



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: April 5, 2018

PROJECT National Law Enforcement Museum Streetscape Modifications 901 E Street, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 6321
SUBMITTED BY National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.20(38.40)44723
REVIEW AUTHORITY Public Law 106-492	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary site development plans
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has submitted an application for approval of preliminary site development plans for minor modifications to the previously approved streetscape on the southern curb line of E Street, NW, and the installation of new site security elements, at the National Law Enforcement Museum. Nearing the completion of construction, the National Law Enforcement Museum is located at 901 E Street, NW, in Washington, DC.

The largely underground museum is being constructed on federal land within the District of Columbia Courts Complex in Judiciary Square. The Commission originally approved the final site and building plans for the entrance pavilions for the museum and surrounding plaza in 2008. Since receiving that approval, the underground portions of the project were significantly modified, but did not alter the approved above ground elements such as the pavilions. However, the Commission did approve modifications to the site and building plans in 2013.

KEY INFORMATION

- Judiciary Square houses various District of Columbia Courts, including the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the District Columbia Court of Appeals.
- A Judiciary Square Master Plan was completed in 2005, in collaboration between the District of Columbia Courts, the United States General Services Administration, and National Capital Planning Commission.
- As approved by the Commission in 2008, the design for the National Law Enforcement Museum includes the demolition and subsequent rebuilding of an existing areaway that is

part of DC Court Building C but which is within the area authorized by Public Law 106-492 for the construction of the museum.

- Perimeter security improvements were approved by the Commission in April 2009 as part of a plan submitted by the District of Columbia Courts for security in Judiciary Square. The perimeter security included a line of bollards between the two entry pavilions and at the east and west drive aisles near Court Building C and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
- The proposed modifications to the site development plans, including the elimination of two approved lay-bys, and new site security elements in the form of bollards is a result of addressing security needs expressed by the District of Columbia Courts, and the postponement of widening the sidewalks in front of both court buildings.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary site development plans for modifications to the streetscape and site security elements at the National Law Enforcement Museum, consisting of the elimination of the two lay-bys, new curb alignment and planting strips, and installation of security bollards.

Notes the proposed modifications to the site development plan to address security concerns, consisting of the reconfigured bollard alignment will be in place until the District of Columbia Courts and the U.S. Court of Military Appeals extend their portions of the southern E Street, NW curb line to widen the sidewalks, as approved in the Judiciary Square Master Plan.

Notes the applicant worked with staff to identify a revised bollard configuration on the west side of the museum's entrance pavilion.

Finds the configuration of the below grade structure of the museum and the type of retractable bollard type impact the configuration and placement of the proposed security bollards along E Street, NW.

Notes that Public Law 106-942 requires consultation and coordination with the District of Columbia Courts throughout the duration of the project.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	December 2007 – Preliminary approval of site and building plans for museum
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	September 2008 – Final approval with the exception of the proposed demolition and rebuilding of the areaway and generator for Court Building C April 2013 – Final approval of revised site and building plans
Remaining actions (anticipated)	Final.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund application for preliminary site development plans consists of minor modification to the plans approved by the Commission previously, in 2008 and 2013. The two approved lay-by drop offs on the southern curb line of E Street, NW, have been eliminated and replaced with curbs and planting strips that mirror those on the memorial side of E Street, NW. The proposed widening of the sidewalks in front of both court buildings has been postponed, requiring altered curbs at the east and west ends of the sidewalk in front of the museum, which return to the existing curbs, and additional fixed bollards at each end of the site.

Bollard types were selected based on site constraints. The twelve, east drive bollards are retractable, while the fifteen, west drive bollards are a combination of four retractable, and two removable (a Pepco duct bank prevents the bollards from retracting below grade.) All other bollards are fixed. The fixed and removable bollards will be shallow mounted. The applicant has indicated that the proposed new site security elements in the form of the bollards are needed to address security concerns of the adjacent court buildings, to the east and west of the new museum.

While the elimination of the two lay-bys is a positive modification to the site plan, the new configuration of the bollards for security is problematic as they impact the public space flow, by forcing pedestrians to walk through the bollard alignment, that crosses the sidewalk in front of the museum. As previously approved, and consistent with the Judiciary Square Master Plan, the bollards were aligned with the existing retaining walls outside the sidewalks, and did not impact the pedestrian movements along the sidewalks in front of the new museum.

Staff met with the applicant on site to discuss the submitted bollard configuration. The applicant explained that as the museum is mostly underground and extends toward E Street, NW, the previously-approved bollard configuration would not work due to the below grade structure of the museum and the required retractable bollard type. The below-grade structure requires the retractable bollards to be located at the street edge. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission find the configuration of the below grade structure of the museum and the retractable bollard type impact the configuration and placement of the proposed security bollards along E Street, NW.**

Since the site visit, the applicant was able to reconfigure the bollards on the west side of the museum's entrance pavilion, and align five of the bollards outside the pedestrian sidewalk zone. Although this configuration is an improvement, the remainder of the bollards remain in the pedestrian walkway due to the limitations imposed by the underground structure of the museum.

Given the site limitation and improvement in the design, staff recommends the **Commission approve the preliminary site development plans for modifications to the streetscape and site security elements at the National Law Enforcement Museum, consisting of the elimination of the two lay-bys, new curb alignment and planting strips, and installation of security bollards.**

Staff notes the proposed bollard alignment will be in place until the District of Columbia Courts and the U.S. Court of Military Appeals extend their portions of the southern E Street, NW curb line to widen the sidewalks, as approved in the Judiciary Square Master Plan. At that time, the perimeter security will be adjusted to the new curb line.

In addition, Public Law 106-942 requires consultation and coordination with the District of Columbia Courts throughout the duration of the project. The applicant will coordinate with the Courts to ensure their support of the revision to the bollard alignment to the west of the museum's entrance pavilions prior to final approval.

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

The project is in conformance with the following policies in the Preservation and Historic Features Element of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*:

- Identify and protect both the significant historic design integrity and the use of historic landscapes and open space.
- Protect the settings of historic properties, including views to and from the sites where significant, as integral parts of the character of the property.
- Ensure that new construction is compatible with the qualities and character of historic buildings and their settings, in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and the *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*.

