



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: May 3, 2018

PROJECT Howard T. Markey National Courts Building - Perimeter Security	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7809
717 Madison Place, NW Washington, DC	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.32(38.40)44392
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	PROPOSED ACTION Approve as requested
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The General Service Administration (GSA) has submitted an application to the Commission for preliminary and final site development plans for perimeter security, consisting of the installation of bollards around the Dolley Madison House, part of the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building Complex, located at Madison Place and H Street, NW, at the northeast corner of Lafayette Square, in Washington, DC.

The National Courts Complex is a Level IV facility, and required by the Federal Protective Service to have physical security measures against hostile vehicles. While the Howard T. Markey Building, the old Cosmos Club, and the Tayloe House are already protected by the Lafayette Square perimeter bollards, the Dolley Madison House at the corner is outside the current bollard line. In addition, concrete planters along H Street are being used to serve as a security barrier, which clutter the sidewalk and detract from a positive pedestrian experience.

KEY INFORMATION

- The National Courts Complex is located on the northeastern edge of Lafayette Square. Lafayette Square is a seven-acre public park located directly north of the White House on H Street between 15th and 17th Streets, NW. The square and the surrounding structures were designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1970.
- In 2003, the National Park Service (NPS) developed a site security strategy consisting of the installation of bollards along the north perimeter of the square, as part of the square falls within the White House security area, which is designated as Level V.
- The proposed site security strategy for the Markey National Courts Building was developed to relate to the existing site security elements installed in Lafayette Square by NPS, and evolved to respond to consulting party comments during the Section 106 process.

- As a result of the consultation, GSA has determined that the proposed site security proposal does not adversely affect historic properties. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) has concurred with this determination as long as archaeological monitoring occurs during the installation of ground disturbing project elements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans for perimeter security at the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building Complex.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None.
Remaining actions (anticipated)	None.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

GSA is requesting preliminary and final approval by the Commission for site development plans for improved security at the National Courts Complex, namely around the Dolley Madison House, at the corner of Madison Place and H Street, NW, as it is outside the current bollard line. GSA's goal in the proposed site development plan is to incorporate the existing design elements established by NPS in Lafayette Square, including bollards on granite curbs, decorative light posts and street trees, and granite curb ramps and brick sidewalk.

As presented in the application, the new site security elements consist of fifty-five cast iron bollards, forty-two inches high painted black to match the existing NPS Presidential bollards found in Lafayette Square. The bollards will be generally spaced 48 inches on center, to be installed along Madison Place and H Street, NW, and located on granite curbs at the sidewalk edge, reflecting the established pattern found in Lafayette Square. On Madison Place, the new bollards will end at the existing bollard line, which crosses the sidewalk in front of the Old Cosmos Club building, while on H Street, NW, the new bollards will cross the sidewalk before the entrance into the complex's parking garage. The placement of the bollards will allow for ADA clearance at the

corner sidewalk ramp at Madison Place and H Street, NW, as well as on the eastern side crossing the sidewalk at the parking garage entrance, as requested by the District's Public Space Committee.

In addition to the new bollards, the site development plan includes new hardened streetlights consisting of two, twin-twenty double acorn streetlights on Madison Place, NW; two, sixteen foot Washington single acorn streetlights on H Street, NW; and one a tear drop fixture on H Street, NW, per DDOT requirements.

Five new street trees will be planted along H Street and four on Madison Place, in suspended sidewalks to allow for enhanced root growth. The trees will be columnar Pin Oaks. The use of the suspended sidewalks also allows for increased sidewalk widths along H Street, NW, in front of the Dolley Madison House. The DDOT Urban Forestry Division supports the tree species and placement proposed.

Staff has evaluated the proposal for the site security development plans at the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building Complex by determining its consistency with the relevant policies within the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*, namely Federal Elements related to Urban Design Element; Part I: The Form and Character of the Nation's Capital, B.3 The L'Enfant City and the Public Realm, UD.B.3.2, UD.B.3.6 and Part II: Urban Design Principles: Federal Facilities and Property; C.3 Urban Design and Security, including UD.C.3.2 through 3.7; and the Historic Preservation Element including Section A.

Staff has found the proposed site security development plans consistent with the plan and will improve the security at the complex, as well as enhance the streetscape and pedestrian experience along Madison Place, and H Street, NW. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission approve the preliminary and final site development plans for perimeter security at the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building Complex.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

The elements of the Comprehensive Plan that are applicable to this project include policies such as Urban Design; Federal Environment; and Historic Preservation elements.

