



MEDIA RELEASE

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Washington Monument Screening Facility Preliminary Plans Approved by NCPC

Commission Approves ICC-Bethesda Building Renovations and Federal Reserve's Martin Building Additions

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today, Thursday, March 6, 2014, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved preliminary site and building plans for a visitor screening facility at the Washington Monument. Plans submitted by the National Park Service (NPS) call for the replacement of the current temporary facility (in place since 2001) with a permanent structure to be located on the monument's east side.

The new approximately 785 sq. ft. glass pavilion would provide queuing space for up to 25 visitors, screening equipment, an office, and a staff restroom. The 30 foot wide, 27 foot deep, and 17.5 foot tall cube would be constructed with a blast-resistant laminated glass exterior layer, laminated glass interior layer, and wire mesh embedded in the middle. The pavilion, which will accommodate the more than 600,000 annual monument visitors, could be removed if conditions change. The current design is the result of an extensive process conducted by the National Park Service that evaluated several alternatives before deciding on the current pavilion design.

In its comments Commissioners asked the National Park Service to provide several pieces of information before NCPC reviews final plans. These include a detailed plan about the geothermal wells that will power the pavilion; a blast and ballistic analysis; and details about the facility's lighting design.

The Commission next approved preliminary and final building plans submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the renovation of Erskine and Roberdeau Halls at the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda. Plans call for the replacement of both building facades and complete interior renovations. Erskine Hall is a five-story, 378,000 gross sq. ft. building while Roberdeau Hall is three stories and 129,000 gross sq. ft. This project is the second phase of the South Campus' redevelopment. Construction is expected to begin in late March 2014 and be completed in April 2015 at a cost of \$42 million.

The former National Geospatial Agency campus is approximately 30 acres and is being built out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Once complete the campus will host 17 agencies that comprise the U.S. Intelligence Community.

NCPC also approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a new screening pavilion and conference center additions at the Federal Reserve's Martin Building. Constructed in the 1970's, the building is an example of formalism, a modernist architectural style characterized by projecting rooflines, smooth surfaces, and strict symmetry. Plans submitted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve call for a new one-story 10,000 square feet screening pavilion facing C Street, NW that will function as the main entrance to the Federal Reserve Complex. Plans also call for 35,000 square feet of conference center additions that will concentrate all conference facilities on the building's podium level. The design of the additions will complement the existing building's architecture.

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Before adjourning the Commission heard an update from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) representatives about two recently approved complementary documents: the [Regional Transportation Priorities Plan](#) and the [Place + Opportunities Report](#). The plan responds to the region's greatest transportation challenges by providing strategies that local entities can support to address the challenges. The report focuses on strategies to make 141 COG-designated activity centers more appealing and attractive as locations where the majority of anticipated growth through 2040 can occur. No action is taken on information presentations.

This month's agenda also included four consent calendar items (no presentations given):

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for the U.S. Army Transportation Agency Headquarters and Operations Facility at Fort McNair, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (7473)
- Preliminary site and building plans for a helicopter operations facility at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington (7548)
- Final master plan for the National Institutes of Health Animal Center (MP27)
- Final master plan for the Naval Support Facility U.S. Naval Observatory (NP177)

Review of preliminary site and building plans for a visitor screening facility at the Pentagon (6659) was postponed until the Commission's April 3 meeting.

In addition, the Executive Director approved seven items under authorities delegated by the Commission.

The final Commission actions and staff recommendations will be available on [NCPC's website](#). The meeting video will be available at www.ncpc.gov. Images of these projects are available upon request.

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