National Historic Preservation Act

The Commission serves as lead federal agency for Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. In consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, NCPC staff has determined that the proposed modifications to the streetscape and the site security elements do not have the potential to adversely affect historic properties.

National Environmental Policy Act

NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). After review, the action has been determined eligible for categorical exclusion (#2) which applies to the approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as, but not limited to, identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping and trail or stream improvements.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the site development plans on March 15, 2018. The Committee forwarded the plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies, with the exception that District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and District of Columbia Office of Planning (DC OP) are not yet coordinating, noting that a modification to the applicants' public space permit is needed, but has not been filed. Further, while eliminating the lay-bys is positive, the previously-approved bollard configuration was preferred. Interest was also expressed in the feasibility of including trees in the planting strip.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the site development plans on their consent calendar for their February 15, 2018 meeting.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Lee Webb
03/29/2018

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

NCPC File #: 6321

The National Law Enforcement Museum Streetscape Modifications and Site Security Elements

901 E Street, NW
Washington, DC

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

Preliminary

Commission meeting date: April 5, 2018

NCPC review authority: Approval pursuant to Public Law 106-492

Applicant request: Approval of revised site plans

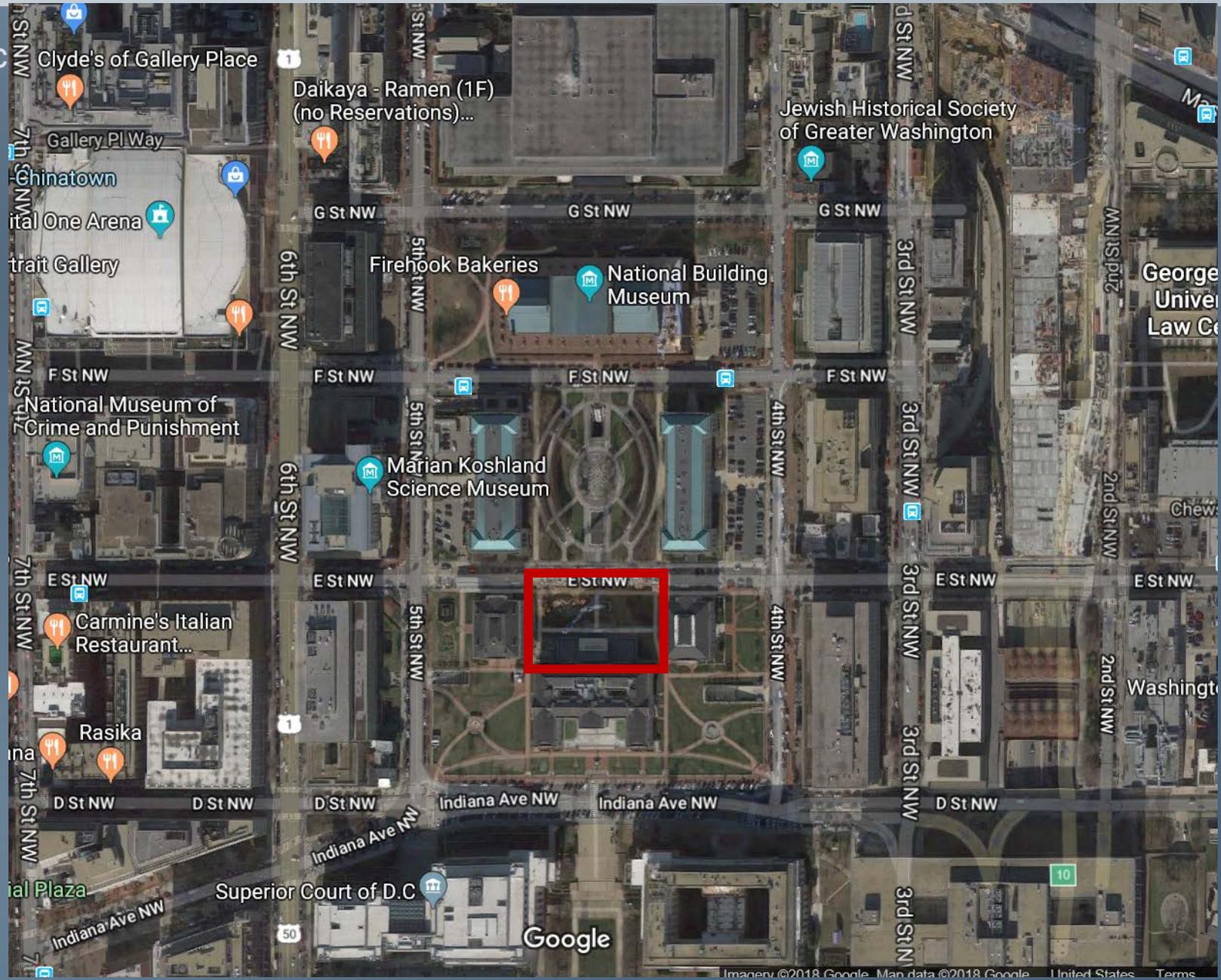
Delegated / consent / open / executive session: Consent

