



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: May 3, 2018

PROJECT Security Bollards at the North Entrance Motor Court Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, United States Department of Agriculture 1400 Jefferson Drive, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7978
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.41(38.40)44736
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary and final site development plans with comments
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted for Commission review site development plans for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building in Southwest Washington, DC. The project calls for the installation of six retractable security bollards across the driveways that access the motor court at the building's main entrance along Jefferson Drive, SW. Three bollards would be installed on each side of the semi-circular driveway to better restrict unauthorized vehicular access to the motor court, which is currently controlled by two gates that cannot effectively stop traffic. This project is consistent with the 2014 People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security plan, which received approval from NCPC in June 2014 (File No 6458). It was also identified as a need in a 2015 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assessment.

The proposed bollards would be 36 inches tall, six inches in diameter, and wrapped in an interim anodized steel sleeve colored statuary bronze until the details are developed for the remaining security enhancements for the Whitten Building. The applicant has noted that the bollards would have a band of LED lighting to enhance nighttime safety, and will not require manned guard booths—as visual surveillance is provided through existing security cameras.

KEY INFORMATION

- GSA is proposing the installation of six retractable security bollards across the driveways that access the motor court along Jefferson Drive, SW at the USDA Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building.
- The bollards would restrict unauthorized vehicular access to the motor court, which is currently controlled by two gates.

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- The project was included in the 2014 People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project, which was reviewed and approved by the Commission in June 2014.
 - Security enhancements at this location were also mandated by a 2015 security assessment completed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
 - The bollards will have a much lower visual profile than the existing traffic control gates at this prominent location along the National Mall, and will be wrapped in anodized steel sleeve colored in statuary bronze.
 - In its review of the 2014 perimeter security project, the Commission requested the elimination of parking at this location, which has not yet been implemented.
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RECOMMENDATION

Notes that the project is consistent with the People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security site development plans that were reviewed and approved by the Commission in June 2014 (NCPC File No. 6458).

Finds that the proposed security bollards are a visual improvement from the traffic control gates that currently exist at this prominent location.

Notes that the bollards will be wrapped in an interim sleeve of bronze-anodized steel, and that permanent bollard sleeves will be designed when the larger strategy for perimeter security is developed.

Reminds the applicant that the Commission requested that all parking should be eliminated from the motor court along the National Mall in its approval of the People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project.

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans for security bollards at the north entrance motor court of the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	June 2014 – Preliminary approval of the People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project at the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Future projects consistent with the approved People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Staff has evaluated the submitted materials and finds that the proposed security bollards at the north entrance motor court of the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building will improve perimeter security while enhancing the existing design aesthetic at this prominent location on the National Mall. The project is also consistent with the perimeter security plan approved by the Commission in June 2014. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission **approves the preliminary and final site development plans for security bollards at the north entrance motor court of the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building.**

Analysis

In its plans for the USDA Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, GSA seeks to improve perimeter security at the north entrance of the building by installing three retractable bollards along each driveway to the ceremonial motor court. The USDA headquarters building is considered a Level IV facility, and requires bollards and other perimeter hardening to help prevent a motor vehicle from being used as a weapon. The applicant has indicated that the existing traffic control arms that currently sit at either entrance to the motor court do not adequately stop traffic, and must be replaced to meet security requirements. The installation of security enhancements at this location is also mandated by a 2015 security assessment that was completed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

GSA submitted a comprehensive security plan for the Whitten Building as part of its People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project, which was reviewed and approved by the Commission in June 2014. The Commission gave preliminary approval of the project at that time, with the understanding that individual security projects would be submitted for further review as funding became available. This is the first of those projects, and is consistent with the plans for this location as approved in site improvements and perimeter security plan. Specifically, the plan called for retractable bollards at the driveways that provide access to the motor court. The applicant has indicated that further perimeter security projects will be submitted as funding is available.

