August 15, 2019

Mr. David Maloney, SHPO
Historic Preservation Office
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, Renovation of the Marriner Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building and Federal Reserve Board - East Building

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) is proposing to renovate and expand the Marriner Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building (Eccles Building) and the Federal Reserve-East Building (FRB-East Building), historically known as the United States Public Health Service Building and more recently the Department of the Interior - South Building. The Board is writing to initiate consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800). The proposed project is an undertaking and is subject to review and approval of NCPC under the National Capital Planning Act.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposed action is to renovate and expand the Eccles Building and the FRB-East Building to address a critical backlog of upgrades, to respond to changes in building codes and regulatory requirements, to accommodate information technology requirements, building security provisions, advancements in environmental awareness and energy efficiency, as well as to address increased utility demands and associated requirements imposed by an increased building population and integration of technology not anticipated at the time of the buildings’ original design. The proposed programming changes and building additions are needed to increase spatial efficiency and provide a secure environment for the buildings’ occupants, while accommodating the growing needs of the Board and its visitors.
**Project Description and Background**

The Board is planning a complete renovation and new construction expansion of the Eccles Building, located at 20th Street NW and Constitution Avenue, NW. The Eccles Building was constructed between 1935 and 1937. The current goals for the renovation of the Eccles building include:

- Respect the character-defining features while modernizing the building
- Provide a modern, efficient workspace with amenities
- Make the building more energy efficient
- Increase the capacity of the building, with a targeted capacity of 750 people
- Provide quality office space on the lower (concourse) levels of the building

The Board also intends to execute a complete renovation and addition to the existing FRB-East Building. The building is located at 19th Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW and was constructed between 1931 and 1933. The current goals for the renovation of the Federal Reserve-East Building include:

- Respect the character-defining features while modernizing the building
- Provide a modern, efficient workspace with amenities
- Make the building more energy efficient
- Provide an addition that contains 5-6 stories above-grade and back of house services for a combined total targeted capacity of approximately 1000 people
- Provide underground parking
- Provide a tunnel for utility and pedestrian use that connects to the Eccles building and accommodates the backup mechanical systems capable of supporting the Eccles building

**Section 106 and Historic Properties**

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the Board has prepared the attached draft list of consulting parties and a draft map of the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE). These items are intended as a basis of discussion and are subject to modification through the consultation process. The proposed APE for this project includes the area from which the project site is visible and is generally bound by E Street NW on the north, 18th Street NW on the east, the Reflecting Pool on the south, and 23rd Street NW on the west.

Built in 1937, the Eccles Building was designed by architect Paul Philippe Cret. It was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Places in 1964. The FRB-East Building, historically known as the United States Public Health Service Building and more recently the Department of the Interior - South Building, was built in 1931-1933 and designed by architect Jules Henri de Sibour. It was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes portions of the Plan of the City of Washington (L’Enfant Plan, L’Enfant-McMillan Plan), Northwest Rectangle Historic District (determined eligible), National Mall Historic District, East & West Potomac Parks Historic District, and the Constitution Gardens Cultural Landscape. It also includes the following historic resources individually listed in or determined eligible for the National Register and/or the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites: Department of State (determined eligible); National Academy of Sciences; American Pharmaceutical Association; US Department of Interior (New Interior Building); Lincoln Memorial; and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We intend to conduct an archaeological assessment to identify potential archaeological resources within the project site.
At this conceptual design stage, the Board is not prepared to make a formal determination of the effects of the project on historic resources, but looks forward with consultation with the DC SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other consulting parties on this and other steps in the process.

**Section 106 and NEPA Coordination**

The Board will serve as the lead and responsible federal agency and work in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Board and NCPC will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for this project, in accordance with NEPA. Concurrently, the Board will lead consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Board plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA.

A joint NEPA/Section 106 meeting will take place on September 17, 2019, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) at the Commission Hearing Room at NCPC’s offices, 401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500. The purpose of this public meeting will be to introduce the project and invite public comment on the range of issues to be addressed in the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patti Kuhn Babin at (202) 591-2533, or at FRB-Renovation@frb.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Pearson  
Assistant Director, Facilities and Program Direction  
Stephen.Pearson@frb.gov  
(202) 452-3032

Enclosures:  
Draft Area of Potential Effects Map  
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc:  
Lee Webb, National Capital Planning Commission  
Anne Brockett, Historic Preservation Office  
Thomas Luebke, US Commission of Fine Arts
KEY

APE Boundary
Project Site
National Register of Historic Places (NR) and/or DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC)