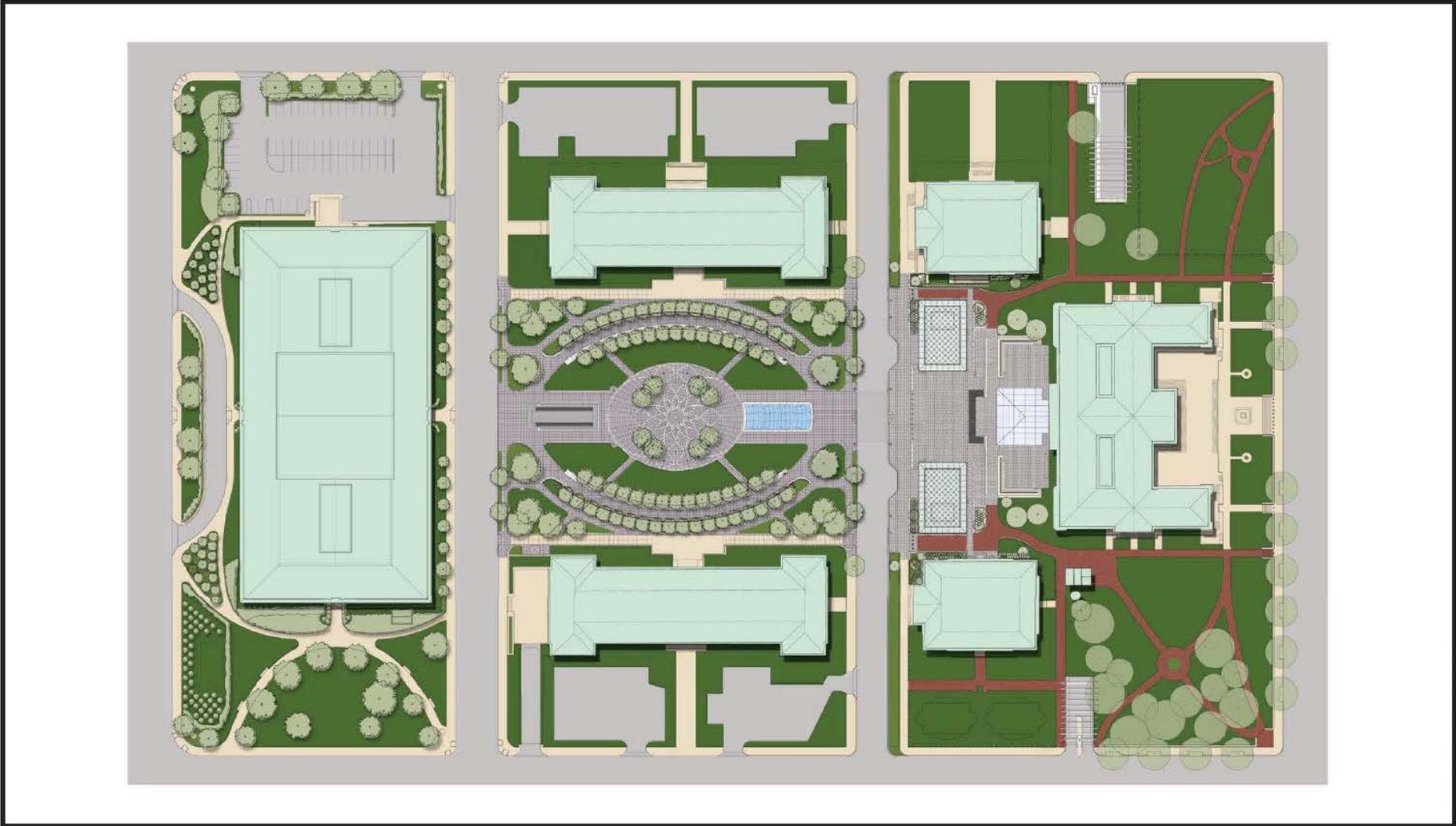
NCPC Review Officer: L. Webb

NCPC File number: 6321

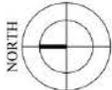
Project summary: The National Law Enforcement Museum has submitted an application consisting of minor modifications to the approved site plan consisting of new bollards and elimination of approved lay-bys with straight curbs that front E Street, NW. The largely underground museum is being constructed on federal land within the District of Columbia Courts Complex in Judiciary Square, in accordance with Public Law 106-492, which authorized the project in 2000. The Commission originally approved final site and building plans for the entrance pavilions for the museum and surrounding plaza in 2008. Since receiving that approval the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has made major modifications to the underground portion of the museum, but those modifications do not significantly affect the design of the above-ground elements that were approved by the Commission in 2008. The Commission approved revised site and building plans in 2013.

The current revision proposal addresses minor modifications to fixed, retractable, and removable bollards, lay-bys, and the curbs to the east and west of the museum. The two lay-by drop offs on E Street, NW, have been deleted from the design and planting strips that mirror those of the Memorial side of E Street have been added. The proposed widening of the sidewalks in front of both court buildings has been postponed, requiring altered curbs at the east and west of the sidewalk in front of the Museum which return to the existing curbs, and additional fixed bollards at each end of the site. Bollard types were selected based on site constraints. The east bollards are retractable, while the west drive bollards are a combination of retractable, and removable where a Pepco ductbank prevents bollards from retracting below grade. All other bollards are fixed.





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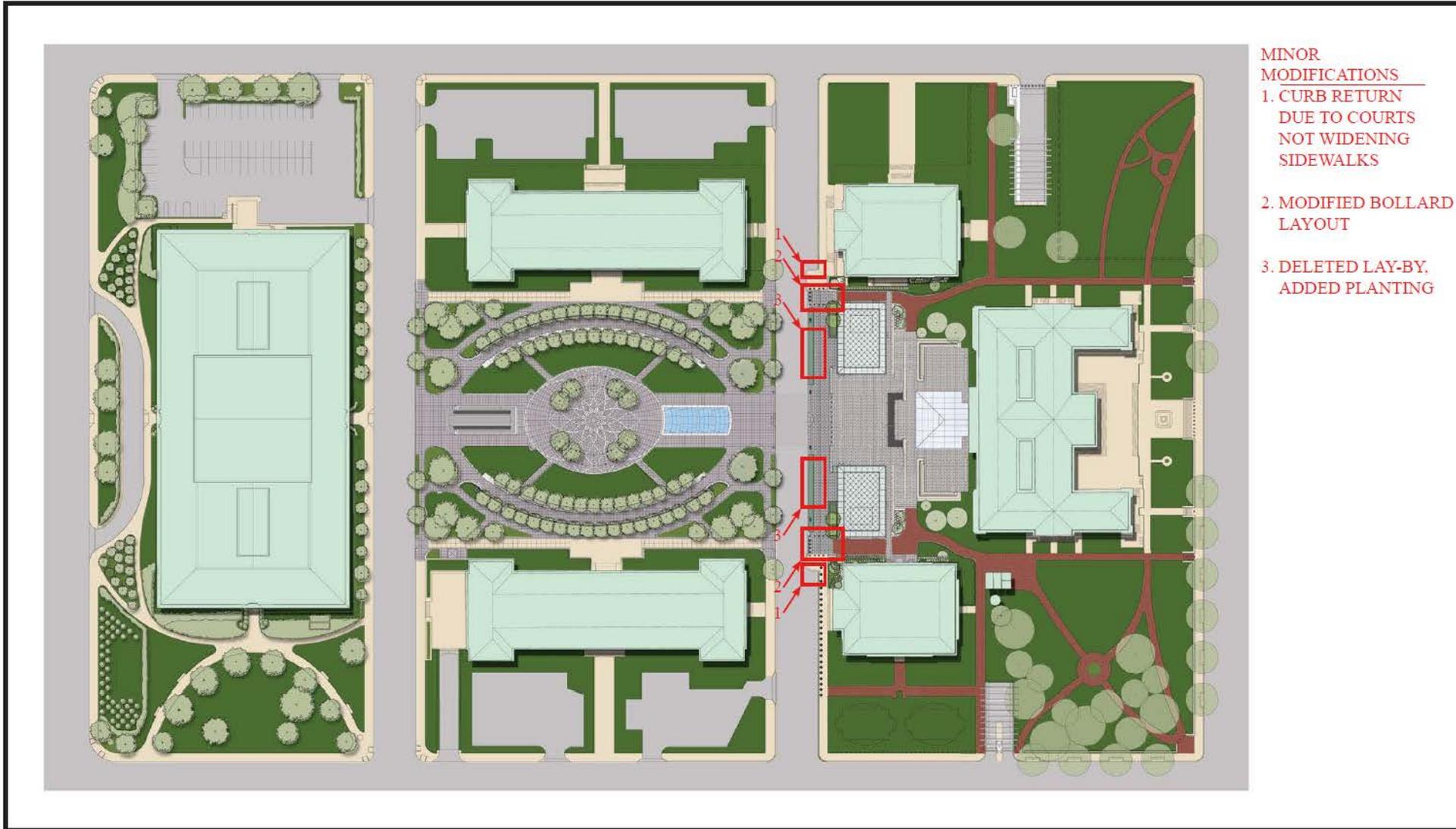