In its assessment of the proposed project, staff finds that the bollards would be a visual improvement from current conditions at this prominent location along the National Mall. The existing traffic control arms are highly visible, and detract from views to and from the National Mall and Whitten Building. At 36 inches tall and six inches in diameter, the bollards will have a much lower visual profile, and will be wrapped in an anodized steel sleeve colored statuary bronze for an improved design aesthetic. The applicant has noted that the steel sleeve is an interim solution, and that permanent bollard sleeves will be designed when the larger strategy for perimeter security is developed.

The 2014 perimeter security plan had indicated an intention to reduce parking at the ceremonial court by fifty percent to eight parking spaces. In its analysis of this plan, staff noted the prominence of the location, and found that the overall appearance of the space would be improved if vehicular parking was eliminated at the motor court. Staff continues to support this assessment, and accordingly recommends that the Commission **reminds the applicant that the Commission requested that all parking should be eliminated from the motor court along the National Mall in its approval of the People's Garden Site Improvements and Perimeter Security project.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

NCPC staff has reviewed this proposal and determined that it is not inconsistent with the policies established in the Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. In particular, the project is support by several policies in the Urban Design Element, including UD.C.3.3, UD.C.3.8, UD.C.3.22, and UD.C.3.23. In general, the proposed solution does not intrude on the public realm, and is visually appropriate within its surrounding context.

National Historic Preservation Act

To meet its obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), GSA has provided documentation from the DC State Historic Preservation Office that indicates that the project would have no adverse effect on historic properties, conditioned on the submission of an archeological technical report and associated field notes, and further coordination if project plans change. Because it is exercising its approval authority in the review of this project, the Commission has an independent obligation to comply with the NHPA. NCPC is designating GSA as the lead agency to meet this obligation.

National Environmental Policy Act

GSA has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from detailed analysis under its environmental policies and procedures, and has provided all applicable documentation to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because it is exercising its approval authority in the review of this project, the Commission has an independent obligation to comply with the NEPA. NCPC is applying its own CATEX to meet this obligation, consistent with §601.12(a)(2) of the agency's environmental policies and procedures, which is stated as follows: 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. Additional features include water distribution lines and sewer lines which involve work that is essentially replacement in kind.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

Without objection, the Coordinating 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 as the site is on National Park Service property on the National Mall, and that an archaeological survey was completed.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts gave final approval of the project on its consent calendar at its October 2017 meeting (see case number CFA 19/OCT/17-c).

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online:

- Project Summary
- Submission Materials

Prepared by John Gerbich
04/16/2018

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

NCPC File #: 7978
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building
Security Bollards at the Motor Court North Entrance

1400 Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC

U.S. General Services Administration

Preliminary and Final Approval of Site Development Plans

Commission meeting date: May 3, 2018

NCPC review authority: 40 U.S.C. 8722(b)(1) and (d)