National Historic Preservation Act

Both GSA and NCPC have an independent responsibility to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). GSA was the lead federal agency for Section 106 consultation, and determined that the project has no adverse effects on historic properties. The DC SHPO concurred with this finding conditioned upon on-site monitoring during any ground disturbing activities.

National Environmental Policy Act

Both GSA and NCPC have responsibilities for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as NCPC has approval authority for this project under the Planning Act. GSA has used a categorical exclusion for their NEPA compliance, and NCPC staff has determined the project is 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 preliminary and final design at its April 11, 2018 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site development plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. GSA noted that they had completed review by the Public Space Committee, resulting in modifications to ensure accessibility. The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; the National Park Service; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the site development plan for perimeter security on the consent agenda for their April 19, 2018 meeting.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online:

- Submission Package
- Major NEPA/106 Documents or Letters, FONSI's

Prepared by Lee Webb
04/13/2018

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

NCPC File #: 7809

Perimeter Security Bollards

National Courts Complex
Madison Place and H Street, NW

Washington, DC

General Services Administration

Preliminary and Final

Commission meeting date: May 3, 2018

NCPC review authority: 40 USC 8722 (b) (1) and (d)

Applicant request: Approval of preliminary and final site plans

Delegated / consent / open / executive session: consent

NCPC Review Officer: L. Webb

NCPC File number: 7809

Project summary:

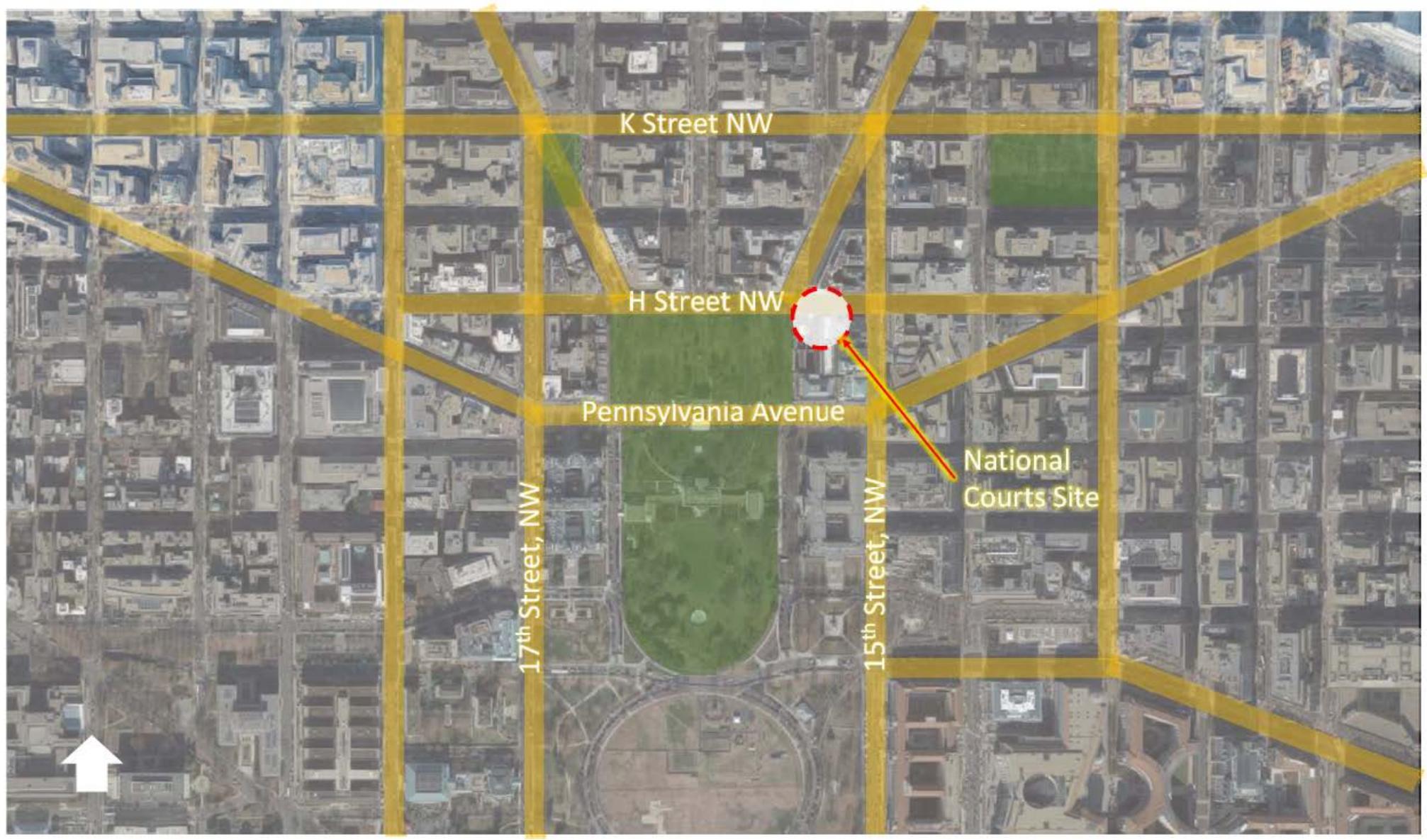
The General Services Administration has submitted an application for preliminary and final site development plans for the proposed installation of bollards around the perimeter of the Dolley Madison House, part of the National Courts Security Complex, located at Madison Place and H Street, NW, in Washington, DC.

The National Courts, a Level IV Facility, is required by the Federal Protective Service to have physical security measures against hostile vehicles. While the Markey Building, the Tayloe House, and the old Cosmos Club are already protected by the Lafayette Square perimeter bollards, the Dolley Madison House on the corner is outside the current bollard line. The proposed extension line at the Madison Place and H Street, NW sidewalks will include the Dolley Madison House within the perimeter. The bollard extension has been designed with the elements of the Lafayette Square perimeter security.

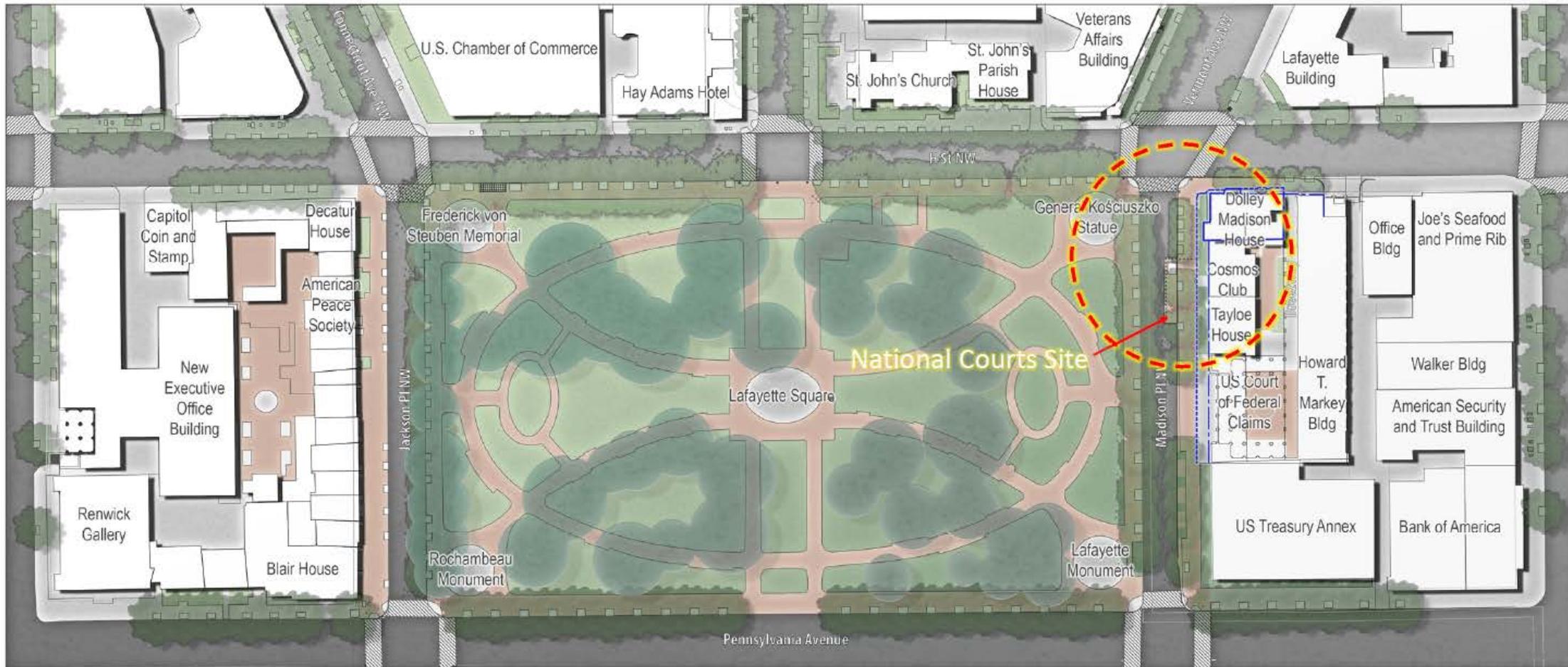
The plans include the proposed installation of:

- 55 cast iron bollards, 42” high, painted black and generally spaced 48” on center
- 2 twin-20 double acorn streetlights on Madison Place, NW
- 2 16 foot “Washington” single acorn streetlights on H Street NW
- 1 tall streetlight with a tear-drop light fixture per DDOT requirements

GSA is using a CatEx to fulfill its NEPA obligations, and fulfilled its 106 requirements with a DCSHPO concurrence of no adverse effect.



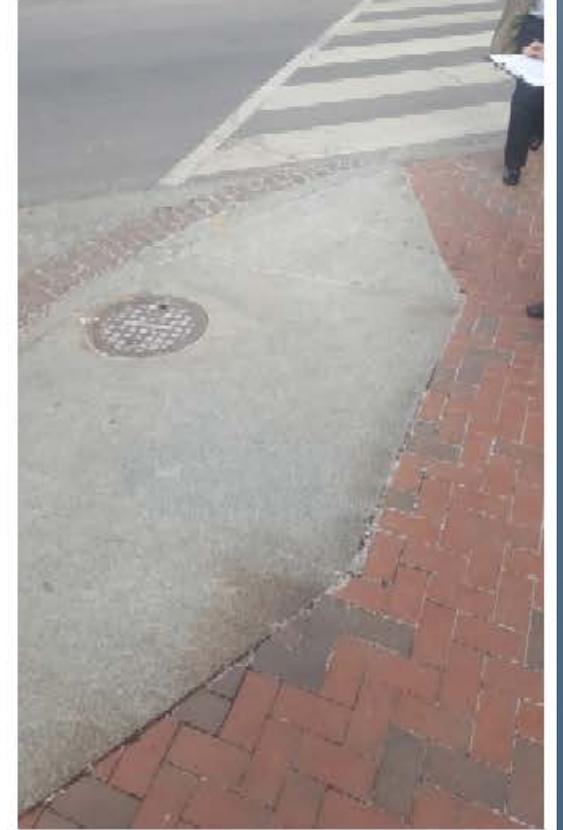
Site Context





Project Goals

- Provide vehicular security
- Respect the historic context
- Improve pedestrian mobility
- Preserve the tree canopy
- Maintain parking along H Street



Design Elements - Continue the previously established design language

- Bollards on a granite band
- Decorative light posts and street trees
- Granite curb ramp and brick sidewalk



Design Challenges:

- Inadequate vehicular security
- Constricted sidewalk
- Lack of street lighting
- Limited root area for trees



Design Features:

- Presidential bollards
- Suspended sidewalk
- Five (5) hardened streetlights
- Trees spaced to enhance root growth

Existing



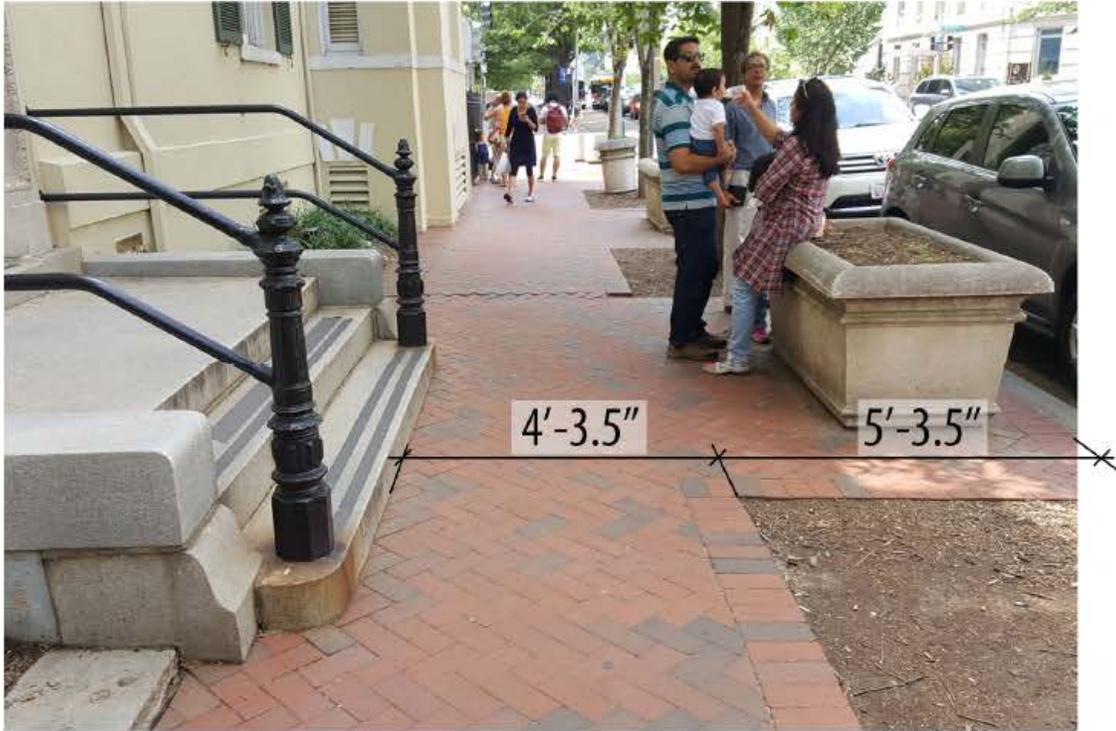
- Inadequate vehicular security
- Visual clutter / constricted sidewalk
- Crowded Tree Canopy

Proposed



- Presidential bollards on granite band
- Suspended sidewalk
- Columnar Pin Oak trees better suited for the site

Existing



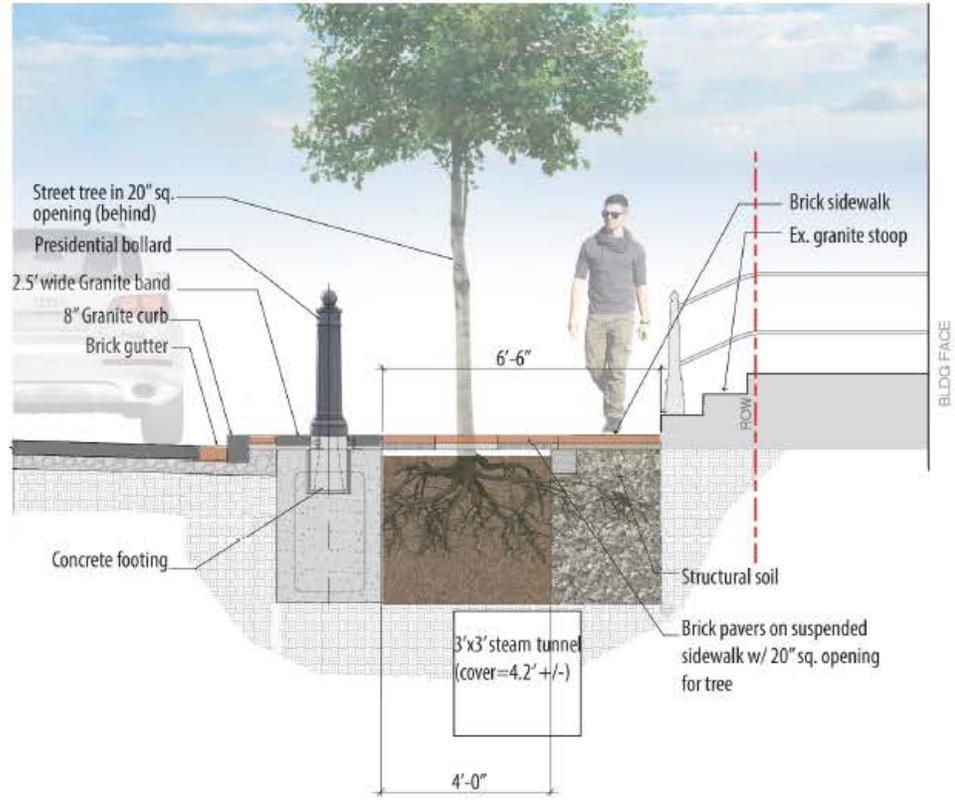
- Tight pedestrian walkway
- Open tree pits in constricted sidewalk
- Planters create clutter

