



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: June 1, 2017

PROJECT District of Columbia FY 2018 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan FY 2018-2023 Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 0348
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 00.00(07.00)44557
SUBMITTED BY Mayor of the District of Columbia	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia
REVIEW AUTHORITY Review of District Capital Improvement Budget per 40 U.S.C. § 8723(b)	PROPOSED ACTION Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia have submitted the District's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 – FY 2023 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for the National Capital Planning Commission's review and comment. The CIP is part of the District of Columbia's FY 2018 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan. The CIP includes 47 new projects along with 164 projects that are being carried forward from the previous CIP. The total six-year proposed project spending—including the Highway Trust Fund and DC Water projects, which are accounted for separately—is \$6.64 billion. The FY 2018 – FY 2023 Highway Trust Fund Budget is \$1.21 billion and DC Water's FY 2018 – FY 2026 capital improvement program (not a part of the total CIP) is \$3.24 billion.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Commission has 30 days to comment on the FY 2018 – FY 2023 D.C. Capital Improvements Plan.
- The CIP is consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and other NCPC plans including the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* and *CapitalSpace Plan*.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Commends the District of Columbia on the inclusion of many projects that support federal interests as established in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and other planning documents, that:

- Invests in the city's transportation system including the completion of the South Capitol Street Corridor and Frederick Douglass Bridge, H Street Bridge, the Streetcar system, and continued funding support to other modal system enhancements.
- Develops new parks and recreation centers and enhances existing parks and open spaces throughout the city.
- Funds long-term planning efforts linked to important capital projects of federal interest.

Notes that the following general areas and topics are of special interest to the Commission, and should be coordinated with NCPC on an on-going basis:

- Streetcar System and the development of future segments including consultation regarding the potential use of overhead wire systems within the historic L'Enfant City. The use of overhead wires within the L'Enfant City conflicts with federal law.
- Park and open space improvements including coordination of future projects with the Federal Parks & Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Regional multi-modal transportation initiatives and projects, such as WMATA funding, and Travel Demand Management.
- DC Water, which supplies water to the federal government installations and participates in the federal Clean Water Act.

Requests that the District of Columbia government agencies coordinate with NCPC to identify submission requirements, schedules, and potential planning issues prior to formal review of the following projects and studies. These major projects and studies have the potential to affect federal interest:

- South Capitol St/Frederick Douglass Bridge (KA0-AW031) – This ongoing project funds the replacement of the Frederick Douglass Bridge and improvements to the intersections of South Capitol Street with Suitland Parkway and the Anacostia Freeway. Future land use and design issues are critical to transforming this area into a prime gateway to the city;
- South Capitol Street Corridor (KA0-AW000) – Continued coordination related to design, land use and enhancements to establish a grand urban boulevard along South Capitol Street.
- Streetcars (KA0-STC00) – This project funds the planning for multiple phases of the streetcar system. Continued coordination with the Commission as additional phases are developed is needed to address potential impacts to federal interests;
- Streetcar (KA0-LMTCE) – This 'master' project provides funds for infrastructure improvements for various phases of the streetcar project;
- H Street Bridge (KA0-BR005) - This project funds the full replacement of the H Street "Hopscotch" Bridge. The H Street Bridge spans over 1st Street NE, WMATA tracks, Amtrak tracks and platforms and 2nd Street, NE at Union Station. The redevelopment of the Union Station area will require continued coordination with the Commission and other parties to resolve all planning, design, and land use concerns.

Notes the following additional projects that supports the federal interests as established in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and related sub-plans:

- McMillan Site Redevelopment (EBO-AMS11) – As the commission approved master plan redevelopment begins continued review of this development's phases is anticipated;
- New Communities (EBO-EBO08) - This projects intent is the provision of new, mixed income neighborhoods and address the physical architecture and human capital needs for quality living, of particular interest is redevelopment of communities adjacent to the Saint Elizabeths Campus;
- Saint Elizabeths East Campus Infrastructure (EBO-AWR01) – This project will fund necessary infrastructure improvements for future development on the east campus, including roadway, street lighting, and streetscapes. These improvements are needed to alleviate any impacts to the west campus;
- Renovation of University Facilities (GF0-UG706) - This project will renovate the Van Ness Campus and facilities at other locations within the University of the District of Columbia;
- Walter Reed Redevelopment (EBO-AWT01) – This project redevelops the former military facility as a mixed-use development. Continued ongoing coordination is anticipated, as this portion of the campus is adjacent to federal property intended to be developed as a Foreign Mission Center;
- Circulator (KA0-LMCIR) – This project provides for infrastructure improvements to the circulator system;
- Travel Demand Management (KA0-ZU000) This project funds any projects that employ strategies to reduce single occupancy driving in the city and seek to reduce roadway congestion;
- Washington Aqueduct Authority – This capital funded authority provides water to the federal government through federal legislation enacted and a memorandum of understanding executed in 1997.