Applicant request: Approval of preliminary and final site development plans

Delegated / consent / open / executive session: Consent calendar

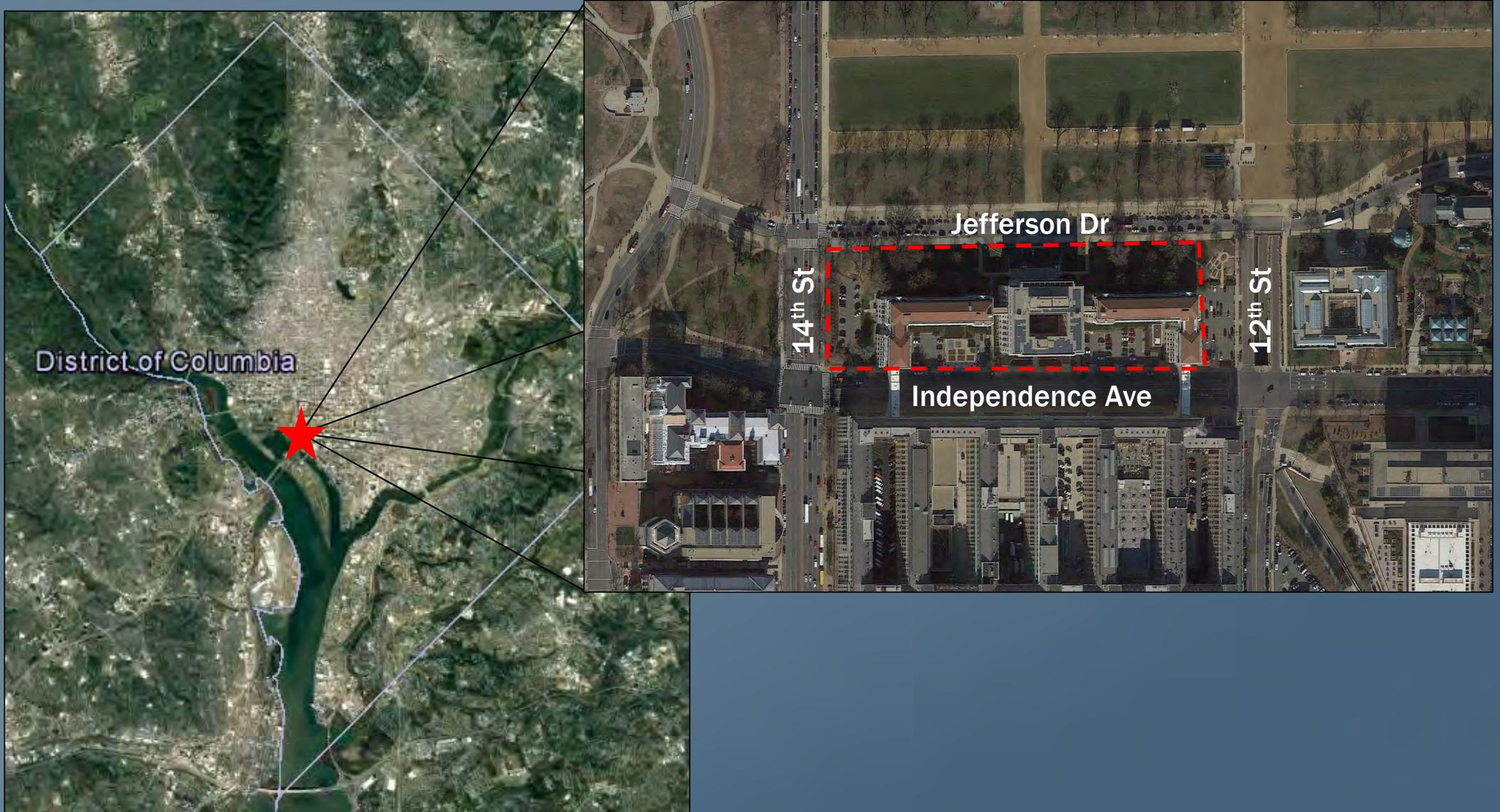
NCPC review officer: Gerbich

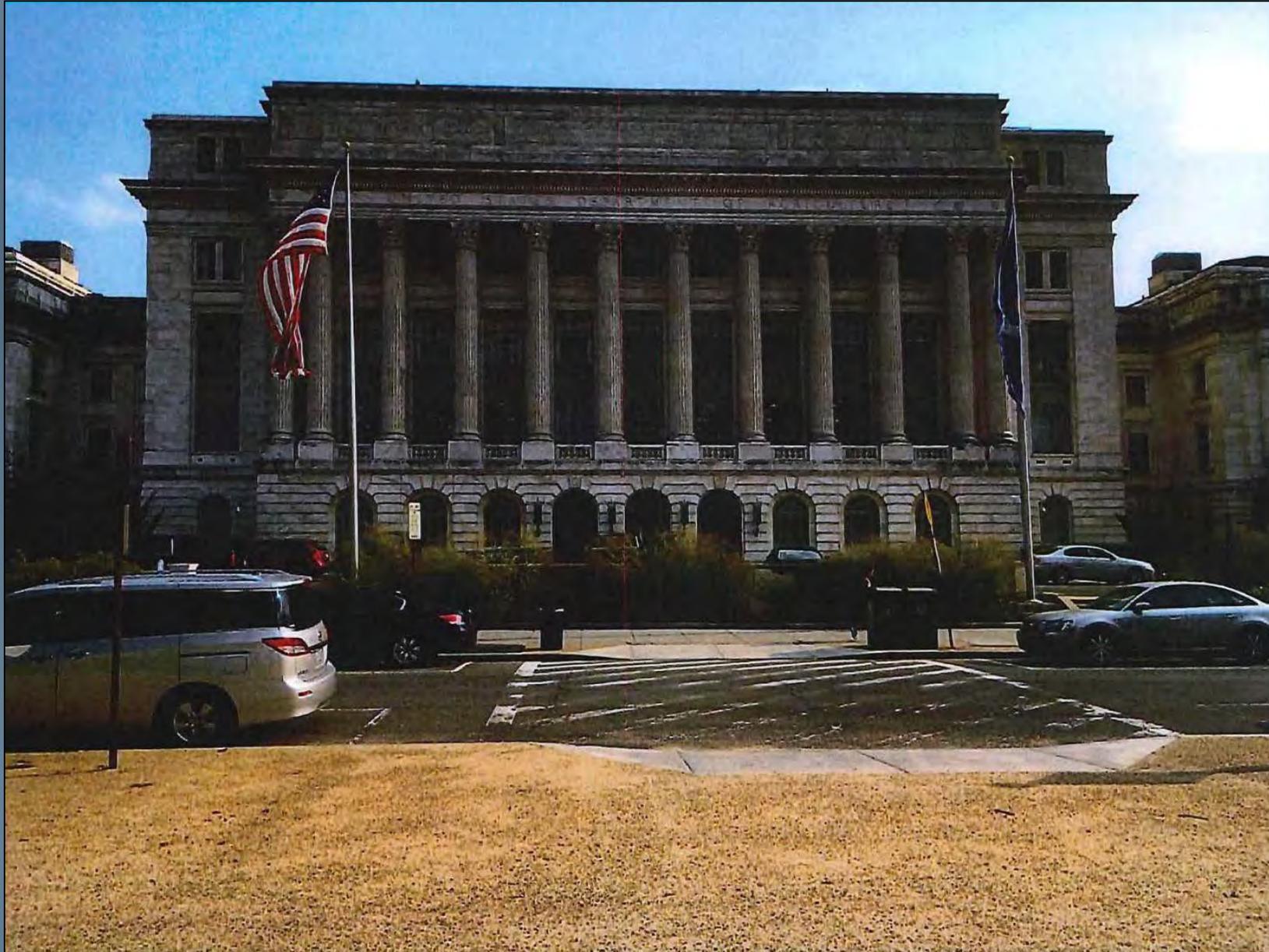
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Project summary:

