



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Avenue Pedestrian Crosswalk Relocation</b> 1 Memorial Avenue Arlington, VA	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8174
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> Arlington National Cemetery	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.33(38.00)45102
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve final site development plan
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approved 40 U.S.C. §8722(b)(1)

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Arlington National Cemetery has submitted an application for a final review for the relocation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Memorial Avenue, adjacent to the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center, in Arlington, Virginia. The existing pedestrian crosswalk is located immediately adjacent to the Welcome Center vehicle entry point. Rather than providing a distinct space for pedestrians, the current layout places pedestrians in the midst of heavy volumes of automotive and bus traffic, including turning movements from vehicles. In addition, pedestrians must thereafter find their way to the north plaza at the Welcome Center, the ingress point to Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission approved the preliminary site development plans as a delegated item for its May 7, 2020 meeting. Since that approval, the applicant has completed the Section 106 process with a concurrence of No Adverse Effect to historic properties from the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (VA SHPO).

The proposed project would decommission the existing pedestrian crosswalk and construct a new pedestrian crosswalk immediately to the north of the Welcome Center. The existing cobble apron would be modified and updated, and a new matching apron would be constructed at the opposite side of Memorial Avenue. The result being a more graceful and safer crossing for pedestrians befitting the larger context of Memorial Avenue. Granite to match the existing materials palette will be used, and the new crosswalks will be fully Architectural Barriers Act compliant. The granite curbing from the new crosswalk areas will be salvaged, with the salvaged pieces re-set at the old crosswalk location (in addition to adding soil fill and sod). This will provide a continuity of the granite curbing as well as maintaining the verge strip along Memorial Avenue. In addition, ANC will also salvage materials from the existing crosswalk to use at the new one, which will assist in lessening the visual impact of new materials next to existing materials.

On the north side of Memorial Avenue, one Washington Globe streetlight will be removed in order to have an unobstructed crosswalk. The western vehicle checkpoint on Memorial Avenue will be moved to the west of the new pedestrian crosswalk, while the checkpoint adjacent to the Welcome Center vehicle entry point will remain. These checkpoints are non-permanent.

As the National Capital Planning Commission is advisory for this project, it does not have an independent compliance responsibility for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), nor Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). However, Arlington National

Cemetery does have compliance responsibilities for both. The applicant had indicated the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion for NEPA purposes and initiated Section 106 Consultation with the VA SHPO, with a determination of no adverse effect. The VA SHPO concurred with this finding on June 3, 2020.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the Final Design for the Crosswalk Relocation on the Consent Agenda for their June 18, 2020 meeting.



Existing Apron on Memorial Avenue at the Welcome Center (3), and detail of cobble apron construction.



Memorial Avenue Crosswalk - Preliminary Design

04/27/2020 6

Figure 1: Site plan showing location of existing and proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk.

Overall, staff finds the proposed relocation will better accommodate visitors by directly aligning the crossing with the Visitor Center. It will also move the crosswalk away from an intersection where vehicles are turning. Therefore, staff finds the proposed plans for the relocation of the pedestrian crosswalk on Memorial Avenue provides a safer location for visitors to access Arlington National Cemetery's Welcome Center. This is consistent with the policies set forth in the Visitor, Transportation and Historic Preservation Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the final site development plans for the pedestrian crosswalk relocation at 1 Memorial Avenue at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.



Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director



Date