017 – FY 2022 D.C. Capital Improvements Plan
Washington, DC

NCPC FILE NUMBER
0348

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER
00.00(07.00)43564

SUBMITTED BY
Mayor of the District of Columbia

APPLICANT'S REQUEST
Approval of comments to the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia

REVIEW AUTHORITY
Advisory
per 40 U.S.C. § 8723(b)

PROPOSED ACTION
Approve as requested

ACTION ITEM TYPE
Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia have submitted the District's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 – FY 2022 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for the National Capital Planning Commission's review and comment. The CIP is part of the District of Columbia's FY 2017 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan. The District of Columbia is proposing 164 ongoing projects and 15 new projects from agencies throughout the District government. The total six-year proposed project spending—including the Highway Trust Fund and DC Water projects, which are accounted for separately—is \$6.27 billion. The FY 2017 – FY 2022 Highway Trust Fund Budget is \$1.144 billion and DC Water's FY 2016 – FY 2025 capital improvement program (not a part of the total CIP) is \$3.1 billion.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Commission has 30 days to comment on the FY 2017 – FY 2022 D.C. Capital Improvements Plan.
 - Consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and other NCPC plans including the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* and *CapitalSpace Plan*.
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RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Commends the District of Columbia on the inclusion of projects that support federal interests set forth in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and other planning documents, that:

- Invests in the transportation system, including transit improvements, vehicular rehabilitation

and other modal system enhancements.

- Develops new parks and recreation centers and enhances existing parks and open spaces throughout the city.
- Rehabilitates and/or reuses historic buildings, thereby preserving and enhancing the historic identity of the National Capital.
- Funds long-term planning efforts linked to important capital projects of federal interest.

Requests that the District of Columbia coordinate projects as appropriate with the Commission and with federal and regional agencies whose properties or operations may be affected, pursuant to Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b) (1) and § 8722 (e)), as follows:

- The following general areas and topics are of special interest to the Commission, and should be coordinated with NCPC on an on-going basis:
 - Streetcar Development
 - District Plans and Studies
 - Park and Open Space improvements
 - Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
 - DC Water

Requests that the District of Columbia government agencies coordinate with NCPC to identify submission requirements, schedules, and potential planning issues prior to formal review of the following projects and studies. These major projects and studies have the potential to affect federal interest.

- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Central Library (CE0-MCL03)
- McMillan Site Redevelopment (EBO-AMS11)
- New Communities (EBO-EBO08)
- St. Elizabeths E Campus Infrastructure (EB0-AWR01)
- Renovation of University Facilities (GF0-UG706)
- Walter Reed Redevelopment (EBO-AWT01)
- Arboretum Community Center (AM0-QP5AR)
- Fort DuPont Ice Arena Replacement (AM0-QD738)
- East Potomac Pool (AM0-SP1EP)
- Circulator Buses (KA0-CIR14)
- Circulator Fleet Rehab (KA0-CIRFL)
- Power Line Undergrounding (KA0-PLU00)
- H St/Benning/K St. Line (KA0-SA306)
- S Capitol St/Frederick Douglass Bridge (KA0-AW031)
- South Capitol Street Corridor (KA0-AW000)
- Streetcars (KA0-STC00)
- 7000 Series Railcar Purchase Option (SA616)
- Project Development (KE0-TOP02)
- Travel Demand Management (KA0-ZU000)

- Stormwater Management (KA0-CA303)
- Trails (KA0-TRL50)
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Enhancements (AD306)
- Hazardous Material Remediation (Anacostia River)–DDOE (KGO-HMRHM)
- Stormwater Retrofit Implementation-DDOT (KG0-SWM05)
- Washington Aqueduct Authority
- Water Authority
- Sanitary Sewer Authority
- Stormwater Authority
- Combined Sewer Overflow Authority
- Wastewater Treatment Authority
- 11th Street Bridge (KA0-HTF00)
- H Street Bridge (KA0-BR005C)

Notes the statutory requirement mandating the District's submission for Commission review of a number of CIP projects, such as:

- Acquisition or disposition of land or buildings by the District of Columbia government (40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b) (1) and § 8734 (a)).
- Development projects undertaken by the District of Columbia government that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks (40 U.S.C. §8722 (b) (1) and § 8722(e)).