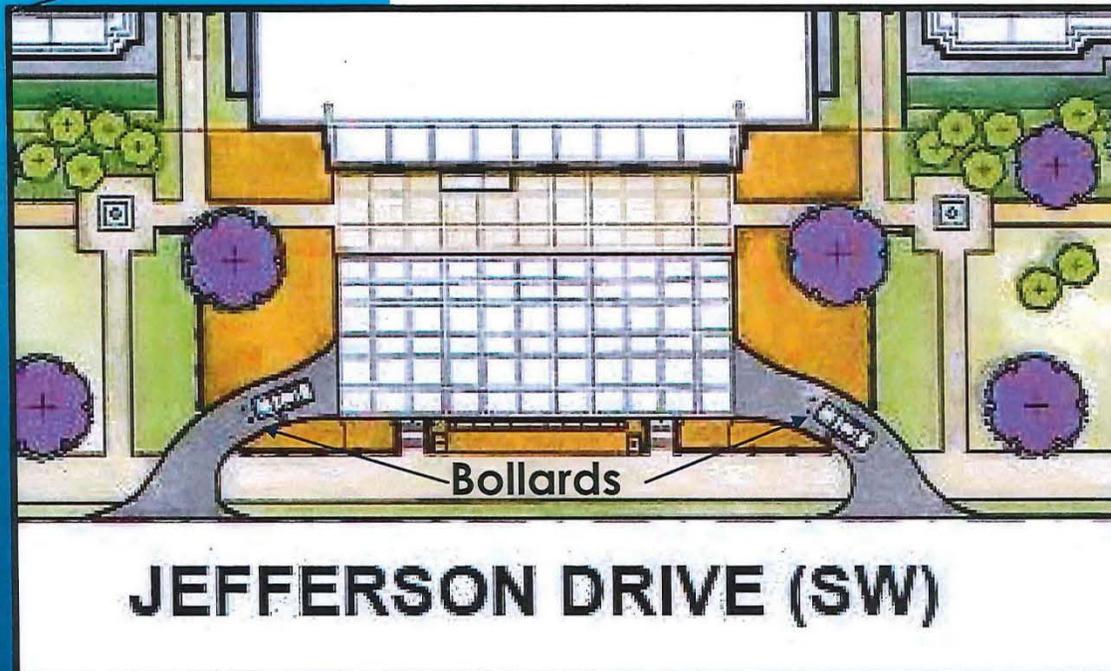
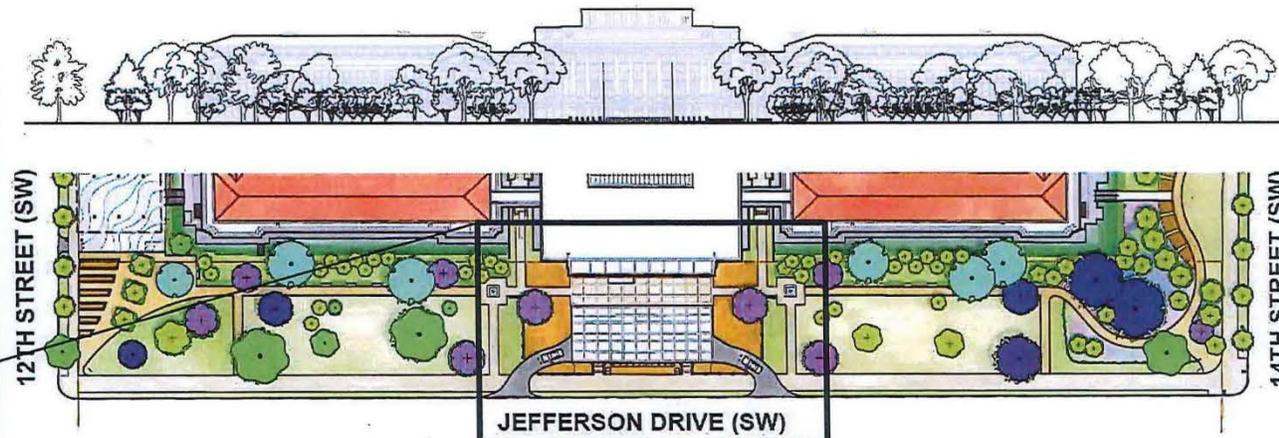
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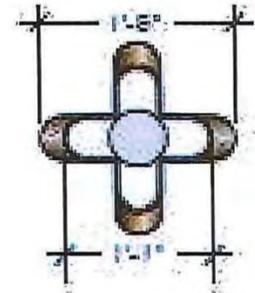
From Approved
2014 Concept
Site
Improvements
and Perimeter
Security Plan



- EXISTING HISTORIC PLANTINGS TO REMAIN
- PROPOSED PLANTINGS WITH HISTORIC PRECEDENCE BASED ON THE OLMSTED BROTHERS 1931 PLANTING PLAN
- EXISTING NATIVE PLANTINGS TO REMAIN
- PROPOSED NATIVE PLANTINGS
- EXISTING NON-NATIVE PLANTINGS TO REMAIN

Jamie L. Whitten
Building
Ceremonial Entry
Court

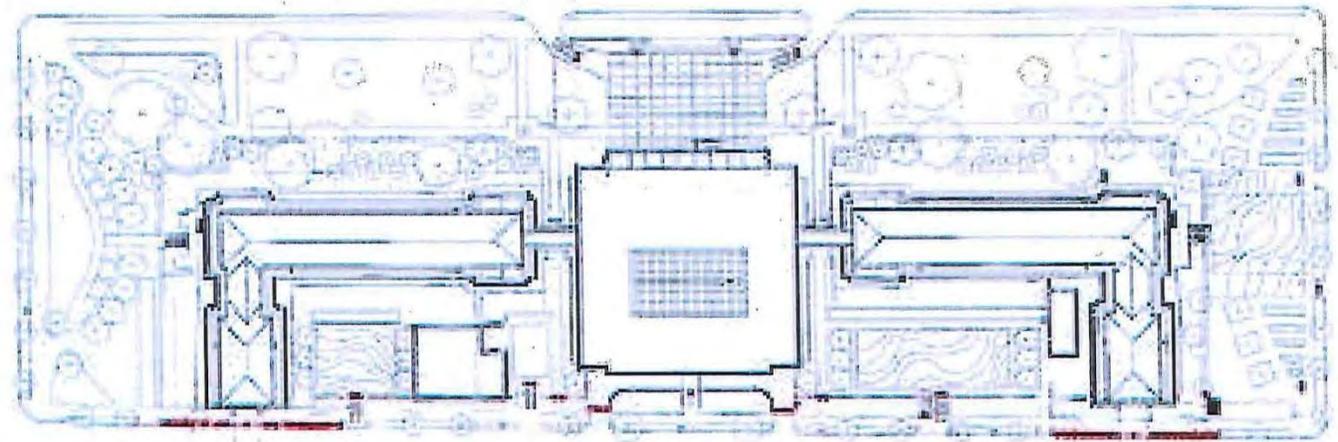
BOLLARD PLAN



BOLLARD

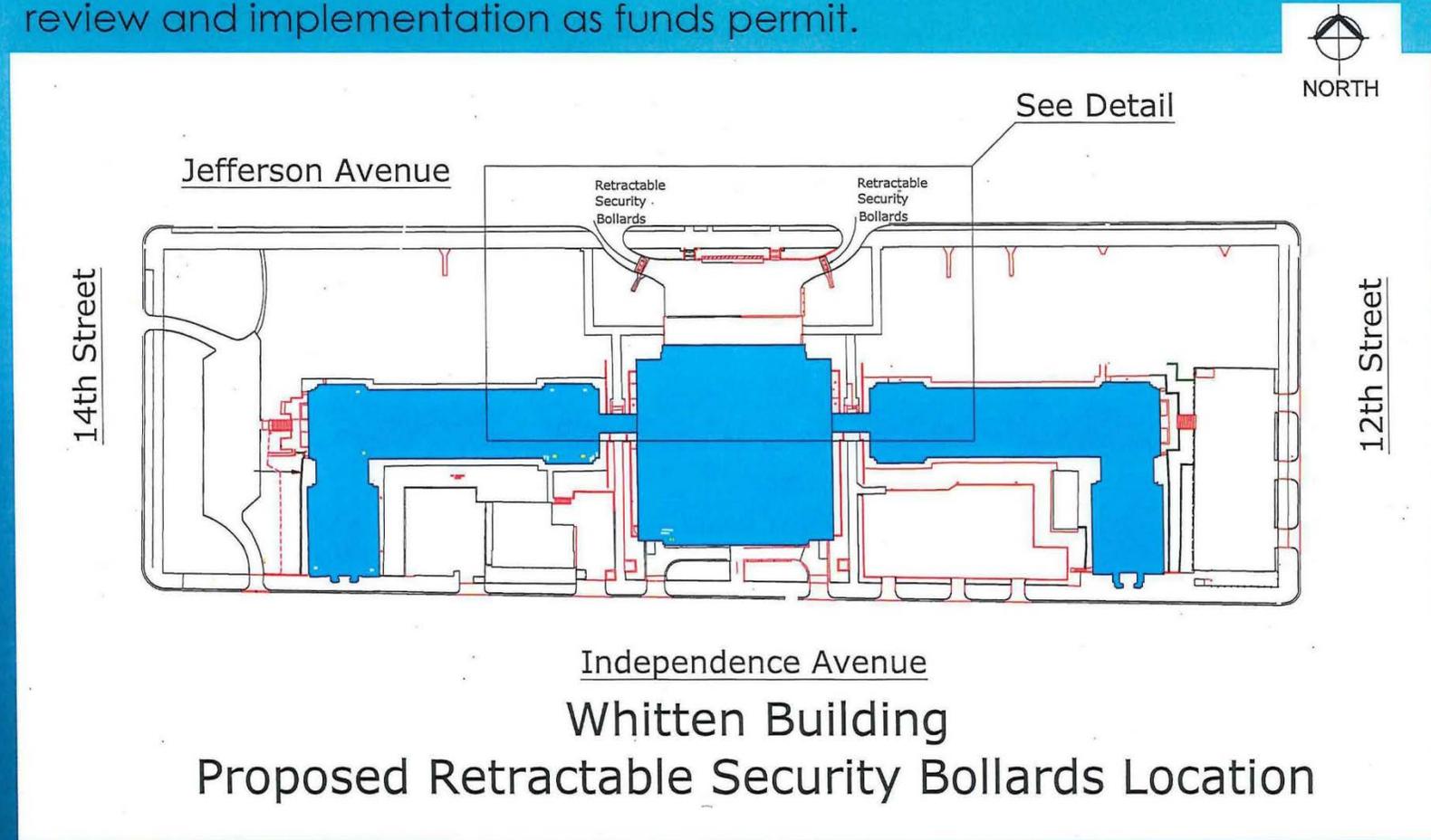


The use of bollards is restricted to the locations where the short building yard does not allow for other strategies. Additionally, retractable bollards are utilized at each curb cut to restrict vehicular access. A modern design which follows the design language of the market canopy encompasses a 5" bollard within a bronze sleeve.

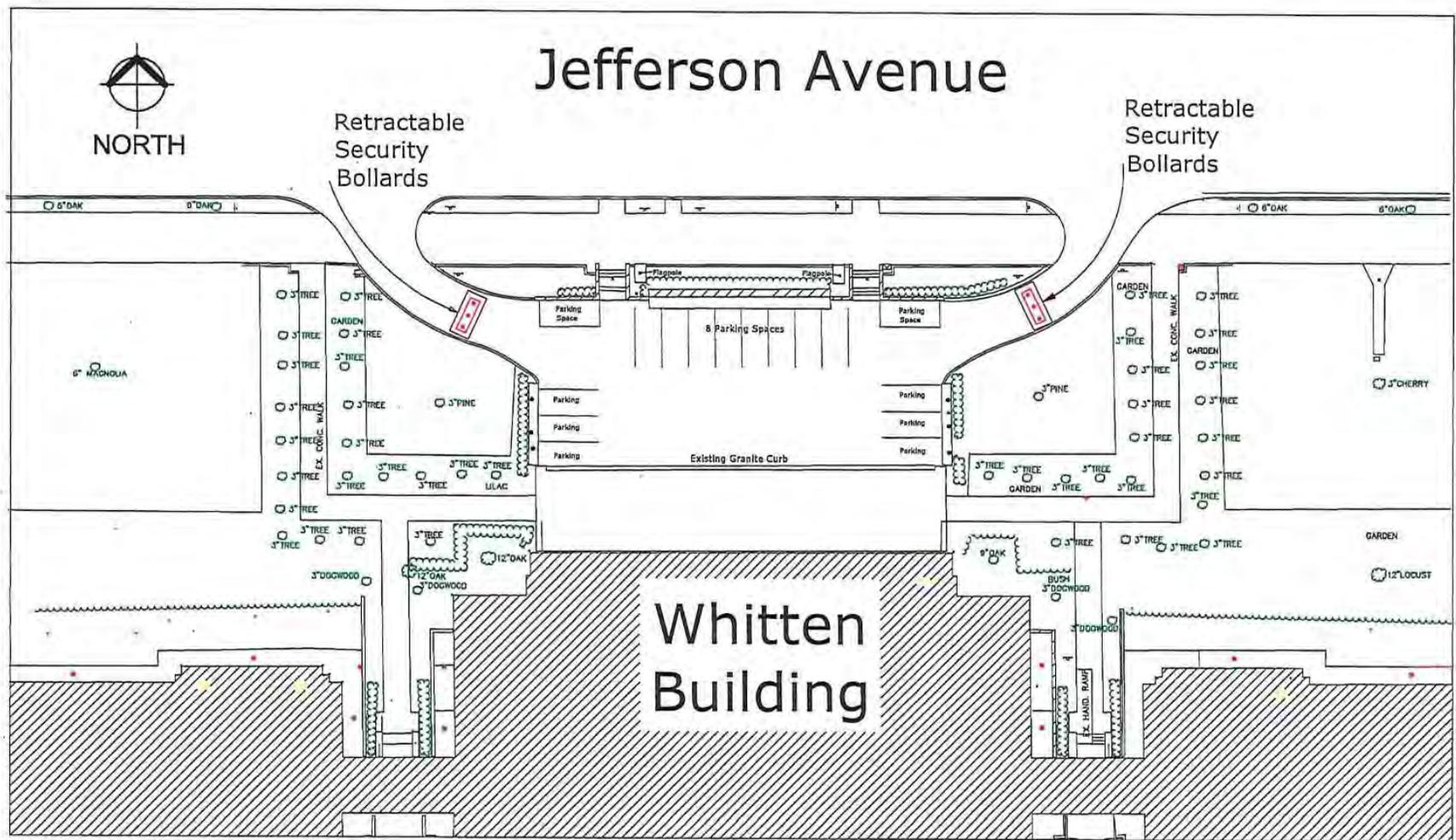


Current Proposal for NCPC Review

Installation of 6 retractable bollards across the driveways of the north entrance motor court at the Whitten Building, as shown in this plan. Additional elements of the Perimeter Security Plan will be submitted for review and implementation as funds permit.



Independence Avenue
Whitten Building
Proposed Retractable Security Bollards Location



Proposed Retractable Security Bollards