Notes the statutory requirement mandating the District's submission for Commission review of a number of CIP projects, such as:

- Acquisition or disposition of land or buildings by the District of Columbia government (40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b) (1) and § 8734 (a));
- Development projects undertaken by the District of Columbia government that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks (40 U.S.C. §8722 (b) (1) and § 8722(e).

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None
Remaining actions (anticipated)	None

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Many of the CIP projects outlined in the District's proposal support federal interests as outlined in the Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* (Comprehensive Plan) and other NCPC planning documents. None of the proposed projects appear to have any adverse impact on the federal interest. **Therefore staff recommends that the Commission commend the District of Columbia on the inclusion of projects that support federal interests set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents; request that the District of Columbia coordinate projects as appropriate with the Commission and federal agencies and regional agencies; and notes the District is required to submit for Commission review of a number of CIP projects, such as acquisition or disposition of land or buildings by the District of Columbia and development projects undertaken by the District of Columbia government that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks.**

Analysis

Background

The CIP is part of the Mayor's FY 2018 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan that is sent to the Council of the District of Columbia for review and adoption, and then to Congress for review and approval. NCPC reviews the District CIP pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8723(b), which specifies: "By February 1 of each year, the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall submit to the Commission a copy of the multiyear capital improvements plan for the District of Columbia that the Mayor develops under Section 444 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (Public Law 93-198, 87 Stat. 800). The Commission has 30 days in which to comment on the plan but may not change or disapprove of the plan."

The Commission's review of the CIP may provide the District with valuable feedback about proposed developments and projects well before they move forward. This is intended to facilitate effective cooperation between the District and NCPC and smooth Commission review of specified projects under the Commission's normal project-by-project review procedures.

As described in the District's CIP document, the CIP consists of the appropriated budget authority request for the upcoming six-year period and an expenditure plan with projected funding over the next six years. The CIP is used as the basis for formulating the District's annual capital budget. The range of CIP projects for the coming six years includes renovation, major repair, and maintenance of existing facilities; new construction and equipment; building and land purchases; long-range planning studies; transportation projects; and various technology and database projects.

Proposal

The District of Columbia is proposing 164 ongoing projects including 47 new projects from agencies throughout the District government. The total six-year proposed project spending including the Highway Trust Fund and DC Water projects is \$6.64 billion.

The District's proposed CIP highlights several major capital efforts including

- \$237 million for D.C. Public Schools (DCPS);
- \$440 million for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), to include \$119 million for improvements to the South Capitol Street corridor and replacement of the Frederick Douglass Bridge and \$7 million for expansion of the streetcar line;
- \$60 million for the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, to include \$30 million for New Communities; and
- \$82 million for the District of Columbia Public Library, to include \$62 million for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial central library.

Additional major investments proposed for FY 2018 that affect federal interests include \$127 million for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) as the District's contribution to its capital program, to include \$76 million for the inter-jurisdictional Capital Funding Agreement and \$50 million for the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) Funding Agreement.

Staff has analyzed the proposed projects in the District's CIP and determined that many support federal interests as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and other NCPC planning documents. Additionally, staff did not find that any of the proposed projects appear to have adverse impacts on the federal interest.

A large number of the CIP projects involve the rehabilitation and improvement of District public buildings and public spaces throughout the District of Columbia. Many of these projects are in prominent locations, where such improvements have the opportunity to enhance the overall image of the National Capital. Many of these facilities were originally constructed by the federal government and thereby extend the legacy of federal involvement in the development of the District of Columbia. Examples (noted by the relevant District agencies) include buildings within networks of facilities that define the civic character of the Capital City:

- Schools (DCPS)
- Libraries (District of Columbia Public Library)
- Transportation facilities (DDOT)
- Firehouses (Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department)

The CIP includes enhancements to the capital's image through investments in public art (DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities) and the maintenance and planting of street trees (DDOT). The District government's continued investment in these capital projects is consistent with many NCPC initiatives and helps to benefit the city's image, and thus support the federal interest.

