



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Expansion Connection Project

National Mall and Memorial Parks

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center) is proposing a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center expansion and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. The project falls within the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (RCPP), which is under the jurisdiction of National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA), a unit of the National Park System administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The Kennedy Center is requesting special use permits (SUP) from NAMA for construction access from the RCPP and a transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of NPS administered property and certain air rights to the Kennedy Center.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and to improve access and create a public waterfront link to and from the Kennedy Center from the new expansion area on the south, the Potomac River waterfront, NAMA, and the surrounding vicinity.

The project is needed because there is no direct access to and from the Kennedy Center to the east, or southeastward to Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, NAMA, and the Potomac River. The only pedestrian/bicycle access from the Potomac riverfront to the Kennedy Center is provided by a series of crosswalks across F Street NW and the RCPP, approximately 0.25 miles north of the south parking garage. This lack of a direct and convenient path not only limits visitors' access to both NPS and Kennedy Center amenities, but also creates a disconnect between the Kennedy Center, which is the United States' living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, and those other presidential memorials found within the National Mall. In addition, Theodore Roosevelt Island, which is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, is located directly across from the Kennedy Center on the western edge of the Potomac River. Creating a more direct and convenient link will benefit visitors to the Kennedy Center, NAMA, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the Potomac River waterfront by providing a convenient and logical pedestrian/bicycle connection and expanded interpretation opportunities of the area's presidential memorials.

The Kennedy Center, NPS, and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) specifically for the John F. Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508); Department of the Interior implementing regulations (43 CFR 46.100); NCPC's implementing regulations (69 FR 41299); the National Capital Planning Act (40 USC § 8722 (b)(1), (d)); NPS Director's Order 12 (DO-12): *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impacts Analysis and Decision-Making* (NPS 2001a); and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the NPS has agreed with the Kennedy Center's preferred alternative, Alternative C: Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs.

The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail via a bridge that will span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and will be accessed from the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail by both a ramp and stairs. The connection will be a steel structure, and the bridge component will measure approximately 11-feet wide and be ADA-compliant for use by pedestrians, including persons with

disabilities, and also by bicyclists. The Kennedy Center will develop policies for bicycle usage on the bridge and ramps, which will include dismounting and walking bicycles on the bridge and ramp. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough for the stairs that will allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail will be rerouted and three trail spurs will be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the landing of the north stair. The trail spurs will provide a transition area where the stairs and ramp meet to provide sufficient space to minimize user conflicts. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, will be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree will be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree will be planted near the location of the original.

Pathways are currently under construction for the Kennedy Center Expansion that will connect the Kennedy Center to the I-66/Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge path on the east side of the Kennedy Center and the proposed bridge on the west side of the Kennedy Center. Signage may be incorporated to define the route through the expansion area. The Kennedy Center will develop policies for bicycle usage while pedestrians are present.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In addition to the NPS selected alternative described above, the EA analyzed the No Action Alternative and three additional action alternatives – Alternative B: At-Grade Street Crossing; Alternative D: Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator; and Alternative E: River Terrace Access Alternative.

Alternative A: No Action - This alternative would include the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Kennedy Center, including construction of the planned and NCPD-approved Kennedy Center expansion project, which includes three land-based pavilions located south of the existing facility. This alternative also includes the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail.

Alternative B: At-Grade Crossing Access - Alternative B would provide an at-grade street crossing of RCPP from the Kennedy Center to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail (pursuant to Public Law 107-224) that would traverse the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP. A crosswalk would be provided that would allow pedestrians and bicycles to cross the RCPP safely. Under this alternative, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would remain in its current location, and no trees would be removed or relocated. Two trail spurs would be added to connect the at-grade crossing with the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the crossing. Because the slope of the land between the RCPP and the Kennedy Center expansion area is too steep and too narrow to accommodate an accessible ramp on the east side of the RCPP, bicyclists would be required to go through the Kennedy Center parking garage to make the connection to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. Bicyclists would enter the parking garage along the east side of the Kennedy Center either from the existing pedestrian/bicycle route that parallels 25th Street NW or from the expansion area. Once entering the garage, bicyclists would continue through the garage to connect with the at-grade crossing at the RCPP. Under this alternative there would be no dedicated bicycle route through the garage due to space limitations. Appropriate signage, including painted markings on floor of the garage, would be used to inform motorists of the shared use of the garage with bicyclists. The portion of the parking garage that would be utilized by bicyclists would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pedestrians would be able to use the elevator in the River Pavilion during performances to access the at-grade crossing. At other times pedestrians would utilize the parking garage to gain access to the at-grade connection.

Alternative B was not selected because it would not provide as safe an access as the selected alternative.

Alternative D: Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator – The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail via a bridge that would span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and would be accessed from the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail by both a ramp and an elevator. The connection would be a steel structure, and the bridge component would measure approximately 11-feet

wide and be ADA-compliant for use by pedestrians, including persons with disabilities, and also by bicyclists. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would be rerouted and three trail spurs would be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the elevator threshold. The trail spurs would provide a transition area where the stairs and ramp meet to provide sufficient space to minimize user conflicts. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage on the bridge and ramps, which would include dismounting and walking bicycles on the bridge and ramp. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough for the stairs that would allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree would be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree would be planted near the location of the original.

Pathways are currently under construction for the Kennedy Center Expansion that would connect the Kennedy Center to the I-66/Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge path on the east side of the Kennedy Center and the proposed bridge on the west side of the Kennedy Center. Signage may be incorporated to define the route through the expansion area. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage while pedestrians are present.

Alternative D was not chosen because the elevator would create a greater visual intrusion to and from the Kennedy Center.