Existing



Proposed



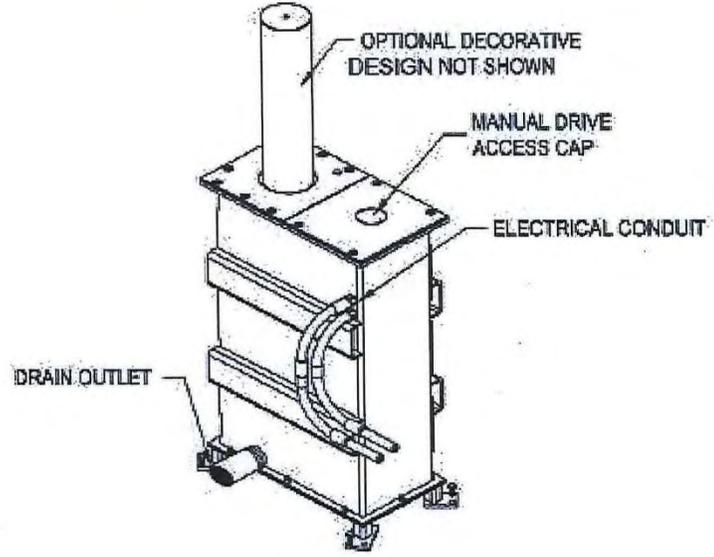
Existing



Proposed







Product #	Height	Diameter	Crash Rating	Decorative Options
EB3006-2	30" (760mm)	6" (150mm)	PU40 (K2) 5,070 lbs. @ 40 mph*	Yes
EB3606-4	36" (915mm)	6" (150mm)	M30 (K4) 15,000 lbs. @ 30 mph**	Yes
EB3608-8	36" (915mm)	8" (200mm)	M40 (K8) 15,000 lbs. @ 40 mph**	Yes
EB3608-12	36" (915mm)	8" (200mm)	M50 (K12) 15,000 lbs. @ 50 mph**	Yes

Retractable Security Bollards

With LED Ring Light