APPROVED MUSEUM SITE PLAN
JUDICIARY SQUARE
MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO BOLLARDS, LAY-BYS AND CURBS
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

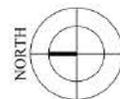
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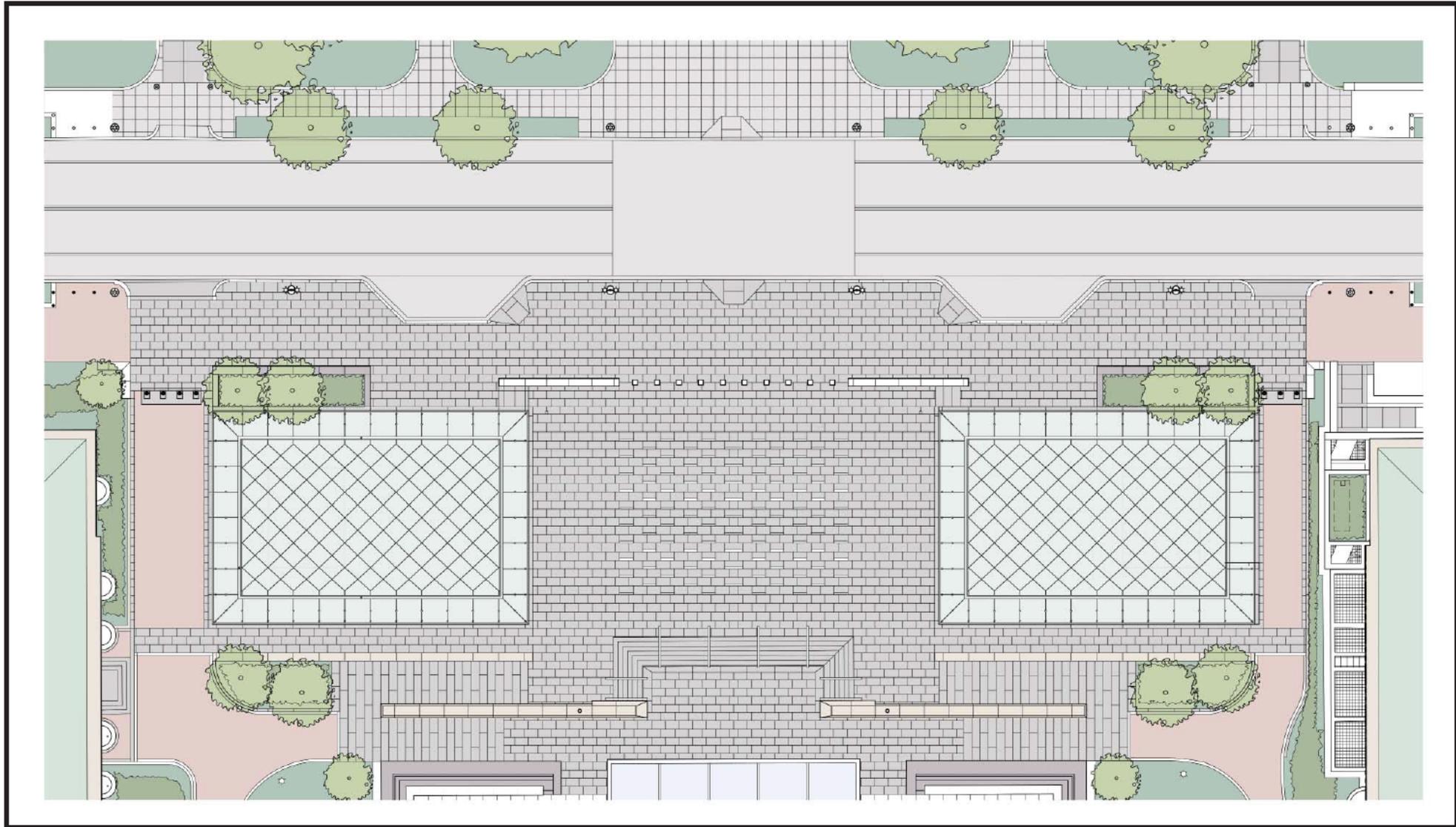
**NATIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM**
APRIL 5, 2018