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None
Remaining actions (anticipated)	None

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

The CIP is part of the Mayor's FY 2017 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan that is sent to the Council of the District of Columbia for review and adoption, and then to Congress for review and approval. NCPC reviews the District CIP pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8723(b), which specifies: "By February 1 of each year, the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall submit to the Commission a copy of the multiyear capital improvements plan for the District of Columbia that the Mayor develops under Section 444 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (Public Law 93-198, 87 Stat. 800). The Commission has 30 days in which to comment on the plan but may not change or disapprove of the plan."

The Commission's review of the CIP may provide the District with valuable feedback about proposed developments and projects well before they move forward. This is intended to facilitate effective cooperation between the District and NCPC and smooth Commission review of specified projects under the Commission's normal project-by-project review procedures.

As described in the District's CIP document, the CIP consists of the appropriated budget authority request for the upcoming six-year period and an expenditure plan with projected funding over the next six years. The CIP is used as the basis for formulating the District's annual capital budget. The range of CIP projects for the coming six years includes renovation, major repair, and maintenance of existing facilities; new construction and equipment; building and land purchases; long-range planning studies; transportation projects; and various technology and database projects.

Proposal

The District of Columbia is proposing a total of 164 ongoing projects including 15 new projects from agencies throughout the District government. The total six-year proposed project spending—not including the Highway Trust fund and DC Water projects, which are accounted for separately—is \$1.310 billion. The FY 2017 – FY 2022 Highway Trust Fund Budget is \$1.144 billion and DC Water's FY 2016 – FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program is \$3.1 billion.

The District's proposed CIP highlights several major capital efforts including

- \$430 million for D.C. Public Schools (DCPS);
- \$407 million for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), to include \$19 million for expansion of the streetcar line and \$120 million for improvements to the South Capitol Street corridor and replacement of the Frederick Douglass Bridge;
- \$65 million for the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, to include \$35 million for McMillan Site Redevelopment; and
- \$46 million for the District of Columbia Public Library, to include \$42 million for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial central library.

Additional major investments proposed for FY 2017 that affect federal interests include \$143 million for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) as the District's

contributions to its capital program, to include \$92 million for the inter-jurisdictional Capital Funding Agreement and \$50 million for the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) Funding Agreement.

II. PROJECT ANALYSIS/CONFORMANCE

Executive Summary

Many of the CIP projects outlined in the District's proposal support federal interests as outlined in the Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* (Comprehensive Plan) and other NCPC planning documents. None of the proposed projects appear to have any adverse impact on the federal interest. **Therefore staff recommends that the Commission commend the District of Columbia on the inclusion of projects that support federal interests set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents; request that the District of Columbia coordinate projects as appropriate with the Commission and federal agencies and regional agencies; and notes the District is required to submit for Commission review of a number of CIP projects, such as acquisition or disposition of land or buildings by the District of Columbia and development projects undertaken by the District of Columbia government that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks.**

Analysis

Staff has analyzed the proposed projects in the District's CIP and determined that many support federal interests as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and other NCPC planning documents. Additionally, staff did not find that any of the proposed projects appear to have adverse impacts on the federal interest.