Many of the rehabilitation projects outlined in the CIP involve historic structures. To further both District and federal interests, it is important that the District respect and enhance these historic

buildings as these projects move forward. Projects for improving accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in historic structures should be carefully designed to accommodate both ADA requirements and historic preservation goals.

Several projects relate to buildings and structures that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are located within recognized Historic Districts. The continued investment in these properties helps to preserve and promote their recognized significance.

The CIP includes funding for plans and studies that the District proposes to undertake. NCPC and the District have coordinated planning initiatives that have resulted in capital projects that successfully address federal and local interests. NCPC therefore supports the inclusion of funds for planning in the CIP, and looks forward to continued cooperation and coordination with the District and other federal agencies on planning and zoning studies within the District.

Several projects in the CIP are of special interest for federal planning efforts. NCPC requests that the District coordinate with NCPC and other federal agencies, and notes that some projects may be subject to NCPC review. These projects that are of special federal interest include:

- South Capitol Street and Frederick Douglass Bridge: NCPC supports reconstruction of this major gateway project and the enhancements it will provide to key downtown destinations. The Commission expressed a number of design, open space, and land use issues, which will require further discussion and coordination as the project progresses. We look forward to continuing to work with the District on resolving the issues noted as the development of this significant project continues.
- Streetcars (DDOT): NCPC supports the expansion of transportation options that will benefit residents, workers, and visitors. However, the potential visual impact of streetcars using technology that requires overhead wires on defining features of the L'Enfant Plan represents a significant federal interest. Staff appreciates DDOT's updated approach to protecting corridor viewsheds from overhead wires, as presented in their "*Assessment of Streetcar Propulsion Technology*" February 2017 report. Staff welcomed the DC City Council's requirement in its 2010 Transportation Infrastructure Act, that prior to the construction of streetcar transit beyond the H Street/Benning Road segment, that an evaluation be completed on the impact of aerial wires on federal property and the requirement that the Mayor develop a plan for each phase or extension of the streetcar transit system for Council's review and approval. Staff has appreciated participating in planning studies for streetcar segments including a K Street NW segment, an eastward extension along Benning Road, a segment in Anacostia and a north-south segment in the western portion of the city.
- Park and Open Space Projects (DPR and DCPS): CapitalSpace Plan, a study of federal and local parks and open spaces in the District, documents the need for improvements to existing parkland and facilities, notes the importance of the District's public schools in providing outdoor recreational facilities, and calls for steps to address park demands created by growth.

Staff looks forward to continued coordination with District agencies to identify and implement strategies to improve the Washington's park system.

- Intermodal Transportation Projects: The CIP includes several projects that support intermodal transit facilities; including WMATA's capital program, (operating funds are included in separate volume of the District's Proposed Budget and Financial Plan). This area of funding supports acquisition of new buses and rail cars; rehabilitation of the Metrorail system and bus facilities; and new construction projects such as bike share, bike and pedestrian management program, and future multi-modal programs. These ongoing investments are consistent with the federal interest in using transit to help fulfill the region's mobility demands, in particular the needs of the federal workforce, visitors, and for special events.

Finally, staff notes that many of the projects outlined in the CIP must, by law, be reviewed by NCPC. Staff urges District agencies to work early and cooperatively with NCPC staff to facilitate that review, which serves the interests of both the District and the federal government. The projects should be submitted to the Commission at the appropriate stage of siting and design work. NCPC's authority for review of District government projects includes review of: acquisition or disposition of land or buildings; land and building development projects (including park projects); and projects that affect District of Columbia public buildings and grounds, including parks. District agencies should consult with the Commission staff to determine the submission requirements for particular projects.

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Overall, the CIP is generally consistent with the goals outlined in the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Many of the CIP capital projects focus on sustainability, livability, job creation, economic development, and transportation infrastructure. These focal areas are consistent with goals of the Federal Workplace, Transportation, Parks & Open Space, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, and Visitors & Commemoration Elements.

National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act is not applicable to NCPC's review of this submission, because the Commission does not approve the District CIP.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act is not applicable to NCPC's review of this submission, because the Commission does not approve the District CIP.

CONSULTATION

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U. S. Commission of Fine Arts review is not applicable to NCPC's review of this submission, because the Commission does not approve the District CIP.

Prepared by Stacy Wood
05/25/2017