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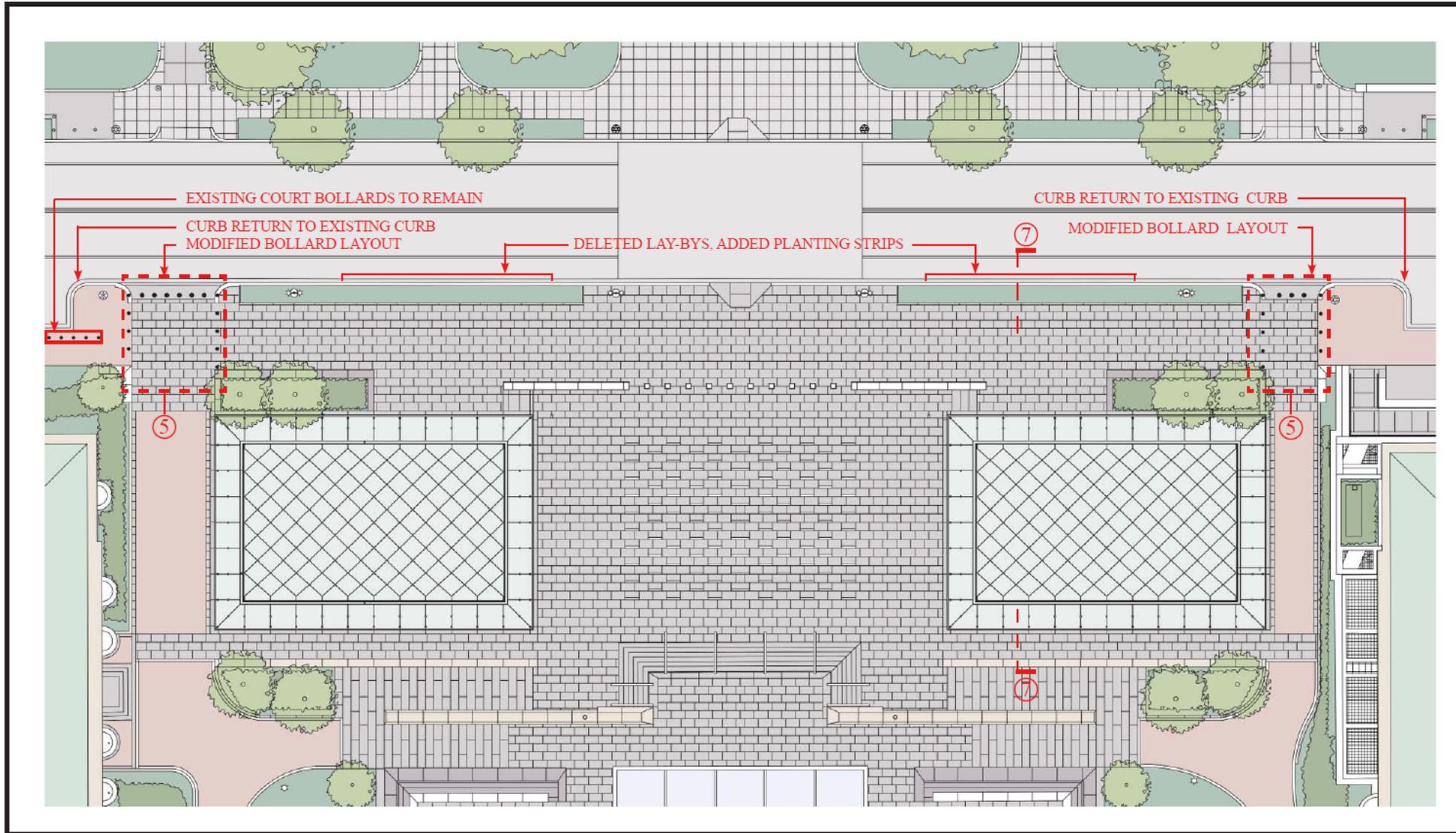
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