East and West Potomac Parks Historic District
National Mall Historic District
Seventeenth Street Historic District
Northwest Rectangle Historic District

INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS

1. Old Naval Observatory (DC) 23rd & E Streets NW
2. US General Services Administration (NR) 1800 F St NW
3. The Octagon House (NR & DC) 1741 New York Ave NW
4. US Civil Service Commission (NR & DC) 1724 F St NW
5. Corcoran Gallery of Art (NR & DC) 500 17th St NW
6. American National Red Cross (NR & DC) 430 17th St NW
7. Memorial Continental Hall (NR & DC) 1776 D St NW
8. Constitution Hall (NR & DC) 1776 D St NW
9. Pan American Union (NR & DC) 200 17th St NW
10. Department of the Interior (NR & DC) 1849 C St NW
11. US Public Health Service Building (DC) 1925 Constitution Ave NW
12. Marriner S. Eccles Building (DC) 2051 Constitution Ave NW
13. Natl Academy of Sciences (NR & DC) 2101 Constitution Ave NW
14. American Pharmacists Assn (NR & DC) 2215 Constitution Ave NW
15. Harry S. Truman Federal Building (NR Eligible) 2201 C St NW
16. Gen. Jose de San Martin Memorial (NR & DC) 511 20th St NW
17. Vietnam Veterans Memorial (NR) 5 Henry Bacon Dr NW
18. Lincoln Memorial (NR & DC) 2 Lincoln Memorial Cir NW
19. Arlington Memorial Bridge (NR & DC) 2912 Independence Ave SW
20. Korean War Veterans Memorial (NR) 900 Ohio Dr SW
21. DC War Memorial (NR) Independence Ave btwn. 17th & 23rd St
National Capital Planning Commission
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DC Historic Preservation Office
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**Department of the Interior**
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**DC Department of Transportation**
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-673-6813

**DC Department of Energy & Environment**
1200 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
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**Council of the District of Columbia**
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**Advisory Neighborhood Commission**
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The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
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National Mall Coalition
Dr. Judy Scott Feldman
Chair
P.O. Box 4709
Rockville, Md. 20849
jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org
3 September 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) proposes to renovate and expand the Marriner Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building (Eccles Building) at 2051 Constitution Avenue NW and the Federal Reserve Board – East Building (FRB-East Building) at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW (historically known as the United States Public Health Service Building and more recently the Department of the Interior - South Building).

The purpose of the proposed action is to renovate and expand the Eccles Building and the Federal Reserve-East Building to address a critical backlog of upgrades, to respond to changes in building codes and regulatory requirements, to accommodate information technology requirements, building security provisions, advancements in environmental awareness and energy efficiency, as well as to address increased utility demands and associated requirements imposed by an increased building population and integration of technology not anticipated at the time of the buildings’ original design. The proposed programming changes and building additions are needed to increase spatial efficiency and provide a secure environment for the buildings’ occupants, while accommodating the growing needs of the Board and its visitors.

The Board will serve as the lead and responsible federal agency and work in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Board will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives for this project, in accordance with NEPA requirements. Concurrently, the Board will lead consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

With this notice, the Board is announcing the start of the public scoping period for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The preparation of the EA will enable the Board to evaluate and analyze the environmental impacts of the project and alternatives under consideration. At the same time, the Board will be conducting consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into account the effects of the project on historic properties.

The Board invites you to attend a joint NEPA/Section 106 meeting that will take place on September 17, 2019 at the Commission Hearing Room at NCPC’s offices, 401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The meeting will be an “open house” format. A brief presentation about the project will begin at 3:00 pm and will include a discussion of the purpose and need of the project, and issues to be analyzed in the EA.
The Board will accept comments concerning the scope of issues to address in the EA through October 4, 2019. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to refine alternatives and inform EA analysis. The Board will be accepting comments at the public scoping meeting or comments can be submitted in writing via mail or email to:

Mr. Jeffery P. Foltz  
Sr. Construction Program Manager  
Federal Reserve Board  
20th & C ST, NW  
Washington, DC 20551

FRB-Renovation@frb.gov

Please note that any comments may be made public as part of the record.

We look forward to seeing you on September 17, 2019. Your participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Ms. Patti Kuhn Babin, Quinn Evans Architects at (202) 591-2533, or at FRB-Renovation@frb.gov.

To request accessibility services, please contact Mr. Lee Webb of the National Capital Planning Commission at Lee.Webb@ncpc.gov or at (202) 482-7240, one week in advance of the program.