



## 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, Virginia	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8174
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> Arlington National Cemetery	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.61(00.00)45122
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve preliminary site development plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approved Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

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Arlington National Cemetery has submitted an application for a preliminary 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 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. 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 responsibility for both. The applicant had indicated the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion for NEPA purposes and has initiated Section 106 Consultation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (VA SHPO), with a determination of no adverse effect. Prior to submitting for a final review of site development plans by the Commission, the applicant will complete both NEPA and Section 106.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the Concept Design for the Crosswalk Relocation on the Consent Agenda for their May 21, 2020 meeting.

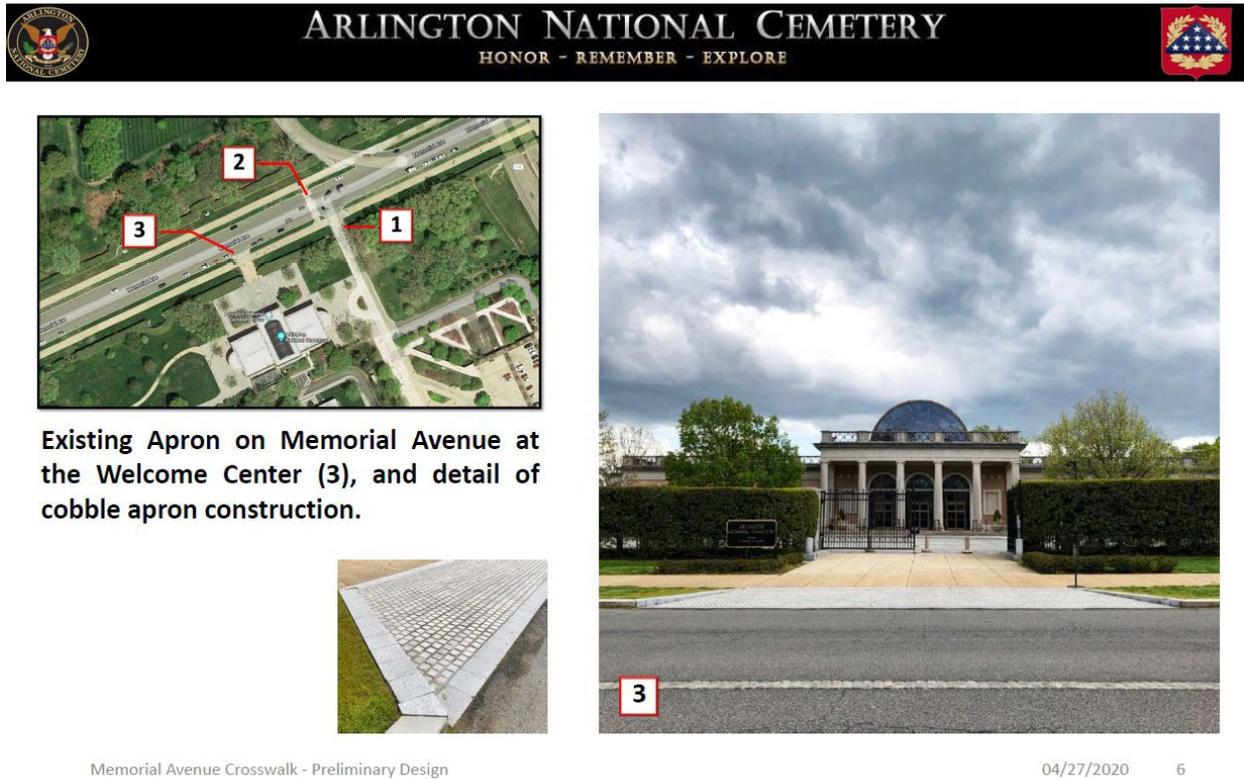


Figure 1: Site plan showing location of existing and proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk.

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 preliminary site development plans for the pedestrian crosswalk relocation at 1 Memorial Avenue at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.



Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director



Date