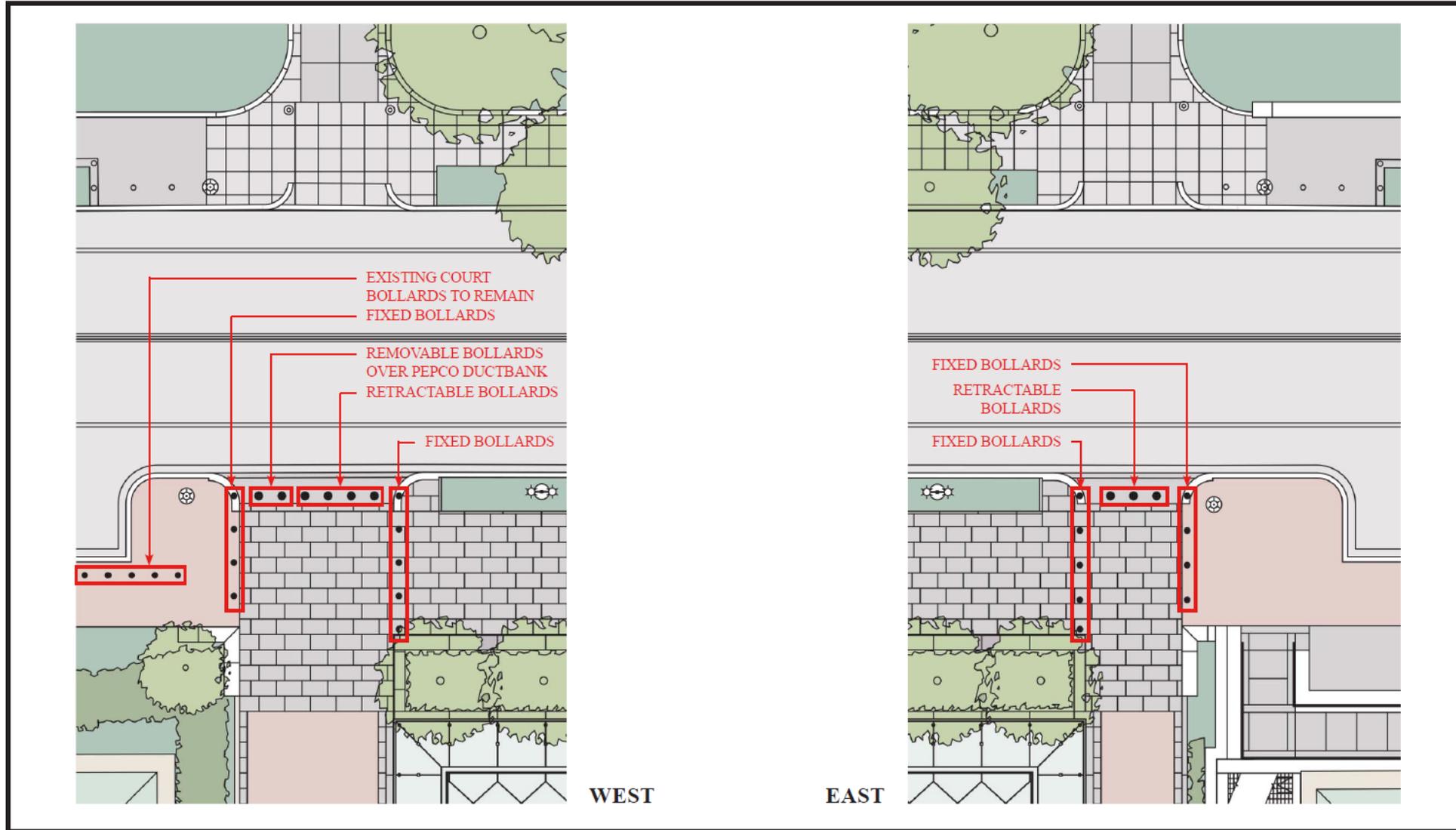
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