

WMATA Vent Shafts Modifications

National Capital
Planning Commission



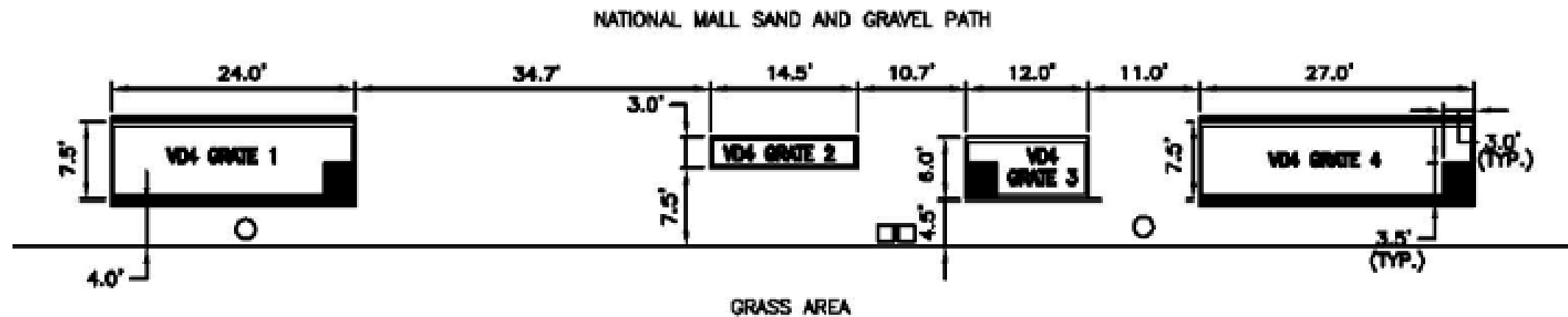
Project History

October 2025

- Following initial construction, drains in the bottom of the four vent shafts on the National Mall became clogged with gravel. The gravel migrates from the surface pathway/trail into the shafts.
- For several years, sandbags have been placed around the vent shaft openings to reduce the volume of water entering the shafts.
- In 2017, WMATA presented conceptual plans to modify the four vent shaft openings. NCPC approved the design on May 4, 2017.
- In 2025, National Park Service approached WMATA to address the situation. Working with NPS, WMATA refined the previously-approved design. The current design reduces the overall impact from the previously-approved design by reducing the heights of the modifications.
- WMATA now seeks approval of the final design for the National Mall vent shafts.

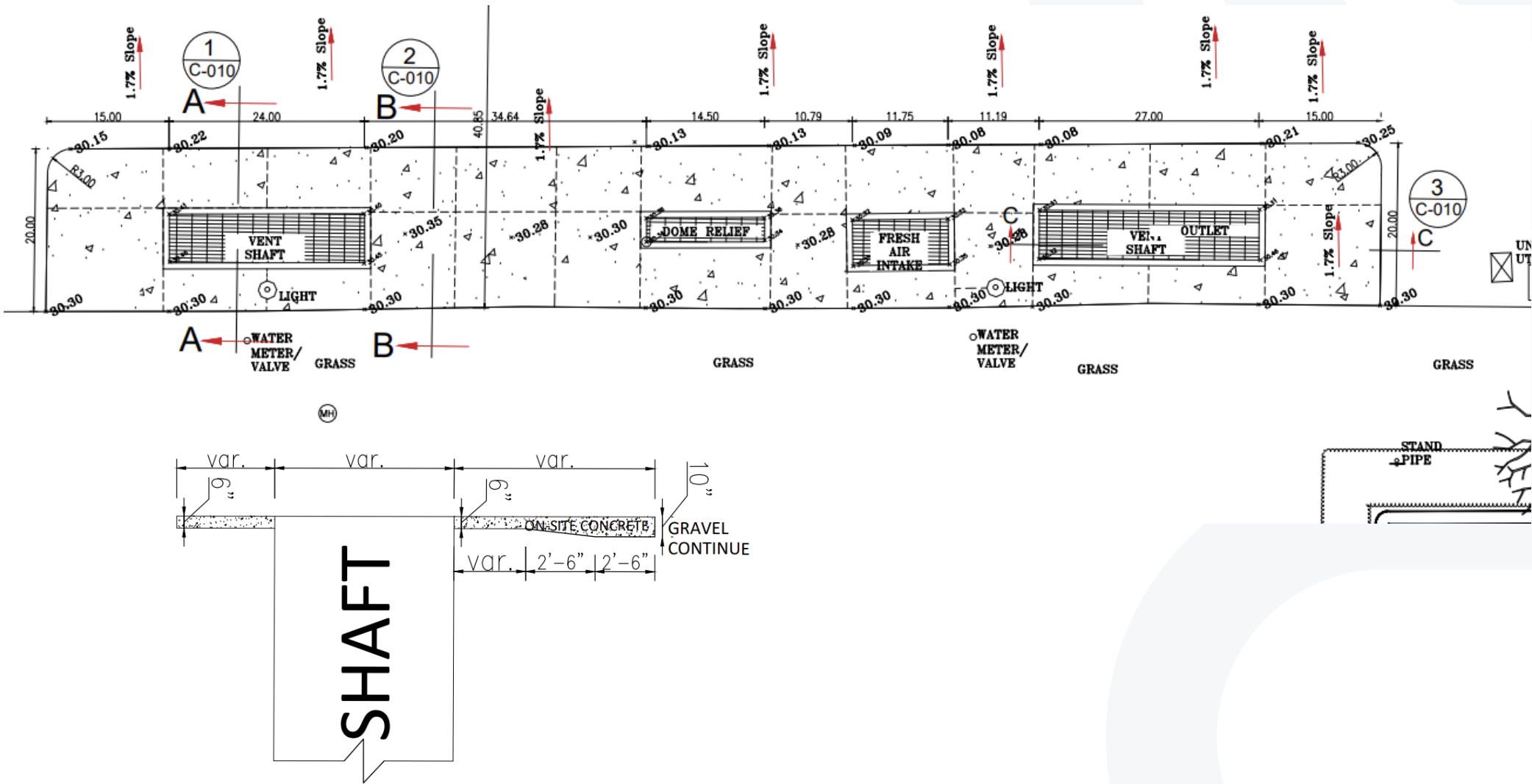
Existing Condition

October 2025



Final Plan and Cross Section

October 2025O



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C-010

SECTION A-A

Rendering of proposed Final Plan

October 2025



Project Modifications

October 2025

- Elevation:
 - *Original design called for the elevation of the shafts by 6 inches;*
 - *Current design calls for the shafts to remain at its original heights.*
- Area: Exposed aggregate concrete finish
 - Originally, an 8 ft-collar around the vent shafts was proposed [approximately 22 ft x 150 ft surface dimensions including vent shafts];
 - *Current design has been modified [20 ft x 164 ft surface dimensions including vent shafts].*
 - *Color of the concrete is designed to match existing materials.*
- Slopes: Slight slope adjustments were made in the design (to ensure compliance with accessibility requirements).
- Gratings: The vent shaft gratings will be replaced with grates having a finer mesh design.