A large number of the CIP projects involve the rehabilitation and improvement of District public buildings and public spaces throughout the District of Columbia. Many of these projects are in prominent locations, where such improvements have the opportunity to enhance the overall image of the National Capital. Many of these facilities were originally constructed by the federal government and thereby extend the legacy of federal involvement in the development of the District of Columbia. Examples (noted by the relevant District agencies) include buildings within networks of facilities that define the civic character of the Capital City:

- Schools (DCPS)
- Libraries (District of Columbia Public Library)
- Transportation facilities (DDOT)
- Firehouses (Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department)

The CIP submission includes proposals for new and rehabilitated facilities that are designed to meet sustainability standards. NCPC supports these efforts, noting that they are consistent with Executive Order 13693 "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade," and Executive Order 13653, "Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change," which calls for integrated

planning that promotes environmental sustainability, energy security and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The CIP includes enhancements to the capital's image through investments in public art (DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities) and the maintenance and planting of street trees (DDOT). The District government's continued investment in these capital projects is consistent with many NCPC initiatives and helps to benefit the city's image, and thus support the federal interest.

Many of the rehabilitation projects outlined in the CIP involve historic structures. To further both District and federal interests, it is important that the District respect and enhance these historic buildings as these projects move forward. Projects for improving accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in historic structures should be carefully designed to accommodate both ADA requirements and historic preservation goals.

Several projects relate to buildings and structures that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are located within recognized Historic Districts. The continued investment in these properties helps to preserve and promote their recognized significance.

The CIP includes funding for plans and studies that the District proposes to undertake. NCPC and the District have coordinated planning initiatives that have resulted in capital projects that successfully address federal and local interests. NCPC therefore supports the inclusion of funds for planning in the CIP, and looks forward to continued cooperation and coordination with the District and other federal agencies on planning and zoning studies within the District.

Several projects in the CIP are of special interest for federal planning efforts. NCPC requests that the District coordinate with NCPC and other federal agencies, and notes that some projects may be subject to NCPC review. These projects that are of special federal interest include:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library: NCPC supports the District of Columbia Public Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library project. At the Commission's January 2016 concept review, the Commission raised a number of urban design, historic preservation, and planning issues. The Commission action is attached. We look forward to continuing to work with the District on resolving the issues noted by the Commission as design development continues. (See Attachment A).
- Streetcars (DDOT): NCPC supports the expansion of transportation options that will benefit residents, workers, and visitors. However, the potential visual impact of streetcars using technology that requires overhead wires on defining features of the L'Enfant Plan represents a significant federal interest. Staff welcomed the DC City Council's requirement in its 2010 Transportation Infrastructure Act, that prior to the construction of streetcar transit beyond the H Street/Benning Road segment, that an evaluation be completed on the impact of aerial wires on federal property and the requirement that the Mayor develop a plan for each phase or extension of the streetcar transit system for Council's review and approval. Staff has appreciated participating in planning studies for streetcar segments including a K Street NW segment, an eastward extension along Benning Road, a segment in Anacostia and a north-south segment in

the western portion of the city. We look forward to reviewing detailed streetcar plans with particular attention to federal interests. (See Attachment B).

- District Plans and Studies (D.C. Office of Planning (DCOP)): The CIP includes funding for public plans and studies that the District proposes to undertake. NCPC and the District have coordinated planning initiatives that have resulted in capital projects that successfully address federal and local interests. NCPC therefore supports the inclusion of funds for planning in the CIP, and looks forward to continued cooperation and coordination with the District and other federal agencies on planning and zoning studies within the District.
- Park and Open Space Projects (DPR and DCPS): CapitalSpace Plan, a study of federal and local parks and open spaces in the District, documents the need for improvements to existing parkland and facilities, notes the importance of the District's public schools in providing outdoor recreational facilities, and calls for steps to address park demands created by growth. Staff looks forward to continued coordination with District agencies to identify and implement strategies to improve the Washington's park system.
- WMATA Projects: The CIP includes several projects that support WMATA's capital program (operating funds are included in separate volume of the District's Proposed Budget and Financial Plan). This funding will support acquisition of new buses and rail cars; rehabilitation of the Metrorail system and bus facilities; and new construction projects such as those being developed in *Momentum*, WMATA's strategic plan. These ongoing investments are consistent with the federal interest in using transit to help fulfill the region's mobility demands, in particular the needs of the federal workforce, visitors, and for special events.