Proposed



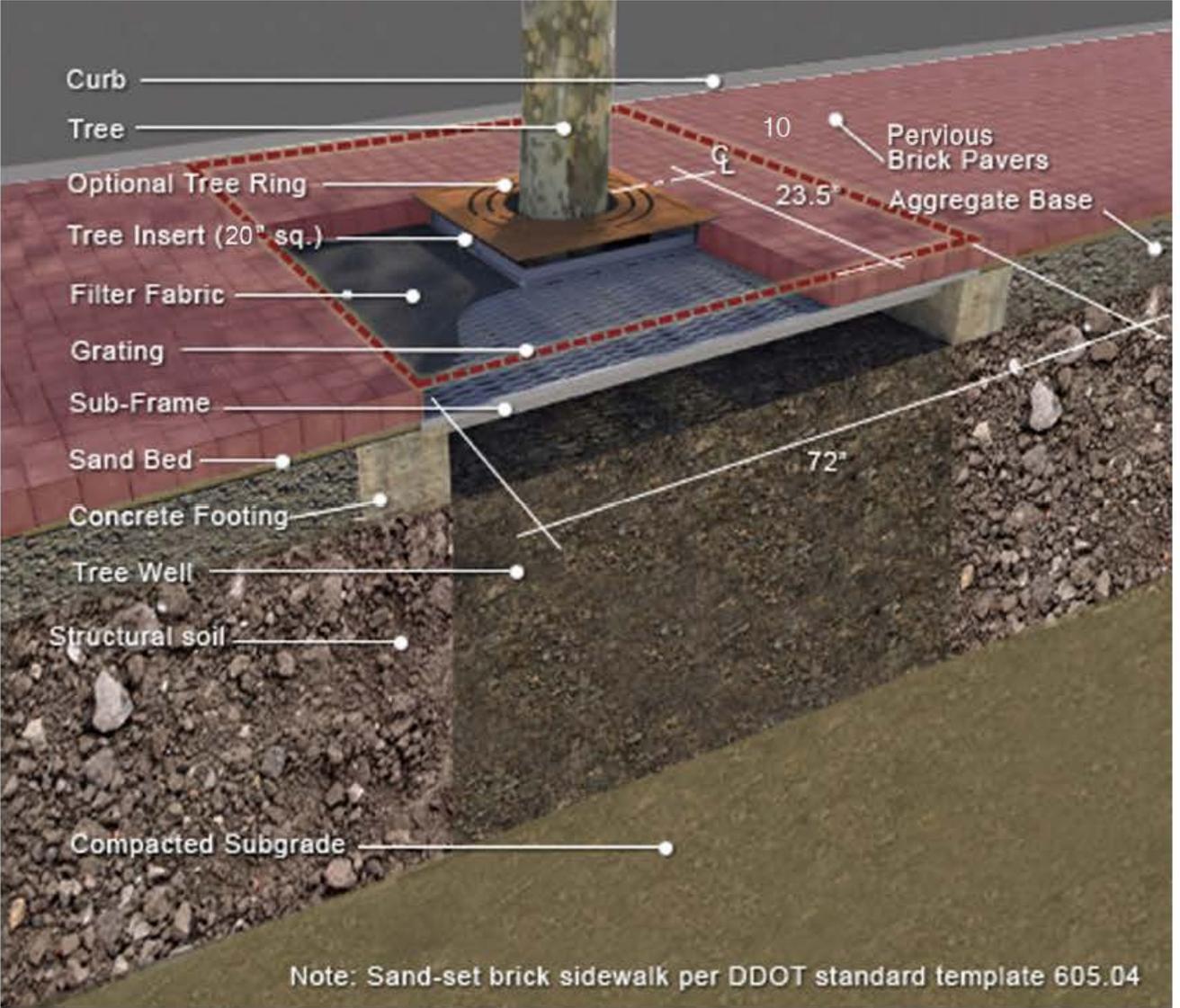
- Increased sidewalk width at entrance
- Trees relocated
- Planters removed

Section



- Band of brick added for car door clearance
- Suspended Sidewalk System

Illustrative





Markey Building

Dolley Madison House

Madison Place

Lafayette Square

- Vehicular security provided
- Pedestrian mobility enhanced
- Design elements reinforce historic language
- Improved tree canopy
- Tree roots protected
- Trees frame the Dolley Madison Entrance

Corner of H Street and Madison Place

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