



MEDIA RELEASE

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NCPC Authorizes Release of the Draft Transportation Element for Public Comment *Commission Defers Action on Naval Support Facility Suitland Installation Development Plan*

Washington, DC—At its September 5 meeting the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) authorized release of an update to the [Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Element](#) and Submission Guidelines for a 60-day public comment period. The element provides policy guidance to support a regional multimodal transportation system that promotes responsible land use and development and contributes to a high quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors. NCPC uses Comprehensive Plan policies as the primary guide when reviewing federal projects and plans. The proposed updates consider new parking ratios that better reflect existing and planned regional transit accessibility. Other new additions include policies addressing parking at federal visitor destinations and more detailed discussion of emerging trends and new technologies shaping regional transportation patterns.

The public can submit comments and feedback on the draft document through Tuesday, November 12, 2019. An open house is scheduled to provide opportunities to learn more, ask questions, and provide written comments. It will be held on Monday, October 7 from 6:00-7:30 pm in NCPC's offices, 401 9th Street, NW. The document and comment portal are available online at <https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/transportation/>. Following the public comment period, staff will make updates and bring it back to the Commission for adoption.

After a spirited discussion about parking needs, NCPC deferred action on an [installation development plan for the Naval Support Facility](#) located in the Suitland Federal Center in Suitland, Maryland. The installation houses one building that is home to the National Maritime Intelligence Center. The installation development plan would provide guidance over a 20 year period and seeks to add a 40,000 square foot building addition, visitor screening center, and employee parking garage that would replace one currently in use that will need to be closed and demolished due to safety concerns. The center currently has 1,469 employee, and 22 visitor, parking spaces on the 42-acre secure campus. It leases 450 spaces elsewhere in the Suitland Federal Center.

While the plan proposes to meet a long-term parking ratio goal of 1 parking space for every 3 employees, Commissioners wanted more information about employee transportation patterns, as well as exploration of interim strategies that could reduce on-site parking, especially considering that the campus is located within a 20-minute walk from the Suitland Metro station. Commissioners encouraged the Navy to come back with definitive strategies such as offering shuttles from the Metro station, building a more direct path from the station to the campus, and leasing space at the Metro parking deck.

Prior to that, the Commission provided comments to the Department of Agriculture for concept plans regarding potential sites to be used for the installation of solar panel arrays on the [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center](#) in Beltsville, Maryland. An independent power producer will lease the sites, and design, install, maintain, own, and operate the arrays, which will provide over seven percent of the campus' total energy needs. Potential sites include in ground, on top of parking lot canopies, and on the roofs of agricultural structures. The power producer chosen by the Department of Agriculture will develop detailed designs for specific sites later.

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The Commission expressed its support for installing solar arrays at the center, noting that the project would help the campus meet federal sustainability goals and is consistent with policies in the Federal Environment Element. Specific recommendations include prioritizing agricultural building rooftops and parking lots over undeveloped sites, land that is deigned “not prime farmland,” land that is not prone to flooding, and land that would not require healthy tree removal. Also recommended was using landscaping to buffer sites near neighboring residential and commercial areas and using the natural topography as much as possible to help preserve the campus’s pastoral setting. The Commission noted that site-specific development plans for each future array installation need to be submitted to NCPC for review and recommended that the Department of Agriculture submit an updated campus master plan that reflects these and other changes.

Before adjourning, District of Columbia Office of Planning Director Andrew Trueblood provided an update on the status of the [Second Amendment Cycle to the District's Comprehensive Plan](#), with input from Council of the District of Columbia Chairman Phil Mendelson. The *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* contains eight federal elements, prepared by NCPC, and 24 District Elements, prepared by the District Office of Planning. The process to amend the District Elements began in March 2016, updating all elements. While the last update in 2006 focused on economic development, key components of the current update include housing (how to address availability and affordability), equity (how to make sure growth is shared broadly), and resiliency. The first section of the District Elements was submitted to the District Council for review and approval, with the remaining elements anticipated to be released for a 60-day public review this fall. It is anticipated that NCPC will review the District Elements sometime in fall 2020, with a focus on whether any components negatively impact the federal government’s interests.

Video of the meeting, Commission actions, and related materials are available [online](#) within five days after the meeting.

This month’s agenda included four consent calendar items (no presentations were given):

1. Preliminary site and building plans, with comments, for military working dog kennels at Joint Base Andrews, Camp Springs, Maryland. (8087).
2. A highway plan amendment to remove a portion of Anacostia Avenue, NE from the Permanent System of Highways, Square 5113 - Parcel 185-38 and Lot 806, Anacostia Avenue, near the intersection of Eastern and Kenilworth Avenues, NE. (8098)
3. Preliminary site development plans with comments for a multi-purpose field at the Friendship Public Charter Schools Collegiate Academy, 4095 Minnesota Avenue, NE. (7882)
4. Comments on concept plans for a control tower-fire day station at the Pentagon, 1 North Rotary Road, Arlington, Virginia. (8099)

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The Executive Director approved seven items under authority delegated by the Commission.

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for building identification signage at the Harry S Truman Federal Building, 2201 C Street, NW. (8100)
2. Preliminary and final site and building plans for relocation of a gas station at the National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. (8070)
3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a NIAID bioinformatics facility at the National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. (8080)
4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Arlington Ridge Park Comfort Station at the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Virginia. (8023)
5. Preliminary and final site and building plans for building security and landscape improvements at the Theodore Roosevelt Federal Building, 1900 E Street, NW. (8101)
6. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a map amendment at Squares 5860 and 5861 - Poplar Point RBBR, LLC, Howard Road, SE. (ZC 18-19)
7. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a text amendment to Subtitle K to Create the Northern Howard Road Zone, North Howard Road, SE. (ZC 18-18)

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in Washington, DC 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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