Alternative E: River Terrace Access Alternative- Alternative E includes a pair of curved staircases with integrated elevators that would provide pedestrian and bicycle access from the Kennedy Center to the Potomac riverfront. Portions of the existing terrace wall and planter structure would be removed and 20-foot wide platforms would be constructed to extend approximately 16 feet over the southbound lanes of the RCPP. Each platform would be centered on the existing terrace fountains and the entrances to the Hall of Nations and the Hall of States and connect to a staircase and hydraulic elevator. At the bottom of the stairs and elevator structures, a landscaped plaza of approximately 13,100 square feet would be constructed of asphalt, concrete, or pavers. The plaza would provide unimpeded accessibility to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and the Potomac riverfront. In order to alert Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail users to the plaza approach, the segment of trail in front of the Kennedy Center would be resurfaced with a material unique from the surrounding trail and the new plaza. Alternative E would not provide dedicated bicycle access through the Kennedy Center, but a pedestrian/bicycle path would be created through the expansion area on the south end of the Kennedy Center and would connect with the terrace. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage on the terrace, which would include dismounting and walking bicycles across the terrace. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough that would allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Bicyclists could also utilize the proposed elevator in order to access the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail.

Signage may also be incorporated to further alert trail users to the approaching plaza. A new landscape design of the area would include plantings that would enhance the appearance of the plaza and blend in with surrounding vegetation. With the implementation of Alternative E, the majority of construction activities and the location of permanent structures would be within the 32-foot clear space between the RCPP and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail.

Alternative E was not selected because this alternative would alter the fabric of the Kennedy Center and alter views and vistas to and from the Kennedy Center.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE

The NPS is required to identify the environmentally preferable alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment. The NPS, in accordance with the Department of the Interior policies contained in the Departmental Manual (516 DM 4.10) and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA's Forty Most Asked Questions, defines the environmentally preferable alternative (or alternatives) as the alternative that best promotes the national environmental policy expressed in NEPA

(Section 101(b) (516 DM 4.10). In their Forty Most Asked Questions, CEQ further clarifies the identification of the environmentally preferable alternative, stating “Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources” (Q6a).

Based on the analysis of environmental consequences of each alternative, the No Action Alternative is the environmentally preferable alternative. The No Action Alternative was chosen because it causes the least damage/change to the physical environment and best protects an important cultural resource of national importance. Alternative B would create safety issues that would outweigh the selected alternative. Alternatives C and D would have an adverse effect on the RCPP. Alternative E would have an adverse effect on the Kennedy Center and the RCPP, all of which are not the case under the No-Action Alternative

MITIGATION MEASURES

The NPS places strong emphasis on avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potentially adverse environmental impacts. To help ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources and the quality of the visitor experience, the following protective measures will be implemented as part of the selected action alternative. The NPS and/or the Kennedy Center will implement an appropriate level of monitoring throughout the construction process to help ensure that protective measures are being properly implemented and are achieving their intended results.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- The design of the connection bridge would be architecturally compatible with the Kennedy Center in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (NPS 1992).
- The proposed design would be reviewed and approved through consultation and coordination with CFA, NCPC, and interested parties.
- NPS, NCPC, the Kennedy Center and DC SHPO has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (see attached) that ensures adverse effects to cultural resources are avoided, minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent possible. To mitigate the adverse effects to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, the Kennedy Center will provide funding not to exceed \$45,000 to NPS to complete a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the segment of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway from the terminus of Constitution Avenue (the Belvedere) to Virginia Avenue, including the parkway lands managed by NPS and the Kennedy Center frontage to the Potomac River shoreline and encompassing the portion of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway within the Project Area. The CLR will follow NPS standards for documentation as defined in the NPS publication *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (1998) and include, at a minimum, the following components: a.) site history, including a historical narrative and annotated chronology, b.) existing conditions documenting landscape characteristics as they currently exist, c.) analysis and evaluation of the landscape characteristics, including a list of contributing and noncontributing features, d.) treatment guidelines for parkway features, and e.) bibliography. The NPS shall complete the CLR documentation within 1-1/2 years following the completion of construction of the Expansion Connection Bridge Project, or sooner.

VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

- Visitors to the Kennedy Center, RCPP, and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would be notified in advance of construction activities. Potential notifications would include signage, postings to websites and social media webpages, and email blasts to interested parties identified during the planning process.

- Construction activities would be coordinated with the Kennedy Center in a manner that would minimize disruptions during planned events.
- The trail would be re-routed during construction of the connection bridge to maintain bicycle and pedestrian flow.
- Flagmen would be utilized during construction to allow safe passage on the trail when equipment is being used, materials being delivered, or the bridge is being installed over the trail and parkway.
- An MOT plan would be implemented to minimize impacts on RCPP motorists.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

- An MOT plan would be implemented to ensure a safe and continued flow of traffic during partial lane closures. This plan would include directional signage to inform travelers on the RCPP and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail of all construction zones, associated speed limits, lane closures, and trail detours.
- Public notices of the construction schedule would be provided to local media outlets.
- Temporary trail realignment would be used during construction to keep the trail open during construction.
- Flagmen would be utilized during construction to allow safe passage on the trail when equipment is being used, materials are being delivered, or the bridge is being installed over the trail and parkway.
- Construction vehicles would travel through the site to a staging area located on the south end of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center will obtain a SUP from the NPS to utilize the RCPP to obtain access to the staging area.

Why the Selected Alternative will not have a Significant Effect on the Human Environment

As documented in the EA, the NPS has determined that the selected alternative, Alternative C (NPS preferred alternative), can be implemented without significant adverse effects. As defined in 40 CFR §1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Impacts that may have both beneficial and adverse aspects and which on balance may be beneficial, but that may still have significant adverse impacts that require analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Visitors will experience both beneficial and adverse impacts as a result of implementing the selected alternative. Cultural resources and traffic and transportation will experience adverse impacts as a result of implementation of the selected alternative. However, no significant impacts were identified that will require analysis in an EIS. Impacts that will occur to the affected resources are summarized as follows:

Cultural Resources: The selected alternative will visually interrupt views and vistas of some of the historic properties. The selected alternative will visually interrupt the 360-degree panoramic view from the Kennedy Center's Roof Terrace. The bridge and ramp will interrupt and be a visual distraction from existing views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from the RCPP and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. The bridge and ramp will also be minimally visible from the west end of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The trail spurs and re-routing of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail will change the Network of Trails, which is a contributing element of the RCPP. Through consultation, the pedestrian/bicycle access between the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and the Expansion Project has been adjusted to minimize potential effects on historic properties, and entails

- removal of all translucent glass rails and refinement of the cable rails,
- removal of the north stairs, and
- refinement of the night lighting.

NPS and NCPC have coordinated the findings of the EA with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA through the preparation of an Assessment of Effects report. To mitigate the adverse effect, the Kennedy Center, NCPC and NPS has developed an MOA with stakeholders to further identify mitigation appropriate for the project (see attached).

Issuance of a SUP by NPS for temporary construction access will have visual adverse impacts to RCPP, however, once construction is complete, the area will be restored to its original condition.

Visitor Use and Experience: The overall, visitor experience will be enhanced because a new direct connection between the Kennedy Center, NAMA, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the Potomac River waterfront will be created. The selected alternative will provide a safer and enhanced visitor experience. These enhancements will outweigh the short-term adverse impacts that will occur to visitors during construction.

Traffic and Transportation: The selected alternative will result in short-term adverse impacts to traffic and transportation because of construction-related delays to build the pedestrian/bicycle connection. However, the selected alternative would increase long-term pedestrian and bicycle connectivity without impacting vehicular traffic on the RCPP. The bridge would eliminate the conflict between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles. These enhancements would outweigh the short-term adverse impacts that would occur to the transportation network during construction.

Degree of effect on human health or safety: The selected alternative will not adversely affect public health or safety.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, wetlands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas: No prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, ecologically critical areas, sites sacred to American Indians, or other significant ethnographic resources occur within or adjacent to the project area, and none will be affected by the actions associated with this alternative as a result.

Floodplains: The proposed project area is located within the 100-year floodplain. Issuance of a SUP by NPS for construction access to implement the selected alternative may result in non-measurable adverse impacts to floodplains due to ground disturbance and vegetation removal during construction. A Floodplain Statement of Findings (SOF) was prepared pursuant to NPS Director's Order 77-2: Floodplain Management (see Appendix B). Based upon the findings in the SOF, the selected alternative will create additional obstructions within the floodplain; however, the obstructions will not noticeably impact the water surface level during a flood event. A slight decrease in the capacity of the floodplain to store floodwaters will occur, as well as a slight decrease in infiltration. However, due to the limited capacity of the floodplain in its current condition, these alterations will not result in a measurable adverse impact. The addition of structures under the selected alternative will result in very little change to the ability of the floodplain to convey floodwaters and will not contribute to flooding. The selected alternative will not increase the risk associated with flooding for the 100-year event.

Historic or Cultural Resources: Numerous cultural resources are located within the project area or adjacent to it and have been included in the defined APE, ranging from cultural landscapes, individually listed historic structure and buildings, historic sites, and historic districts. Four cultural landscapes, three historic buildings and structures, one historic site, and four historic districts are within the official APE, all of which are enumerated in Chapter Three of the EA. The selected alternative, including the transfer of jurisdiction and certain air rights will result in adverse impacts to cultural resources within the APE. Under the selected alternative, the pedestrian/bicycle connection will interrupt existing panoramic views from the South and West Terraces of the Kennedy Center. The pedestrian/bicycle connection will have an adverse impact on certain contributing resources of the RCPP, including the roadway and the network of trails. The pedestrian/bicycle connection will also block panoramic views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from sections of the RCPP and trail.

Issuance of a SUP by the NPS for construction access for work being conducted on non-NPS administered properties will have short-term visual impacts that may temporarily impact some of the numerous cultural resources located within the project area. However, once completed, the temporary access from the RCPP will be restored to its original condition, resulting in no impacts to historic or cultural resources.

NPS and NCPC have coordinated the findings of the EA with the DC SHPO and VDHR in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA through the preparation of an Assessment of Effects report. To mitigate the adverse effect, the Kennedy Center, NCPC and NPS will develop an MOA with stakeholders to further identify mitigation appropriate for the project.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial: No highly controversial effects in terms of scientific uncertainties as a result of the selected alternative were identified during the preparation of the EA or by the public during the public comment period.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks: No highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks were identified during either preparation of the EA or through public comment.

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration: The selected alternative neither establishes a NPS precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts: Implementation of the selected alternative will have no significant cumulative impacts. As described in the EA, past, present and future actions and projects within the project area that could affect cultural resources; visitor use and experience; and traffic and transportation include the Kennedy Center Expansion Project, Monumental Core Framework Plan (2009), Extending the Legacy Plan (1997), Potomac Hill Master Plan, Georgetown Waterfront Park Improvements, Arlington Memorial Bridge Repair & Rehabilitation, and the DC Clean Rivers Project Potomac River Tunnel.

The cumulative impacts conclusions were reached for the following resources:

Cultural Resources: Construction activities during present and future projects including the Kennedy Center Expansion Project, Arlington Memorial Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation, and DC Clean Rivers Potomac River Tunnel, and Potomac Hill Master Plan, have short-term impacts to the views and vistas of cultural resources. It is anticipated that the connection project will be completed prior to construction activities for DC Water Clean Rivers Project, the Arlington Memorial Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation and the Potomac Hill Master Plan. Therefore, the selected alternative will not contribute to the short-term cumulative impacts from these projects.