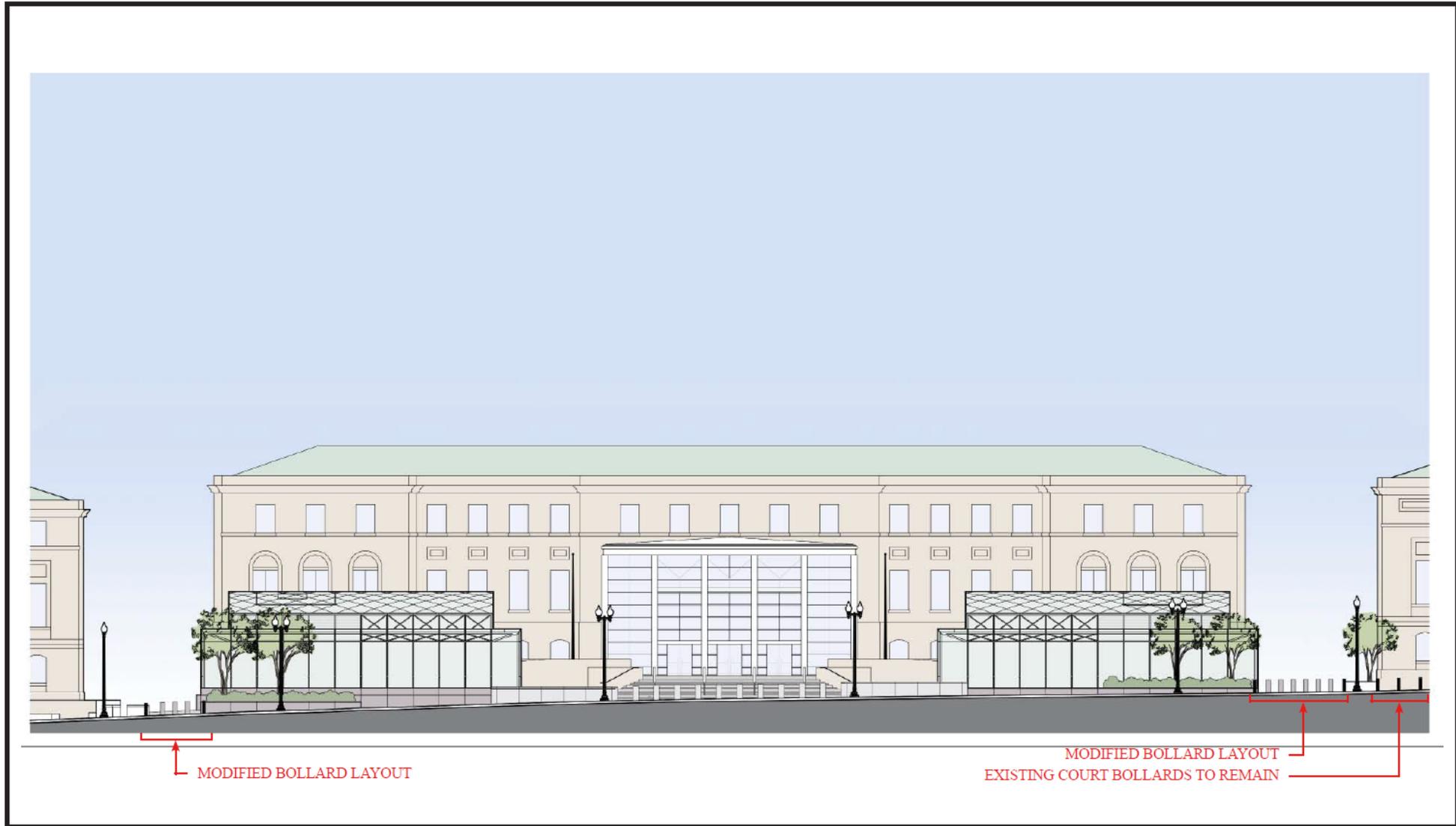
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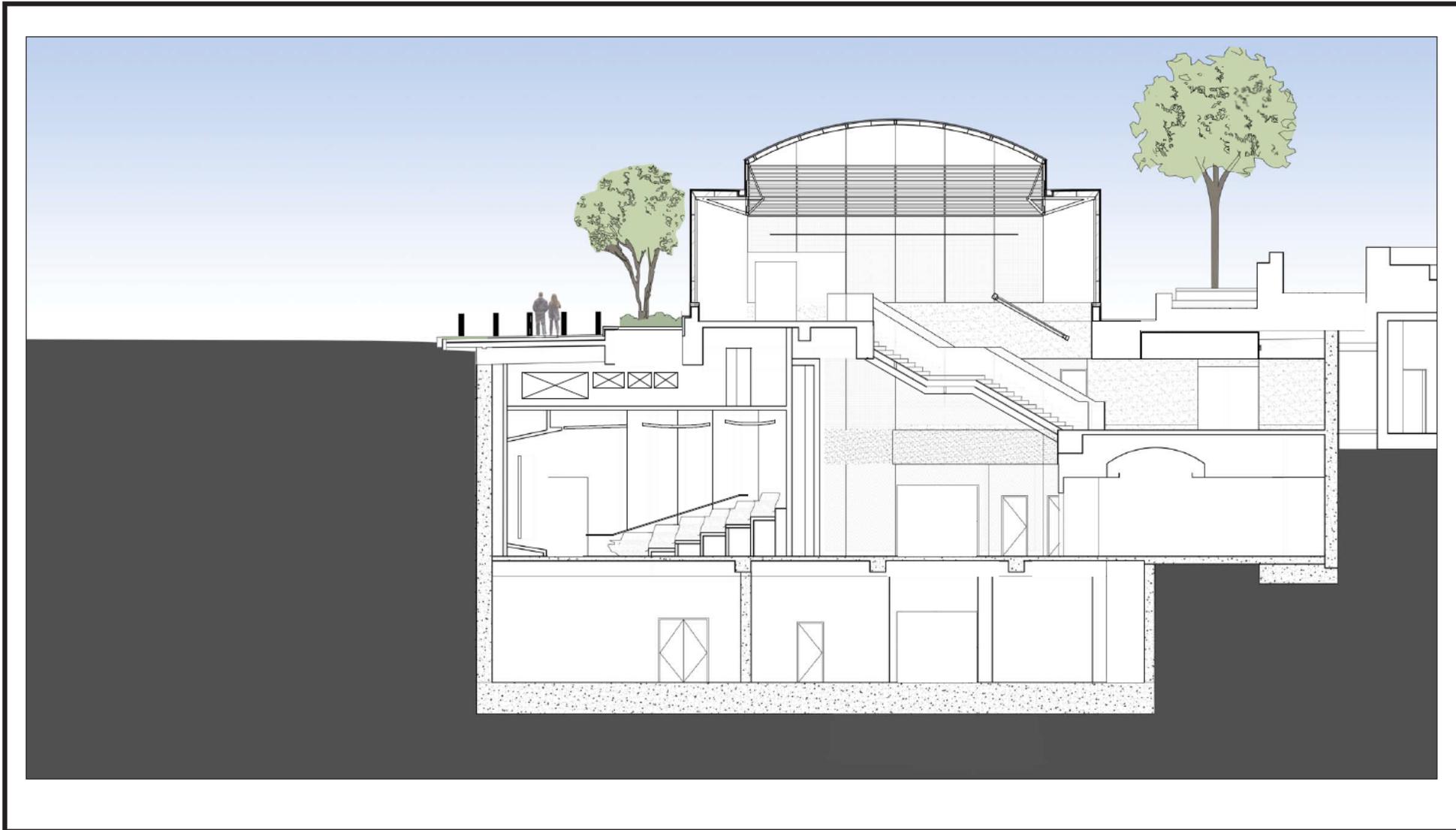


