



Commission Action

July 7, 2022

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| PROJECT Washington Union Station Expansion Project 50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC | NCPC FILE NUMBER 7746 |
| SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration | NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.11(38.00)45489 |
| REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d) | APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on revised concept plans |
| | ACTION TAKEN Approved comments on revised concept plans |

The Commission:

Notes the applicant has worked to revise the project layout and program over the last two years, in consultation with a number of federal and local stakeholders, including the adjacent private air rights owner, per the Commission's request.

Supports the revised concept, particularly the parking program reduction and relocation, as well as the reconfiguration of the bus facility, along with other improvements to access and urban design.

Commends the applicant for developing a new plan that substantially responds to previous comments regarding parking, urban design, and coordination among necessary stakeholders.

Notes the project will be further refined through continued design development prior to the next submission.

Parking

Notes the parking program has been reduced from 1,575 spaces to around 860 spaces, a nearly 50% percent reduction from the previous concept, and a 65% reduction from current conditions, which total approximately 2,200 spaces.

Notes the proposed new parking entrances and revised vehicular circulation will be analyzed as part of the supplemental environmental analysis.

Requests further details about the design and operation of the proposed vehicular ramp on G Street, and requests the applicant coordinate with adjacent landholders, including the Smithsonian Institution, through the design process.

Bus Facility

Finds the proposed location of the new bus facility allows for a more direct connection to the new train hall and station platforms below, as well as a new passenger pick-up/drop-off area located one level above.

Requests the applicant continue to work with the bus operators and related stakeholders regarding the new bus facility operations as well as opportunities for vehicle charging stations.

Urban Design

Notes the relocation of the bus facility establishes a larger effective setback for any above-track air rights development from the historic train station, as compared to the previous design.

Finds the increased setback may help minimize impacts to the views of the historic train station, particularly as viewed from Columbus Circle, Louisiana Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and First Street, NE.

Requests the applicant provide as part of the next submission, additional details about the operation and maintenance of the new central space, as well as information about how the space will be phased in relationship to the rest of the expansion project.

Requests as part of the next project submission additional details regarding the design of the west ramp, including how it will function for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as the conditions during which the ramp would operate for vehicular use.

Requests the applicant provide a phasing plan that describes the timing and implementation of each project component, where applicable, as part of the next review.


Other Comments

Advises that, through both architecture and programming, the historic station building should retain its primacy as the symbolic and functional center of the larger multimodal facility and maintain its role as a gateway to the nation's capital.

Supports a contemporary architectural design approach for the expansion project that is distinct but compatible with the historic train station.

Requests the applicant coordinate with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority regarding the proposed improvements and new entry to the Metrorail station along 1st Street, NE.

Requests the applicant continue to work with District agencies, federal partners, and other stakeholders, including the adjacent private air rights owner, as the project is further refined.

A faint, circular seal of the National Capital Planning Commission is visible in the background. It features the text "NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION" around the perimeter and a star in the center.

Julia Koster 07/08/2022
Julia A. Koster
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission