

May 6, 2022

Stephen Staudigl
stephen@ncpc.gov

Julia Koster
julia@ncpc.gov

NCPC Updated on the Agency's Equity Action Plan

Commission Also Gets a Brief Update on the Washington Union Station Expansion Project

Washington, DC—The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) heard two information presentations at its Thursday, May 5 Commission meeting. No official action is taken on information presentations.

NCPC staff provided a presentation on [NCPC's Equity Action Plan](#). Released on April 14, the plan provides an overview of how the agency will advance equity throughout its work in response to [Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#). This order calls on federal agencies to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. More than 90 federal agencies [submitted equity action plans](#).

Advancing equity requires planning for long-term change and a dedicated strategy for sustainability. NCPC's plan seeks to advance equity through its core work programs and partnerships with federal and local agencies. The plan is focused on five different areas listed below, with a brief highlight of work related to each.

- *Beyond Granite Pilot Program*: NCPC is partnering with the Trust for the National Mall and the National Park Service on this demonstration program that aims to broaden subject matter representation and elevate underrepresented stories through a series of temporary commemorative works. It also seeks to create an inclusive and equitable process by expanding and exploring opportunities for public participation in commemoration in the nation's capital.
- *Comprehensive Plan Updates*: NPC will update the Introduction Chapter to revise the guiding principles and set forth a vision for addressing equity throughout the Federal Elements in later updates.
- *Federal Capital Improvements Program*: NCPC is already proactively working with the Office of Management & Budget to incorporate equity-related questions for applicants to answer for NCPC review to determine how proposed capital improvement projects might create or reduce equity disparities.
- *Review of Master Plans and Significant Projects*: The agency will develop equity-related resources and tools to help applicants identify equity issues. This includes relevant policies in the Comprehensive Plan, mapped identification of underserved communities and Equity Emphasis Areas, development of distribution lists to contact impacted groups, and an amendment of NCPC's Submission Guidelines.
- *Public Engagement for Commission Meetings*: Broaden outreach and make it easier for the public, and particularly underserved groups, to engage in the Commission's work, including meetings with organizations from underserved communities to discuss agency activities and opportunities to eliminate barriers and increase participation. Staff will also explore how technology can assist or serve as a barrier to more equitable participation.

—MORE—

“I’m proud that NCPC is seeking to advance equity in its own practices and look forward to further discussions with fellow Commissioners on ways we can bring an equity focus to NCPC’s work in a way that aligns and supports the efforts of other federal agencies and regional jurisdictions,” said Chair Beth White. “It is equally exciting to think about the enormous body of work underway to advance equity across federal agencies, each with their own unique mission and program.”

NCPC staff also provided an update on the **Washington Union Station Expansion project**, which seeks to expand and modernize the station. NCPC last reviewed concept plans submitted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in January 2020. The refresher on the project was made in anticipation of a revised concept submission by the FRA for NCPC’s July 7 meeting. Union Station is a multi-modal transportation hub in Washington, DC and is the second busiest Amtrak station in its network.

Major plan components include a new train hall, station tracks, and bus and parking facilities. There are several changes in the proposal since NCPC last saw it in 2020. These include a reduction and relocation of parking and a reconfigured bus facility. Further information will be provided with the revised concept submission by FRA.

[Commission Actions and other materials are available online.](#)

This month’s agenda included two consent calendar items (no presentations were given). Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for the DC Clean Rivers Potomac River Tunnel Projects, various sites along the Potomac River. (8357)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Donor Signage, 100 Daniel French Drive, SW. (8107).

The Executive Director approved four items under authority delegated by the Commission. The project is in Washington, DC.

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for the C&O Canal Inlet and Lift Locks Repair and Canal Walls Reconstruction, Georgetown. (8358)
2. Final site and building plans for the St. Elizabeths East New Hospital, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. (8310)
3. Preliminary and final building plans for the Hotel Monaco Solar Panel Installation, 701 E Street, NW. (8360)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Suitland Tower Antenna Upgrades, 4400 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland. (8359)

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.