



## Commission Action

July 12, 2018

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>South Capitol Street Corridor and Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project Landscape Design</b> Southwest and Southeast Quadrants of the District of Columbia from I-295 Suitland Parkway Interchange to P Street Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7529
	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 8.10(38.00)44774
	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> District of Columbia Department of Transportation	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved preliminary site development plans with comments
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Advisory per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	

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The Commission:

**Approves** the preliminary site development plans for the South Capitol Street Corridor landscape and site improvements.

### Frederick Douglass Bridge

**Notes** the Commission reviewed and approved the preliminary and final plans for the Frederick Douglass Bridge, and if changes to the bridge design are necessary, they should be submitted to the Commission for review.

**Notes** NCPC staff are working to develop an analysis regarding overall bridge lighting for the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and that analysis will help facilitate discussions regarding the South Capitol Bridge lighting approach.

**Finds** that white lighting is appropriate for illuminating the bridge at night, but the intensity and brightness should respect the lighting hierarchy of the U.S. Capitol Building and other important monuments and memorials.

**Requests** that if temporary colored lighting is considered, DDOT work with the Commission staff, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Park Service, and other relevant consulting parties to develop an operational agreement.

**Finds** that additional information regarding the proposed pedestrian and bicycle network was provided; and

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**Requires** DDOT evaluate whether changes to pedestrian and bicycle operations are necessary after the bridge has been completed and in use, and that DDOT report back to the Commission on this issue.

### East Oval

**Notes** the context of the east oval is dramatically different from that of the west oval in that it is surrounded largely by natural areas on Poplar Point, and the low-density development at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Future development is anticipated along Howard Road and within some areas of Poplar Point, but the context surrounding the oval will remain somewhat passive.

**Finds** the east oval is an opportunity for a gateway element, future memorial or public art installation, and further the oval has the most potential for a large-scale element to distinguish it from other nearby open space.

**Finds** the site can provide interpretive opportunities related to the Anacostia River, Poplar Point and the historic Anacostia neighborhood; and

**Recommends** the applicant consider additional opportunities for interpretation and programming which can serve as an amenity to the surrounding community.

**Recommends** incorporating additional trees and plantings where possible to help buffer pedestrians from the noise and views of traffic, particularly at the south end of the oval.

**Requests** that DDOT explore a direct pedestrian/bicycle connection to the northeast from the oval, connecting to the proposed traffic island.

### West Oval

**Requests** the applicant consider additional trees and plantings at the southern end of the oval to terminate South Capitol Street, better frame the public space, improve the setting for any future memorial or public art, and help reinforce the visual connection between the bridge and west oval.

### Other Elements

**Requests** DDOT provide the following information as part of the submission for final review:

- A lighting plan for the ovals, esplanades and bridge that identifies the amount, placement and intensity of lighting.
- A signage plan that describes the number and placement of all signs for roadway navigation, pathway directions and interpretation.

- Details regarding how the cultural legacy of Frederick Douglass may be incorporated into the project, consistent with the visual design goals described in the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement.

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Julia A. Koster  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