Finally, staff notes that many of the projects outlined in the CIP must, by law, be reviewed by NCPC. Staff urges District agencies to work early and cooperatively with NCPC staff to facilitate that review, which serves the interests of both the District and the federal government. The projects should be submitted to the Commission at the appropriate stage of siting and design work. NCPC's authority for review of District government projects includes review of: acquisition or disposition of land or buildings; land and building development projects (including park projects); and projects that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks. District agencies should consult with the Commission staff to determine the submission requirements for particular projects.

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Overall, the CIP is generally consistent with the goals outlined in the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Many of the CIP capital projects focus on sustainability, livability, job creation, economic development, and transportation infrastructure. These focal areas are consistent with goals of the Federal Workplace, Transportation, Parks & Open Space, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, and Visitors & Commemoration Elements.

Monumental Core Framework Plan

The CIP includes a number of capital projects critical to implementing the Monumental Core Framework Plan (MCFP) goals. The Streetcars and South Capitol Street Corridor projects will improve connections between key MCFP destinations. Several projects including the New Harbor Patrol Facility and East Potomac Pool, will help transform the monumental core into a vibrant and sustainable place to visit, work, and live.

CapitalSpace

The CIP includes a number of projects that support the CapitalSpace Plan's six big ideas. The Fort DuPont Ice Arena Replacement project would increase the utilization of this park. The McMillan Site Redevelopment, St. Elizabeths East Campus Infrastructure, and Trails projects would help link the Fort Circle Parks. Many of the CIP's school modernization projects would improve school yards to help relieve pressure on nearby parks and better connect children with the environment.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act is not applicable to NCPC's review of this submission, because the Commission does not approve the District CIP.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The National Historic Preservation Act is not applicable to NCPC's review of this submission, because the Commission does not approve the District CIP.



Commission Action

January 7, 2016

<p>PROJECT Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library Rehabilitation and Modernization 901 G Street, NW Washington, DC</p>	<p>NCPC FILE NUMBER 7610</p>
<p>SUBMITTED BY District of Columbia Public Library</p>	<p>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 21.00(38.00)44009</p> <p>APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept design</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN Approved comments as requested</p> <p>REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e)</p>

The Commission:

Supports the District of Columbia Public Library's vision to transform the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library into a world-class facility that honors its significance and character.

Notes that the District of Columbia Public Library's concept plan requires balancing historic preservation, planning, and design considerations. The Commission offers the following comments on the project:

Site Design and Exterior

Notes that the exterior wall adjacent to the vehicle ramp along 9th Street is a historic element and a character-defining feature of the building, however it blocks views to and from the building and presents a public safety issue. Therefore, the Commission strongly supports lowering the wall and eliminating the east vehicle ramp along 9th Street, NW in Options 2 and 3 to:

- Improve the visual presence of the library.
- Strengthen the connection of the building and site to its surrounding urban context by establishing a public open space that enlivens the corner of 9th Street and G Place, NW.
- Improve public safety by: 1) reducing potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles; 2) lowering the existing site walls and establishing a visual connection between activities in the building, the city, and surrounding cultural institutions.

Does not support the retention of the east vehicle ramp along 9th Street, NW, Option 1, as it would not allow for an open, accessible public space that would connect MLK Library visually and physically to the city.

Requests the District of Columbia Public Library explore additional landscaping designs and pedestrian amenities in the vicinity of the loading dock to improve the function and aesthetics of the area.

Notes the proposed rooftop addition is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as it is differentiated from the original rectilinear building, but also compatible in terms of its scale, form, and massing.

Historic Preservation

Notes that the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is the work of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, a recognized master of Modern architecture, and is his only building in the District of Columbia and his only executed library design.

