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GSA Updates NCPC on New FBI Headquarters Site Location Status
*Commission Learns about the DC Water Clean Rivers Project
and the Memorials for the Future Design Challenge*

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting on March 3, 2016 the National Capital Planning Commission heard three information presentations after approving preliminary and final site and building plans for the Pentagon Support Operations Center. No action is taken on information presentations.

In the first, Bill Dowd, General Services Administration (GSA) Project Executive, discussed plans to construct a consolidated headquarters for the FBI. GSA sent out a Request for Proposals to five vetted development companies to bid on constructing the consolidated headquarters in exchange for the J. Edgar Hoover Building site on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. The new FBI headquarters would consolidate approximately 11,000 employees from 14 sites across the National Capital Region. The campus would encompass up to 2.546 million gross square feet, while the main building would be 2.4 million gross square feet.

Three locations are currently under consideration: a 62-acre Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration/State of Maryland owned site in Greenbelt, Maryland (adjacent to the Greenbelt Metro station); a 80-acre privately owned site in Landover, Maryland (approximately two miles from the Landover Metro station); and a 58-acre GSA-owned site in Springfield, Virginia (.5 miles from the Franconia-Springfield Metro station). GSA anticipates issuing a Record of Decision and awarding a design/construction contract in December 2016, and submitting a master plan for NCPC review in 2017.

In the second presentation DC Water General Manager George Hawkins provided an update on the current progress of the Clean Rivers Project, a federally mandated effort to reduce combined sewer overflows in District of Columbia waterways. The effort includes the construction of grey infrastructure such as tunnels, diversion sewers, and overflow facilities. Updated plans include the use of green infrastructure, such as permeable alleys; planter bioretention; and parking lane storage to manage excess rainfall in parts of Northwest Washington.

According to DC Water, benefits of green infrastructure include providing water retention and management during every rainfall, not just large storms; “greening the city;” improving air quality; and providing new green jobs. The first projects are anticipated to be submitted to NCPC later this year, with construction to take place from mid-2017 to 2019.

In the final presentation NCPC staff presented the Memorials for the Future Design Challenge. Organized by the National Park Service, NCPC, and the Van Alen Institute, the effort will provide a venue for interdisciplinary teams to submit concepts for new and innovative approaches to commemoration. Scheduled to begin this spring, the challenge will not construct a new memorial but is intended to inform and influence future commemoration planning in the nation’s capital.

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“The National Park Service is very excited about this competition. Every year there are new memorial proposals, and locating memorials can be an incredible challenge,” said NCPC Commissioner and National Park Service representative Peter May. “We want to get people to think more broadly about commemoration. This design challenge will inspire them to do so, and encourage people to come up with ideas that are a little bit different.”

The Memorials for the Future Design Challenge, part of NCPC’s ongoing commemoration-related work, is also part of the National Park Service’s 2016 Centennial Celebration. A call for proposals will take place in mid-April with three finalists chosen in May. A public exhibition of their ideas will take place in Washington, DC in late August 2016.

Prior to hearing the information presentations the Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a Support Operations Center at the Pentagon, as submitted by the U.S. Department of Defense’s Washington Headquarters Service. This 33,800-square-foot pre-cast concrete building will provide space for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency’s firing range/armory; court liaison/evidence branch; and K-9 officer area with kennels. The center will be located in the northwest corner of the Pentagon Reservation.

In its approval, the Commission noted its support for the project after the Washington Headquarters Service made several changes to the previous submission. These included shifting the facility’s location further away from the 500-year flood plain, removing 59 parking spaces, incorporating a green roof on part of the building, and increasing permeable surface by 21,290 feet.

This month’s agenda also included three consent calendar items (no presentation were given):

- Final site development plans for new surface parking lots for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, North Area, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (6676)
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for Founders Hall, National Museum of the United States Army, 9820 Flagler Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (7694)
- Final site and building plans for a new training center, Santjer and Farrar Roads, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

In addition, the Executive Director approved three items under authority delegated by the Commission. The final agenda, project materials, and staff recommendations are available on [NCPC’s website](#). Project images are available upon request.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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