I. DELEGATED ACTIONS

During the past month, the Executive Director approved eight projects under the Commission’s delegated authority (see Delegated Action reports for details), including:

1. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the rehabilitation of the historic Old Naval Hospital for a new purpose as a community center to be known as The Hill Center, in the 900 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC. (NCPC File #6970)

2. Found that the proposed closing of portions of public streets and alleys and dedications of a new street in Squares 3765, 3767, 3768 and 3769 (S.O. 09-11837) would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital nor adversely affect any of the federal interests. (NCPC File #7035)

3. Preliminary and final site development plans for the widening of D Street, SW by six feet on Fort McNair in southwest Washington, DC. (NCPC File #7051)

4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the proposed National Museum of Health and Medicine located on the Forest Glen Annex campus in Silver Spring, Maryland. (NCPC File #7053)

5. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the proposed expansion of Building 301 - Consolidated Logistics Warehouse located at 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland. (NCPC File #7057)

6. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the proposed Building 318 - Combined Emergency Services Center located at 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland. (NCPC File #7058)

7. Concept design of site and building plans for the construction of a 25,000 square foot Pentagon Force Protection Agency Hazardous Material Response Center at the Pentagon Reservation in Arlington, Virginia. (NCPC File #7061)

8. Found that the proposed text amendment to the District of Columbia Zoning Regulations to allow a water tower on Saint Elizabeths East Campus would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests. (NCPC File #Z.C. 09-10)
II. PLANNING UPDATES

Commemoration

The NCPC and the National Park Service (NPS) have initiated a joint study, Washington as Commemoration, which is exploring the themes and ideas represented in Washington’s commemorative landscape. As part of our continuing initiative on commemoration, NCPC will co-host a talk by Professor Kirk Savage author of *Monument Wars* with the Smithsonian American Art Museum on Wednesday evening, March 10. Additionally, staff is seeking public input on the initial themes analysis and database components of the study, Washington as Commemoration, which was presented to you in the February report as an information item. The database and themes, as well as a short introductory video, are posted on NCPC’s website under commemoration.

Executive Order 13514

NCPC continues to make progress in addressing the goals and requirements of Executive Order 13514 “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance.” Staff has been actively involved with two new committees that were established by the Executive Order. One of the committees is developing new recommendations for siting federal facilities and the other committee is developing recommendations for transportation management with a strong focus on refining agency shuttle policy. Staff will review the work of these committees over the next few months and will then incorporate the recommendations into NCPC’s Comprehensive Plan update. The update is scheduled to begin this summer. Staff has also begun internal discussions on new submission guidelines that will incorporate the goals of the Executive Order for NCPC’s plan review function.

On February 3rd staff represented NCPC at the second Federal Sustainability Steering Committee meeting on implementing the Executive Order. Each federal agency has appointed a senior sustainability officer to serve on the committee. The officer’s role is to advise the Office of Management and Budget and Council on Environmental Quality on implementation of the Executive Order and facilitate their agency’s Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan due in June 2010.

At the February 3rd meeting, the committee reviewed a draft format of the sustainability plan and was praised for its work on the first Executive Order requirement (Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emission targets) that was due in January. As a result of this work, President Obama recently announced that the federal government will reduce its greenhouse gas pollution by 28 percent by 2020.

Building Heights

In January, NCPC released an information video on the Height of Buildings Act of 1910 and how it has shaped the Washington, DC urban form. The video talks about the law’s history, how it works and how it has reinforced the city’s open character and dramatic vistas. This is the first video in a series of short narratives on various aspects of the Height Act.
Potomac Park Levee

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Baltimore District has received $5.84 million for the Potomac Park Levee through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). USACE is currently working with the National Park Service on a memorandum of agreement (MOA) regarding the construction and maintenance of the levee system, and plans to award a construction contract in June, 2010. Staff has been advised that FEMA plans to finalize flood maps reflecting these improvements once adequate flood protection is in place.

DC Streetcars

On February 4, 2010 District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) representatives and the Director of DDOT, Mr. Gabe Klein, met with the Executive Director and Chairman Bryant regarding the District’s efforts on planning for the introduction of streetcar service to the District of Columbia. Mr. Klein gave an overview of the history of streetcar use in the city and provided a summary of the status of the track construction along H Street, NE and the Anacostia streetcar corridor in southeast Washington, DC. DDOT staff also noted that the Anacostia segment will likely be operational in 2012.

10th Street Corridor Task Force

In the continuing effort to develop recommendations for the improvement of the 10th Street SW corridor, the Commission’s 10th Street Corridor Task Force met on Wednesday, March 3 at 1:00 p.m. This meeting included presentations from several private developers in and around the corridor about development proposals that are currently being considered.