Notes that the Commission through the Section 106 process and in consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, the District of Columbia Public Library, and consulting parties determined the project would have adverse effects on the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library and the Commission will execute a memorandum of agreement to resolve those effects.

Notes that though there would be adverse effects, the concept plans respect the historic significance of the MLK Library while accommodating new uses within the library program.

Requests that as design development continues and prior to the Commission's preliminary review, the District of Columbia Public Library consider how historic preservation and design issues will continue to be balanced.

- Entrance Vestibule - Continue consultation with the appropriate review bodies regarding the use of glass in the entrance vestibule. The Commission supports the library's efforts to introduce a greater degree of transparency and invite visitors to explore the building.
- Pods - Identify options to avoid or minimize adverse effects by reducing the number and size of the proposed pods in the digital commons. This may involve a change in material so that the pods are more transparent and allow the west reading room to be perceived as a large open space as it was originally designed.
- Lighting - Balance the lighting requirements for new programmatic uses with the original lighting design in a manner that minimizes visual effects.
- Steel Curtain Wall - Continue to explore design solutions that would minimize adverse effects by retaining the historic steel curtain wall fabric which is integral to the character of both the interior and exterior of the building.

Acknowledges that the Mayor is considering undertaking a study regarding the sharing or collocating all or parts of the DC Archives at the MLK Library to enhance the utility of the central library and the public's access to historic resources. Such study should be made available to the public.

Deborah B. Young

Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

01/11/2016

Date



Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: February 6, 2014

PROJECT

DC Streetcar System

District of Columbia

SUBMITTED BY

District of Columbia Department of Transportation

PRESENTER

Carlton Hart

The DC Streetcar program is a central part of the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) commitment to improve the quality of life in the District by effectively providing neighborhood access and transportation choice, connecting Metrorail stations, and facilitating economic development and neighborhood sustainability in the selected corridors.

The DC Streetcar System Plan (System Plan) incorporates changes since the 2010 Transit System Futures Plan. These changes include the findings of other planning and environmental studies/reviews for the corridors of the 22-mile Priority System.

This 22-mile Priority System will expand upon two Streetcar Segments (H/Benning and Anacostia Initial Line Segment) currently under construction. The H Street/Benning Road Streetcar line will be the first to provide passenger service in the District and will operate in the H Street, NE commercial district and connect to the planned redevelopment area east of the Anacostia River. The existing bus routes serving this corridor are some of the most heavily used and overcrowded in the District. The Streetcar line will help to relieve that congestion and likely attract new ridership and development. The H Street/Benning Road Streetcar line is also a part of the Great Streets planning initiative. Also, redevelopment sites and the H Street commercial district and will be particularly effective in providing connections to the Union Station and the RFK Stadium redevelopment area.

Here are some details about the initial phases of each line. It is anticipated that these lines will be expanded in the near future:

One City Line

- 2.4 miles long
- 3 power substations
- Overhead catenary wires
- 2 car barns
- Track is next to media along Benning Road between Bladensburg Road and CBTC.
- Track is next to parking lane along H Street between 2nd Street, NE and 14th Street, NE.
- 2 termini – on Hopscotch Bridge (west) and just past CBTC (east)

Anacostia Initial Line

- 1.1 mile long
- Connects Anacostia Metro Station with the Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB), via Firth Sterling Avenue and South Capitol Street
- Future extension would cross 11th Street bridge (local only) and continue along M Street to Buzzards Point
- Includes a storage yard and car barn adjacent to South Capitol Street
- Overhead catenary wires

DDOT has stated that it is actively researching alternative propulsion technologies to allow the streetcars to move throughout the historically sensitive areas of the L'Enfant City without the use of overhead catenary wires.

The System Plan update will be coordinated with Move DC and other DDOT planning exercises as well as with efforts by DCOP, WMATA and other District and regional agencies. The streetcar elements of the IPT System comprise the 22-mile Priority System identified by DDOT.