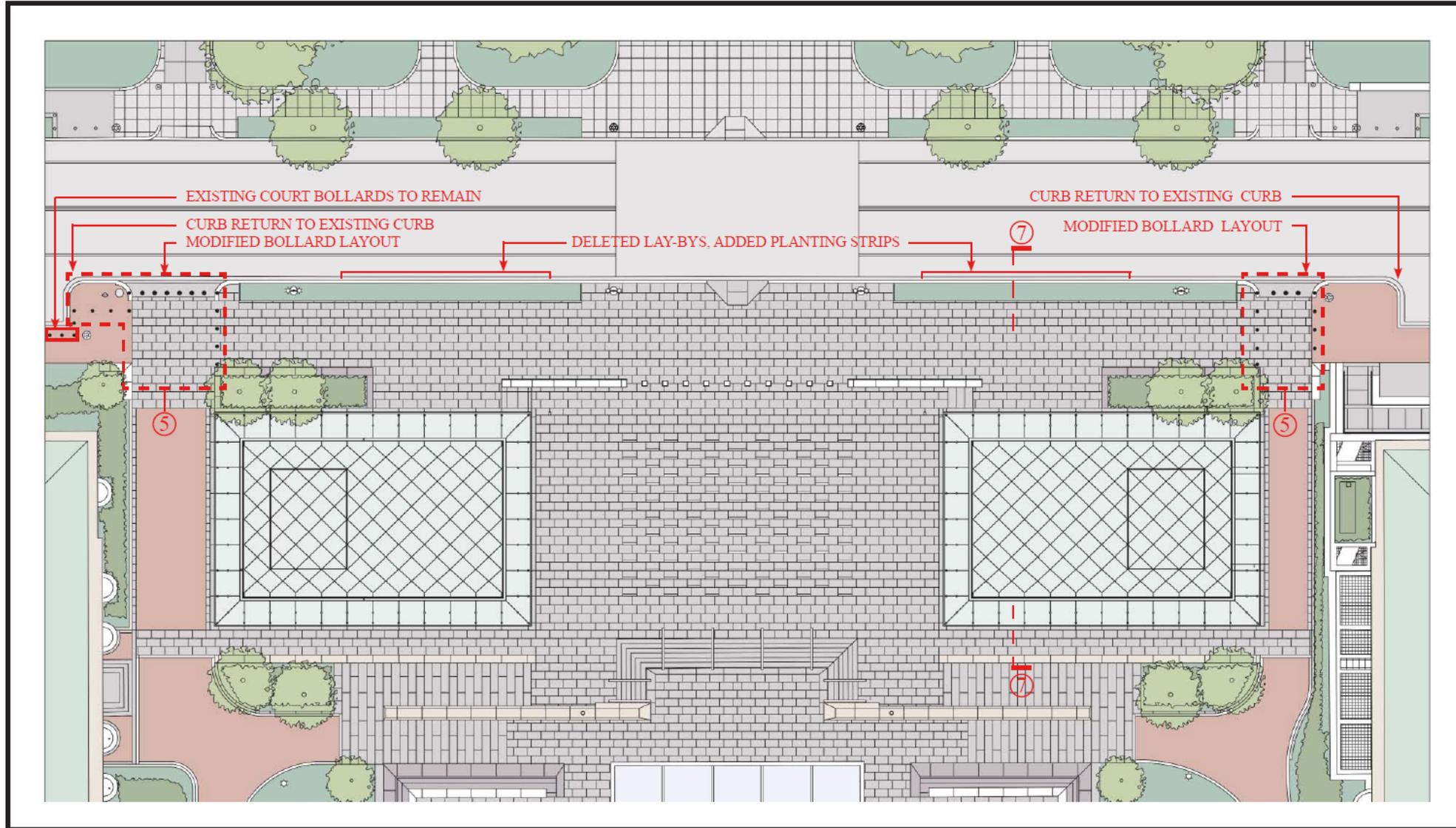


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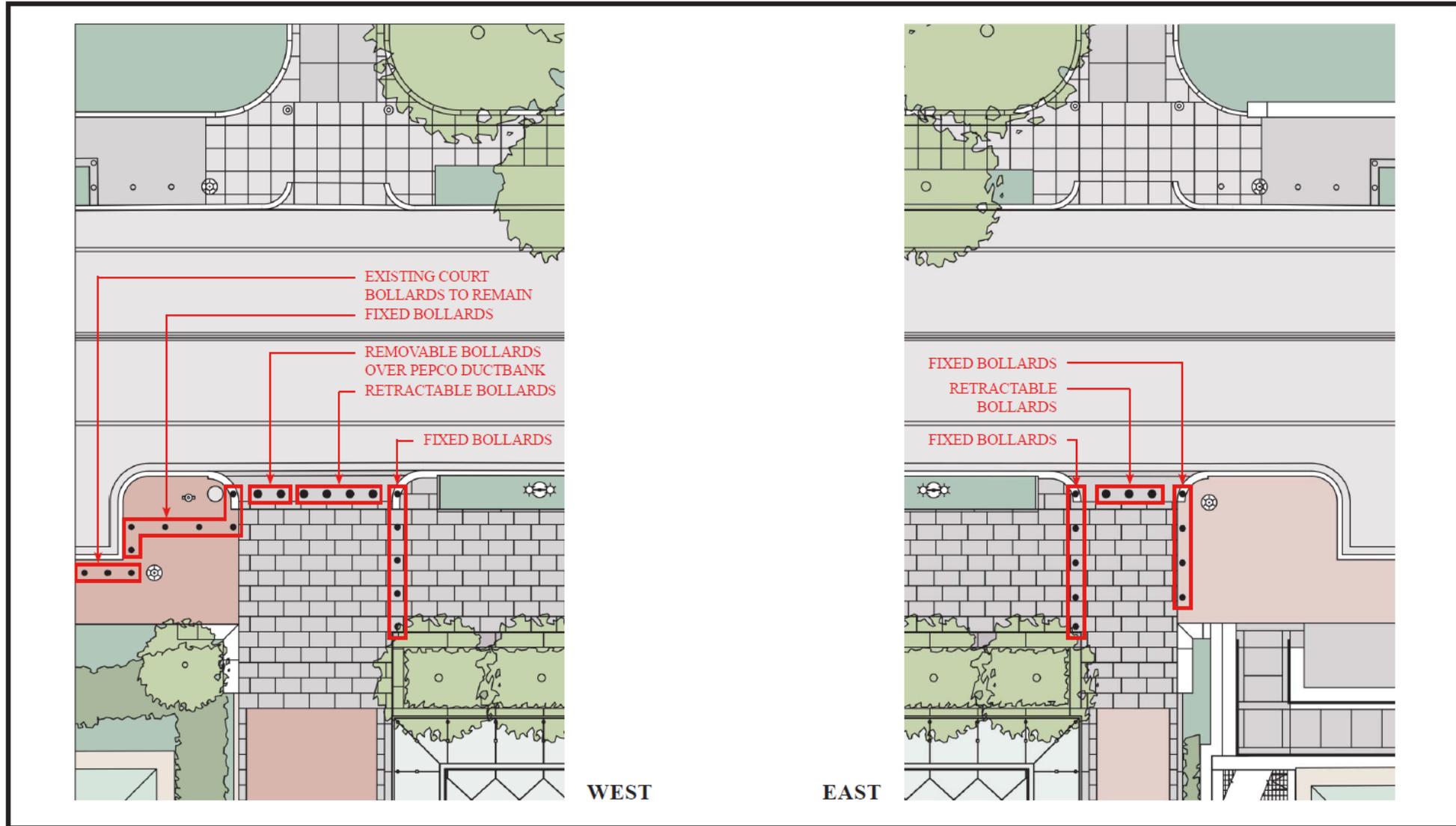






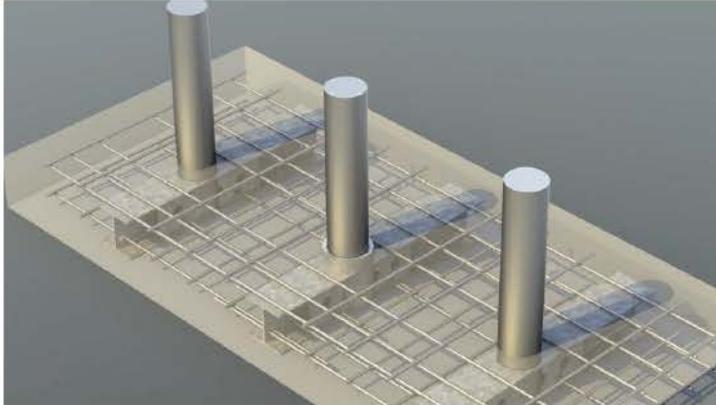
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SHALLOW MOUNT REMOVABLE BOLLARDS INSTALLATION



SHALLOW MOUNT REMOVABLE BOLLARDS



RETRACTABLE BOLLARDS



SHALLOW MOUNT FIXED BOLLARDS



EXISTING FIXED BOLLARD AT COURTS

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APPROVED RENDERING
MINOR MODIFICATION TO BOLLARDS, LAY-BYS AND BOLLARDS
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NATIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM**
APRIL 5, 2018