CapitalSpace Plan

Production of the final draft CapitalSpace plan is nearing completion, but was delayed one month due to snow closures. The plan will now be brought to the Commission for adoption at the April meeting to ensure that there is adequate time for public and Commission review. NCPC staff was also part of a team presenting this project at the February 27 conference held by the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Eisenhower Memorial

On February 19, staff attended a meeting hosted by the National Park Service to discuss the overall design approach for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, the project architect, Frank Gehry, and members of the design team Gehry Partners and AECOM, and other interested agencies and organizations. Following a brief presentation on the overall context of the memorial site, located at Maryland and Independence Avenues, Mr. Gehry provided an overview of his approach to designing a memorial to President Eisenhower. The design team presented several design ideas that they are currently considering and requested feedback from the meeting attendees. Staff is encouraged by the overall design approach taken thus far, and looks forward to working closely with the Eisenhower Commission and its design team on this very important project.
**Federal Triangle Stormwater Study**

The Federal Triangle Stormwater Study Working Group will meet on March 12, 2010 at NCPC to review the consultant’s data collection and predictions of river/interior flood events and ponding levels in the Federal Triangle area. This work represents the first phase of a joint-funded effort to develop and analyze possible solutions to flooding concerns in this part of the city. Over the past three months, the consultant, Greeley and Hansen, has been collecting and analyzing information about water flow in the sewer system and over land; including rainfall data specific to the June 24 - 26, 2006 flood.

**III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Intergovernmental Outreach**

Staff has continued to advance several federal-local partnership projects. Recent meetings with GSA have further explored opportunities to conduct small-scale planning projects around federal facilities, in coordination with local jurisdictions.

**TIGER Award Recognition**

NCPC offers its congratulations to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments which recently was awarded a highly competitive TIGER grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This $59 million award will be used to develop and strengthen rapid bus transit components in the District, Virginia and Maryland. The grant proposal was developed through a collaborative effort of jurisdictions and stakeholders around the region. Building on this great example of regional cooperation, COG is now exploring proposals for the recently announced funding for regional planning that will be offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Livable Communities Initiative. NCPC staff has been working closely with MWCOG to ensure that federal planning activities can support these regional planning initiatives. On February 12, COG and NCPC staff met with Shelley Poticha, who is leading HUD’s work on this grant initiative, to discuss their objectives and goals.

**IV. PUBLIC OUTREACH & PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

**NCPC Speaker Series**

On Tuesday, March 10, plan to join us for NCPC’s second speaker series of 2010. In partnership with the Smithsonian American Art Museum, NCPC will host Kirk Savage, author of the critically acclaimed book *Monument Wars: Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape*. NCPC staff will provide the welcome remarks and give an introductory overview of Washington as Commemoration—our joint study with the National Park Service on the memorials and monuments represented throughout the capital city. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and takes place in the McEvoy Auditorium in the lower level of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Walk-ins are welcome.
E-Newsletter & Video Productions

The Office of Public Affairs issued the agency’s February e-newsletter on February 19. Also in February OPA and planning staff posted several new videos to the agency web site. They include a video from planner Lucy Kempf on the joint NCPC-NPS study, Washington as Commemoration; a video from senior urban planner David Zaidain on heights in Washington; and a photo montage of the 10th Street Corridor today and in the future, produced by OPA's urban planner William Herbig. If you haven’t done so already, you are encouraged to visit the website homepage where you’ll find links to the videos and to the agency's e-newsletter.

Online Live Chat

On Tuesday, February 23, the Executive Director participated in a one-hour live chat with the local blog Greater Greater Washington in conjunction with his recent appointment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s Board of Directors. Topics included a wide range of issues, such as WMATA’s budget, safety issues, customer service, and more. Also discussed were issues that fall under NCPC’s purview, including the National Mall, the Monumental Core Framework Plan, and streetcars. There were more than 40 respondents to a series of questions that were asked in advance of the chat session and the chat received more than two dozen questions during the live program. The chat is archived on the blog’s site (greatergreaterwashington.org).

V. PERSONNEL AND OTHER NEWS

On February 16, Pauline Porter joined NCPC’s Office of the Executive Director as an Executive Assistant. Pauline has a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Casework from Mount Saint Joseph College (RI). Before joining NCPC she worked at the American Institute of Architects national component, in Washington, DC, working with various member groups including the College of Fellows, Large Firm Round Table, Small Firms, Practice Management, Public Architects and Corporate Architects and Facility Managers.