Commission Action

April 2, 2026

PROJECT
White House Visitor Screening Facility
White House Grounds
472 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY
Executive Office of the President

REVIEW AUTHORITY
Federal Projects in the District
per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

NCPC FILE NUMBER
8763

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER
1.31(38.40)46186

APPLICANT'S REQUEST
Approval of comments on concept plans

ACTION TAKEN
Approved comments on concept plans

The Commission:

Approves the following comments on the concept plans for the new White House Visitor Screening Facility.

Supports the project goals to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House staff, and contractors.

Finds that the applicant considered an adequate number of other locations for the new screening facility, but these were dismissed due to impacts and functional challenges.

Notes the underground facility component of the project is located in Sherman Park, within President's Park, a cultural landscape that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Notes that the 2000 White House and President's Park Master Plan envisioned the creation of an underground screening facility located at the Department of Commerce and 15th Street.

Notes that as proposed, the concept plans for the new White House Screening Facility will require removal of the vegetation and ground within Sherman Park to create the below-ground facility.

Encourages the applicant explore opportunities to refine the design of the ground-level facility to be more compatible with its setting, with high-style classical buildings, such as the Treasury Building.

Public Space and Perimeter Security

Notes that currently "no trespass" signs and layers of bike racks are being used to prevent pedestrian access to Sherman Park because the prior temporary fencing on the west side of Sherman Park has been removed due to the East Wing Modernization construction.

Notes that USSS intends to reopen access to the Sherman statue in the park via the stairways off 15th Street but needs to determine a permanent security solution in between the park and the White House.

Requests that the USSS work with NCPC early on the design of a more permanent perimeter security around Sherman Park.

Finds the existing use of temporary security elements around President's Park and the White House, particularly along Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street, continue to detract from the visitor experience and should be improved to help beautify President's Park once the East Wing Modernization project and White House Visitor's Screening Facility are completed.

Requests the applicant work with the National Park Service, General Services Administration, U.S. Secret Service, and others to brief the Commission on a comprehensive security and beautification plan for the White House complex, President's Park, and the vicinity that will replace temporary security measures with an attractive, unified, permanent design solution without further limiting public access.

Next Review

Requests the applicant provide, as part of the next submission:

- Information on the location of the mature trees to be removed to construct the below-ground facility.
- A landscape plan showing proposed new tree and landscape plantings, consistent with NCPC policies.
- Proposed materials for the entrance area into the below-ground screening facility.
- Additional views from the Treasury Building's south elevation towards the new ground-level facility.

Recommends the applicant work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service, NCPC, and other consulting parties to determine the potential impacts of the new screening facility on historic resources.

4/3/2026

Meghan Hottel-Cox
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission