Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT
Department of Transportation Headquarters Permanent Antenna Installation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY
United States Department of Transportation

NCPC FILE NUMBER
8820

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER
41.11(38.30)46286

ACTION TAKEN
Approve preliminary and final building plans

REVIEW AUTHORITY
Approval
Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has submitted preliminary and final building plans for a new permanent roof-mounted antenna on the West Building of the Department of Transportation Headquarters, located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE in Washington DC. The USDOT Headquarters was constructed in 2009 and is designed to blend-in with the character and style of the Navy Yard. The project will support USDOT's on-going effort to consolidate its other Washington, DC cabinet offices into the main headquarters building, which includes Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) offices. The proposed new antenna is required for FAA communications, and its proposed rooftop location has an existing privacy screen and structural support that would accommodate the new larger antenna.

The proposal includes one new permanent antenna that is four feet in diameter and affixed to a forty-eight-foot-tall metal tower. Approximately thirty-three feet of the tower, including the antenna, will be visible above the rooftop privacy screen. The new antenna will be set back fifty-feet from the southern edge of the roof, and more than 250-feet from the northern edge. The applicant considered alternatives for the proposed antenna location; however, no other location met the antenna's specifications. Due to the required height and location of the new antenna, although it will be partially visible above the privacy screen, the entire antenna will not be visible from nearby ground locations.

Overall, staff finds the proposed antenna is necessary for the function of the building user and is located to minimize visual impacts to the extent practicable. As such, the project is generally consistent with the federal elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.*

The USDOT has independent responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as they relate to the project. The USDOT has submitted an FAA Categorical Exclusion 2.4 (n) *minor expansion of facilities, including the addition of equipment (such as telecommunications equipment) on an existing facility where no additional land is required, or when the expansion is due to the remodeling of space in current quarters or existing buildings*, and the applicant determined there is "no adverse" effect on the Washington Navy Yard Annex Historic District, Washington Navy Yard Historic District, and the National Register-listed Main Sewerage Pumping Station as part of their Section 106 responsibility. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) concurred with the USDOT's "no adverse" effect finding on September 30, 2026.



Figure 1: Rendered view of the proposed antenna

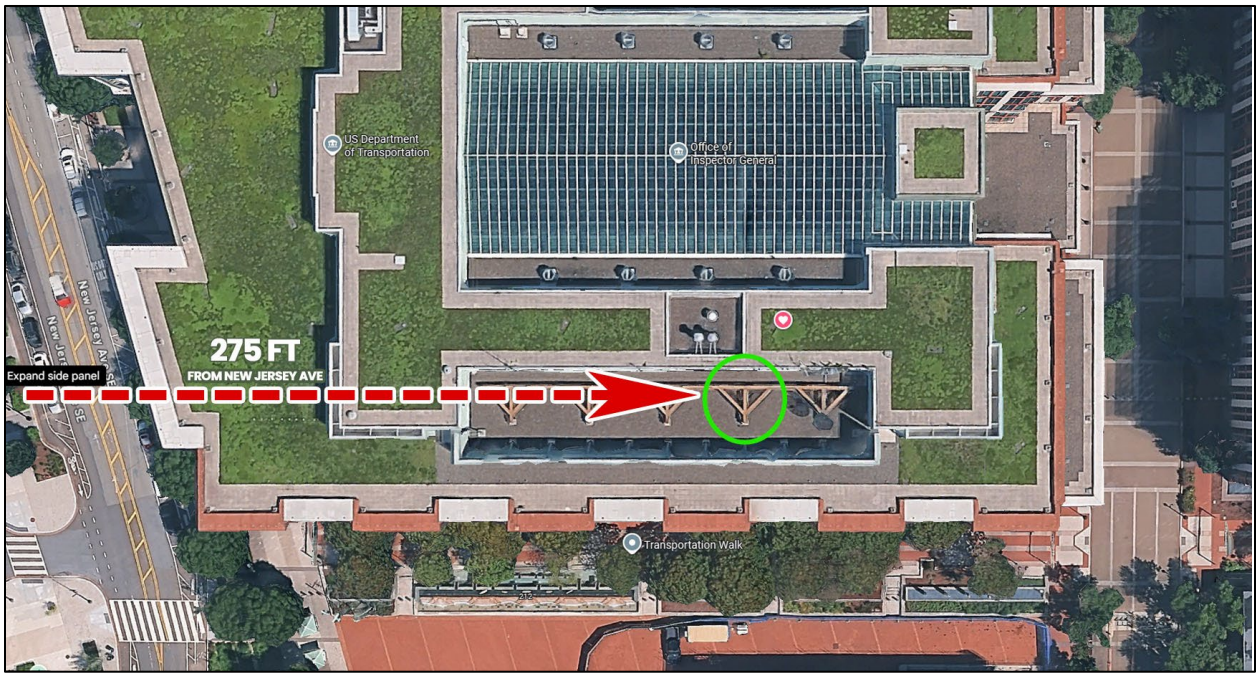


Figure 2: Location of the proposed antenna

NCPC also has independent NEPA and Section 106 responsibilities for the project. NCPC staff determined that this project does not have any extraordinary circumstances and meets the categorical exclusion in Section D, 601.12 (a)(5) of the NCPC's NEPA regulations which relate to *the installation of communication*

antennae on federal buildings and co-location of communication antennae on federal property consistent with GSA Bulletin FMR D-242, Placement of Commercial Antennas on Federal Property. NCPC also concurs with DOT and the DC SHPO no adverse effect determination. NCPC has designated DOT lead federal agency for Section 106 purposes.

Following its October 14, 2026 meeting, the Coordinating Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final building plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC, the General Services Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the National Park Service (NPS), the District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP), the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and the District State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO). The antennas were approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts by consent at their October 15, 2026 meeting.

* * *

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on March 6, 2025 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final building plans for a new permanent antenna installation for the Federal Aviation Administration on the Department of Transportation Headquarters, West Building at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE in Washington, DC.

Diane Sullivan
Acting Executive Director

Date