Past, present, and future projects such as the Kennedy Center Expansion Project, Potomac Hill Master Plan, the Georgetown Waterfront Improvements, and the Extending the Legacy and Washington Waterfront Plans will continue to have minor to moderate impacts on cultural resources from permanent changes to individual resources as well as permanent changes to views and vistas. When the adverse incremental impact of the selected alternative is combined with the adverse impacts of other projects, an overall adverse cumulative impact will result. However, consultation with the DC SHPO will occur under each of these projects to ensure the impacts to cultural resources are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Visitor Use and Experience: Present and future projects including the Kennedy Center Expansion, the Arlington Memorial Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation, and the Potomac Hill Master Plan would result in short-term adverse impacts to traffic and transportation during construction activities and beneficial impacts to traffic and transportation once they are complete. The DC Clean Rivers Project may have adverse impacts to traffic and transportation during construction activities, but will not affect traffic once it is complete.

It is anticipated that the Kennedy Center expansion connection project would be completed prior to construction activities for the Potomac Hill Master Plan, the Arlington Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation, and the DC Water Clean Rivers Project. The connection project would be coordinated with the Kennedy Center Expansion Project so that any road and trail closures would not occur at the same time. Therefore, the selected alternative would not contribute to the short-term cumulative impacts from these projects.

Traffic and Transportation: Present and future projects including the Kennedy Center Expansion, the Arlington Memorial Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation, and the Potomac Hill Master Plan will result in short-term adverse impacts to traffic and transportation during construction activities and beneficial impacts to traffic and transportation once they are complete. The DC Clean Rivers Project may have adverse impacts to traffic and transportation during construction activities, but will not affect traffic once it is complete.

It is anticipated that the Kennedy Center bridge connection project will be completed prior to construction activities for the Potomac Hill Master Plan, the Arlington Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation, and the DC Water Clean Rivers Project. The bridge connection project will be coordinated with the Kennedy Center Expansion Project so that any closures to the road and trail will not occur at the same time. Therefore, the selected alternative will not contribute to the short-term cumulative impacts from these projects.

The selected alternative will result in long-term beneficial impacts to traffic and transportation within the project area by enhancing the Kennedy Center's facilities and by providing a direct connection for visitors between the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and the Kennedy Center. Therefore, the selected alternative will contribute to the long-term-term beneficial cumulative impacts.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources: NPS has consulted with state and federal agencies through the Section 106 process to mitigate adverse impacts to historic and cultural resources resulting from the implementation of the selected alternative. In coordination with NEPA, the Kennedy Center, NPS, and NCPC have conducted consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA, which was initiated with the DC SHPO on November 9, 2015. Additionally, the consultation with VDHR was initiated on February 24, 2016. A joint NEPA/Section 106 scoping meeting was held on September 29, 2015, during which the consulting parties were introduced to the project. The scoping meeting was followed by two additional consulting party meetings on December 10, 2015 and February 23, 2016.

Issuance of a SUP by NPS for construction access for work being conducted on non-NPS administered properties will have short-term visual impacts that may temporarily impact some of the numerous cultural resources are located within the project area. However, once completed, the temporary access from the RCPP will be restored to its original condition, resulting in no impacts to historic or cultural resources. The transfer of jurisdiction and certain air rights to the Kennedy Center will allow the selected alternative to be built. The selected alternative will result in adverse effects as previously mentioned.

NPS and NCPC have coordinated the findings of the EA with the DC SHPO and VDHR in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA through the preparation of an Assessment of Effects report. To mitigate the adverse effect, the Kennedy Center, NCPC and NPS has developed an MOA with stakeholders to further identify mitigation appropriate for the project (see attached).

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat: The selected alternative will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat.

Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law: The selected alternative violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A public scoping period was announced by the NPS and NCPC and took place from September 15 to October 15, 2015. On September 16, 2015, the NPS and NCPC distributed an email announcement

regarding the scoping period and meeting to area interested groups and individual parties identified by the project team. The Kennedy Center also issued a press release on their public website. In addition to these notices, NPS posted project information on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The advertisements, the press release, and PEPC provided a project overview and invited the public to participate in the scoping process. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input on the purpose, need and objectives of the project, major issues and potential alternatives.

On September 29, 2015, the advertised public scoping meeting was held at the Kennedy Center. A total of nine individuals signed in at the public scoping meeting. Three comments were received during the scoping period, all of which were in support of the project moving forward. Along with the purpose and need for the proposed action, the comments received during the comment period guided the development of alternatives and contributed to the selection of impact topics as identified in the EA.

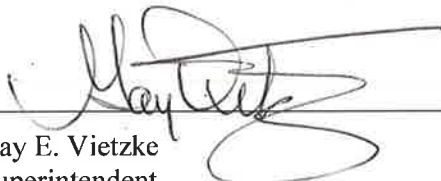
The EA was made available for public review and comment from March 23 through April 25, 2016. On March, 23 2016 NCPC distributed an email announcement regarding the comment period. The Kennedy Center also issued a press release on their public website. The EA was also placed on the NPS's PEPC website. During the public comment period, nine comments were received. All nine comments were supportive of the pedestrian/bicycle connection. Eight comments were supportive of the selected alternative and one comment was in favor of an at-grade crossing. Public comments are shown in Attachment 2.

CONCLUSION

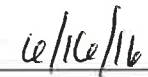
The NPS has selected Alternative C for implementation. In light of the impacts described in the EA for the project and with guidance from NPS *Management Policies 2006*, natural and cultural resources information, professional judgment, and considering agency and public comments, the impacts that will result from the selected alternative will not impair any Park resources and values (see attached Impairment Determination). The selected alternative does not constitute an action that normally requires preparation of an EIS. The selected alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment. There are no significant impacts to visitor use and experience, public safety, park management and operations, soils, visual resources, and cultural resources. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the selected alternative will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law. The only federal action taking place by the NPS is the issuance of SUPs for construction access to and from the RCPP and for a transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of NPS administered property and certain air rights to the Kennedy Center. The selected alternative minimally affects NPS administered property.

Based on the foregoing, an EIS is not required for this action and will not be prepared. This is a finding of no significant impact.

Recommended:




Gay E. Vietzke
Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks




Date

Approved:



Robert A. Vogel
Regional Director
National Capital Region



Date

ATTACHMENT 1: NON – IMPAIRMENT DETERMINATION

The NPS has determined that implementation of the selected alternative will not result in impairment of park resources and values of the National Mall and Memorial Parks and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. Pursuant to the NPS Guidance for Non-Impairment Determinations and the NPS NEPA Process (October 31, 2011), a non-impairment determination for the selected alternative is included here as an appendix to the Finding of No Significant Impact.

The prohibition against impairment originates in the NPS Organic Act, which directs that the NPS shall:

promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

According to *NPS Management Policies 2006*, an action constitutes an impairment when its impact “will harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise will be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values” (sec. 1.4.5). To determine impairment, the NPS must evaluate “the particular resources and values that will be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts” (sec. 1.4.5).

National Park System units vary based on their enabling legislation, natural and cultural resources present, and park missions. Likewise, the activities appropriate for each unit and for areas in each unit also vary. For example, an action appropriate in one unit could impair resources in another unit. The Washington Monument and the National Mall and Memorial Parks include much of the monumental core of Washington, D.C. In 1933-1934, federal parkland in the District of Columbia was consolidated under the management of the NPS. In the years that followed, a number of major memorials were added to the area that will come to be known as the National Mall including the Washington Monument. Today, the Washington Monument, along with the other memorials and areas of the monument core including the National Mall are managed by the NPS.

As stated in the *NPS Management Policies 2006* (sec. 1.4.5), an impact on any park resource or value may constitute an impairment, but an impact will be more likely to constitute an impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park; or
- key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or
- identified in the park’s general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents as being of significance

The resource impact topic carried forward and analyzed for the NPS selected alternative in the EA, and for which an impairment determination is contained in this appendix is historic/visual resources. The following describes this resource or value for which impairment is assessed and the reasons why impairment will not occur.

Historic /Visual Resources – The selected alternative will visually interrupt views and vistas of some of the historic properties. The selected alternative will visually interrupt the 360-degree panoramic view from the Kennedy Center’s Roof Terrace. The bridge and ramp will interrupt and be a visual distraction from existing views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from the RCPP and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. The bridge and ramp will also be minimally visible from the west end of the Arlington

Memorial Bridge. The trail spurs and re-routing of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail will change the Network of Trails, which is a contributing element of the RCPP.

NPS and NCPC have coordinated the findings of the EA with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA through the preparation of an Assessment of Effects report. To mitigate the adverse effect, the Kennedy Center, NCPC and NPS has developed an MOA with stakeholders to further identify mitigation appropriate for the project (see attached).

Summary

The NPS has determined that the implementation of the NPS selected alternative will not constitute an impairment of the resources or values of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks. As described above, adverse impacts anticipated as a result of implementing the selected alternative on a resource or value whose conservation is necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or identified as significant in relevant NPS planning documents, will not constitute impairment. This conclusion is based on consideration of the park's purpose and significance, a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EA, the comments provided by the public and others, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction of the NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

ATTACHMENT 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED

APPENDIX A: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
AND
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
REGARDING
THE KENNEDY CENTER EXPANSION CONNECTION PROJECT
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

WHEREAS, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), in accordance with John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Action of 2012 (P.L. 112-131), has been authorized to build an expansion to the Edward Durell Stone building that includes a connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service (NPS), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO), and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center) entered into an Amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (Appendix A) on January 30, 2015 pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to address adverse effects that would result from the Kennedy Center Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, the Amended MOA stipulated the NCPC, the NPS and the Kennedy Center will conduct separate consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to address the potential connection to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Center is proposing a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project would provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and improve access and create a public waterfront link to and from the Kennedy Center and the new expansion area on the south, the Potomac River waterfront, the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA), and the surrounding vicinity; and

WHEREAS, after detailed study of various alternatives and consideration of efforts to avoid and minimize certain impacts of the proposed Expansion Connection Project, the Kennedy Center

Memorandum of Agreement
Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

has defined the Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs as the Preferred Option (Alternative C in the Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project Environmental Assessment and reflected in the Expansion Connection Project plans dated May 2016 attached hereto as Appendix A); and

WHEREAS, the Expansion Connection Project would include:

- the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to connect the Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail; and,
- the construction of trail spurs from the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail to connect the pedestrian/bicycle connection with the trail; and

WHEREAS, the Project Area of the Expansion Connection Project would be located on the west side of the Expansion Project area and would span the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to connect with the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail as shown in Appendix B; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the Project Area falls within the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, which is under the jurisdiction of the NAMA, a unit of the NPS; and

WHEREAS, permitting or jurisdictional transfers conducted by NPS and approval of projects by the NCPC constitute federal Undertakings subject to Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. § 306108; formerly 16 U.S.C. § 470f) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800); and

WHEREAS, the NPS Undertaking is the transfer of jurisdiction to the Kennedy Center of a portion of NPS administered property and certain air rights and the issuance of construction and right-of-way permits; and

WHEREAS, the NCPC Undertaking is the approval of the design of the Expansion Connection Project under its authorities specified in the National Capital Planning Act and the approval of the transfer of jurisdiction from NPS to the Kennedy Center; and

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC are entering into the Agreement to fulfill their responsibilities under Section 106 pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2); and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Center, as a trust instrumentality of the United States is authorized to design and construct the Expansion Project with jurisdiction over the land on which the Expansion Project will be partially constructed, has participated as a Consulting Party in the process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c)(4); and

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WHEREAS, the Kennedy Center participated in consultation, has responsibilities for implementing stipulations under this Agreement, and, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(c)(2), has been invited to be a Signatory to this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC initiated Section 106 consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO) by letter dated November 9, 2015 and with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VASHPO) by letter dated February 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC notified the public and conducted a combined NEPA Scoping and Section 106 consultation meeting on September 29, 2015, to inform the public of the Expansion Connection Project design and to solicit verbal and written comments, followed by Section 106 consultation meetings held on December 10, 2015, and February 23, 2016, to provide additional opportunities for the Consulting Parties to comment on historic preservation concerns regarding the Expansion Connection Project; and

WHEREAS, the NPS, NCPC, DCSHPO, and the VASHPO, together with the Kennedy Center and the Consulting Parties, defined the Undertakings' area of potential effects to include the parcels, buildings, cultural landscapes, and view corridors surrounding the Project Area and to encompass the geographic areas within which the Undertakings may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties as described in Appendix D; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of its significance as the sole national memorial to President John F. Kennedy within the National Capital and its environs and its significance as an important example of the work of Edward Durell Stone, a nationally recognized architect of the Modern Movement, the Kennedy Center was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the DCSHPO on February 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, comprised of approximately 180 acres in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., and significant in the areas of community planning and development, engineering, recreation, and landscape architecture, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 4, 2005, under the multiple property listing "Parkways of the National Capital Region, 1913-1965;" and

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(a)(4), have invited individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the Undertakings and the public to participate as Consulting Parties in the Section 106 process, with the full list of invited Consulting Parties compiled in Appendix E; and

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Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii), invited the Catawba Indian Nation and the Pamunkey Tribe by letter dated April 22, 2016, to participate in Section 106 consultation on the Expansion Connection Project; and

WHEREAS, the NPS and NCPC have consulted with the DCSHPO and the VASHPO as well as the Consulting Parties and determined that the Undertakings will have adverse effects on the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (as described in the Summary of Adverse Effects Determination in Appendix F); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1), the NPS and NCPC have notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of the adverse effects determination and provided the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e), and the ACHP has chosen not to participate in consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1)(iv); and

WHEREAS, through the process of consultation and design analysis, the pedestrian/bicycle access between the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and the Expansion Project has been adjusted to minimize potential effects on historic properties, and these adjustments are reflected in the Expansion Connection Project plans dated May 2016 and attached in Appendix B, and entail

- removal of all translucent glass rails and refinement of the cable rails,
- removal of the north stairs, and
- refinement of the night lighting; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2016 the Kennedy Center presented design drawings to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the CFA recommended modification to the trail spurs to provide more room; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2016, the KCPA will present for Final approval, in meetings before the public, to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) for the Expansion Connection Project; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2016, the NCPC provided comments on the concept plans for the Expansion Connection Project; and

WHEREAS, NCPC approved the Kennedy Center's preferred alternative and NCPC recommended the character of the Expansion Connection be further evaluated from an urban design and historic preservation perspective as it relates to both the Kennedy Center expansion as well as the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and requested Kennedy Center provide a circulation map, renderings, and detailed plans that delineate the various elements of the

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connection bridge and detailed sections of the overlooks on the western side of the bridge and the middle of the ramp at the time of preliminary review; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2016, the NPS and NCPC released for public review and comment the Kennedy Center Expansion Project Environmental Assessment pursuant to NEPA, which analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Expansion Connection Project; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Center submitted preliminary and final design documentation (reflected in the plans dated May 2016 and attached as Appendix B) to NCPC for review on July 7, 2016, and

NOW, THEREFORE, the NPS, NCPC, Kennedy Center, DCSHPO, and VA SHPO agree that the Undertakings and the Expansion Project shall be carried out in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effects of the Undertakings on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

The NPS, NCPC, and Kennedy Center shall work together to ensure that the following measures are carried out:

MITIGATION

1. Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Potomac Waterfront Section, Cultural Landscape Report. Prior to the onset of construction of the Connection Bridge, the Kennedy Center shall provide funding not to exceed \$45,000 to NPS to complete a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the segment of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway from the terminus of Constitution Avenue (the Belvedere) to Virginia Avenue, including the parkway lands managed by NPS and the Kennedy Center frontage to the Potomac River shoreline and encompassing the portion of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway within the Project Area. The CLR will follow NPS standards for documentation as defined in the NPS publication *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (1998) and include, at a minimum, the following components: a.) site history, including a historical narrative and annotated chronology, b.) existing conditions documenting landscape characteristics as they currently exist, c.) analysis and evaluation of the landscape characteristics, including a list of contributing and noncontributing features, d.) treatment guidelines for parkway features, and e.) bibliography. The NPS shall complete the CLR documentation within 1-1/2 years following the completion of construction of the Expansion Connection Bridge Project, or sooner.

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ADMINISTRATION

1. Updates. The NPS and NCPC will update the Signatories, the Consulting Parties, and the public on the actions taken to implement the terms of this Agreement. The Kennedy Center will work with the NPS and NCPC and provide information as requested so that the NPS and NCPC can provide updates to the Signatories and Consulting Parties. The update will take the form of a Report submitted on an annual basis from the effective date of the execution of this Agreement until its completion, at a minimum. The annual Reports shall include information regarding activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement and information on the overall status of the Expansion Connection Project.
2. Duration. This Agreement will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of execution by the last Signatory. If the Expansion Connection project has not been fully constructed after 5 years from the date of execution, the Signatories shall reconsider the terms of this Agreement.
3. Dispute Resolution. Should any Signatory object in writing to NPS or NCPC regarding any action carried out in accordance with this Agreement, the Signatories shall consult to resolve the objection. Between NPS and NCPC, the agency responsible for carrying out the action that is the subject of the objection has the lead in the dispute resolution unless otherwise decided between the two. In any event, both may participate. Should the Signatories be unable to resolve the disagreement, NPS and/or NCPC shall forward its background information on the dispute as well as NPS's and/or NCPC's proposed resolution of the dispute to the ACHP. Within 45 days after receipt of all pertinent documentation, the ACHP shall provide NPS and NCPC with written recommendations, which NPS and NCPC shall take into account in reaching a final decision regarding the dispute, or notify NPS and NCPC that it shall comment pursuant to 36 CFR 800.7(c) and then proceed to comment. NPS and NCPC shall take the ACHP comments into account, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.7(c)(4). Any ACHP recommendation or comment shall be understood to pertain only to the subject matter of the dispute; NPS's and NCPC's responsibility to carry out all actions under this Agreement that are not subjects of the dispute shall remain unchanged.
4. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended when an Amendment is agreed to in writing by all Signatories. The Amendment will be effective on the date of the last signature.
5. Termination. If any Signatory to this Agreement determines that the terms of the Agreement cannot be or are not being carried out, that party shall so notify the other

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Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

Signatories in writing and consult with them to seek resolution or Amendment of the Agreement. If within 60 days a resolution or Amendment cannot be reached, any Signatory may terminate the Agreement upon written notification to the other Signatories. Once the Agreement is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the Undertakings, NPS and NCPC must either execute a new Agreement or request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP per 36 CFR 800.7. They are not required to select the same option. NPS and NCPC will each notify the Signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

6. Anti-Deficiency Act. The obligations of federal agencies under this Agreement are pursuant to 31 USC 1341(a)(1), therefore nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as binding the United States to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress for this purpose, or to involve the United States in any contract or obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations.
7. Electronic Copies. Within 1 week of the last signature on this Agreement, the NCPC shall provide each Signatory and Concurring Party with one legible, color, electronic copy of this fully-executed Agreement and all of its attachments. If the electronic copy is too large to send by email, the NCPC shall provide each Signatory and Concurring Party with a copy of this Agreement on a compact disc.

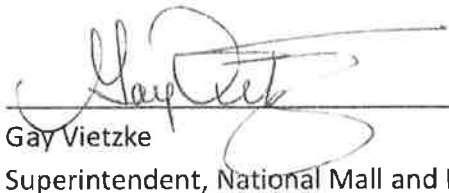
Execution of this Agreement by the NPS, NCPC, DCSHPO, VA SHPO and Kennedy Center and the implementation of its terms evidence that NPS and NCPC have taken into account the effect of these Undertakings on historic properties and afforded the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment, and thereby satisfied their Section 106 responsibilities.

SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON SEPARATE PAGES

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Amended Memorandum of Agreement
- Appendix B: May 2016 Design
- Appendix C: Project Area
- Appendix D: Area of Potential Effects
- Appendix E: List of Consulting Parties
- Appendix F: Summary of Adverse Effects Determination

SIGNATORY PAGE



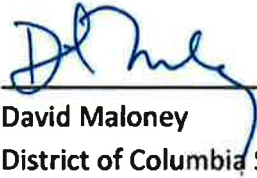
Gay Vietzke

12/16/14

Date

Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service

SIGNATORY PAGE



David Maloney
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer

6/16/2016
Date

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SIGNATORY PAGE



Deborah F. Rutter

President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

22 June 2014

Date

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SIGNATORY PAGE



6/15/16

Marcel Acosta

Date

Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission

SIGNATORY PAGE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Julie V. Langan", is written over a horizontal line.

Julie V. Langan

Director, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

A handwritten date "6/17/16" in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date

Appendix A: Amended Memorandum of Agreement

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Appendix B: May 2016 Design Plan



Figure 1: Site plan, May 2016 Design

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Figure 2: Oblique view, May 2016 Design.

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Figure 3: View looking north at trail spur adjacent to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway,
May 2016 Design

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Figure 4: View looking south along the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, May 2016 Design

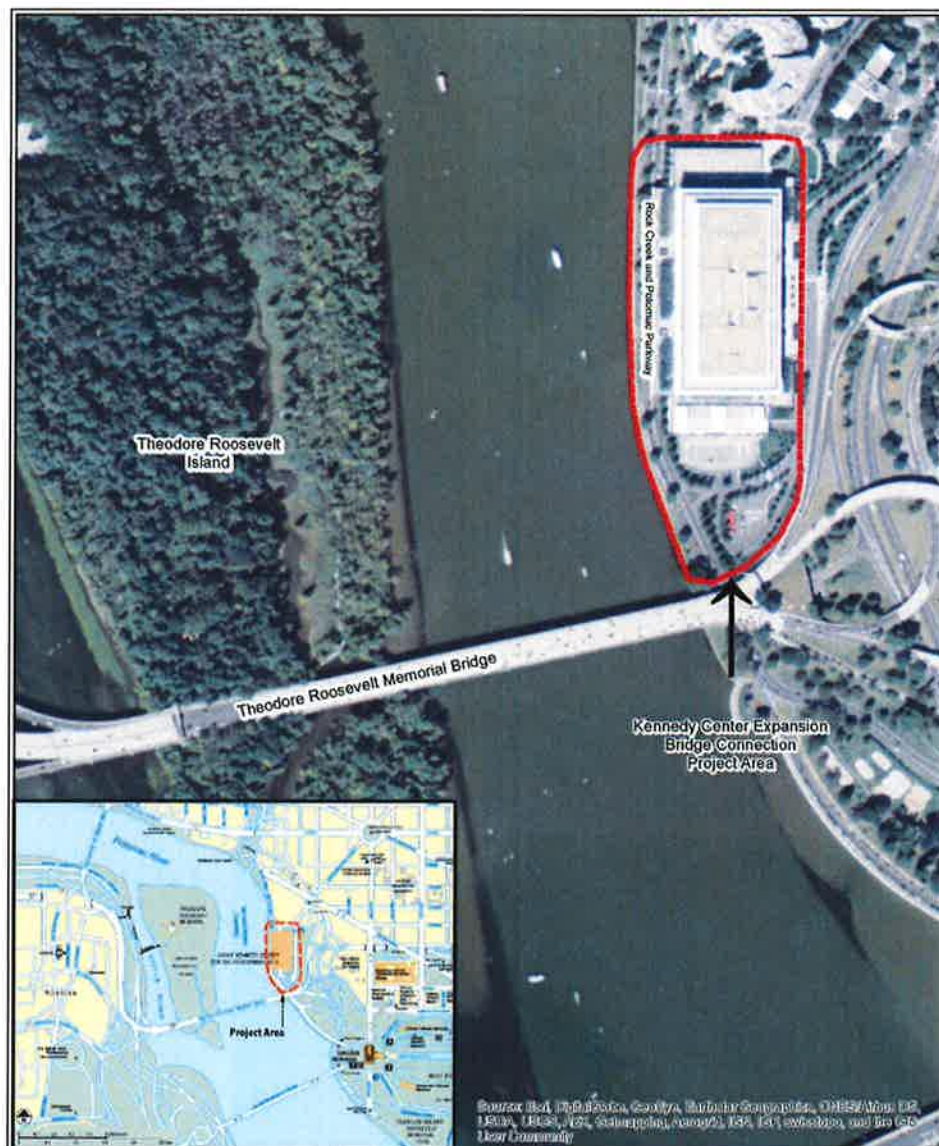
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Figure 5: View looking west from the Connection Bridge, May 2016 Design

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Appendix -C: Project Area



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Appendix D: Area of Potential Effects



Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Buildings

1 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

2 Watergate Complex

Structures

3 Arlington Memorial Bridge and Related Features

Districts

4 George Washington Memorial Parkway

5 Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

East and West Potomac Parks Historic District

Georgetown Historic District

Arlington National Cemetery Historic District

Cultural Landscapes

Lady Bird Johnson Park

Lincoln Memorial Grounds

Memorial Avenue Corridor

Theodore Roosevelt Island

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Appendix E: List of Consulting Parties

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

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Ms. Rebecca Coder
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Ms. Florence Harmon
Commissioner, 2A06
Vice Chairperson
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Agencies and Neighborhood/Interest Groups

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Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

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Memorandum of Agreement
Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

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Memorandum of Agreement
Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

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Memorandum of Agreement
Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

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Appendix F: Summary of Adverse Effects Determination

	No Action Alternative	At-Grade Crossing Access Alternative	Bridge Access with Ramp and Stair Alternative	Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative	River Terrace Access Alternative
Resource					
Arlington Memorial Bridge and Related Structures	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
Arlington National Cemetery Historic District	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
East and West Potomac Parks Historic District	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No effect
George Washington Memorial Parkway	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
Georgetown Historic District	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	<p><i>Adverse Effect</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Views from the River Terrace would be interrupted - River Terrace perimeter wall and River Terrace footprint would be altered -Cantilevered quality of the River Terrace and overall horizontality of the building's original design would be diminished

Memorandum of Agreement
Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project

	No Action Alternative	At-Grade Crossing Access Alternative	Bridge Access with Ramp and Stair Alternative	Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative	River Terrace Access Alternative
Resource					
Lady Bird Johnson Park	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
Lincoln Memorial grounds	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No effect
Memorial Avenue corridor	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway	No effect	No adverse effect	Adverse Effect - Views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from sections of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Roadway and Trail would be interrupted - Rerouting a section of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and adding three trail spurs would impact the Network of Trails	Adverse Effect - Views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from sections of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Roadway and Trail would be interrupted - Bridge and stair structures would increase tunnel effect along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway - Plaza at the base of the stair and elevator structures would impact the Network of Trails	Adverse Effect - Views of the Potomac River and Theodore Roosevelt Island from sections of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Roadway and Trail would be interrupted - Bridge and stair structures would increase tunnel effect along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway - Plaza at the base of the stair and elevator structures would impact the Network of Trails
Theodore Roosevelt Island	No effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect	No adverse effect
Watergate	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No adverse effect

APPENDIX B: FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

APPENDIX B: FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

APPENDIX X: STATEMENT OF FINDINGS
FOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988 "FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT"
AND
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13690 "ESTABLISHING A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK
MANAGEMENT STANDARD AND A PROCESS FOR FURTHER
SOLICITING AND CONSIDERING STAKEHOLDER INPUT"

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
EXPANSION CONNECTION PROJECT
National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, DC

February 24, 2016

RECOMMENDED:


Gay Vietzke
Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks


5/20/16
Date

CONCURRED:


Chief, Water Resources Division

3/1/2016
Date

APPROVED:


Robert Vogel
Regional Director, National Capital Region

4/17/16
Date

Introduction

Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and the newly issued Executive Order 13690 "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input" require the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and other Federal agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of their actions to floodplains. The evaluation is intended to reduce the risk of flood damage to the park resources, preserve floodplain values, and minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare. This Statement of Findings (SOF) has been prepared according to National Park Service Procedural Manual 77-2 to comply with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 13690.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), is proposing a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center expansion and the Rock Creek Paved Recreational Trail. The NCPC and the NPS are acting as co-lead agencies in cooperation with the Kennedy Center for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Kennedy Center is a Congressionally-designated national showcase for the performing arts and a living memorial to President Kennedy. To service its existing and future programming, the Kennedy Center is currently expanding its facilities through the construction of a new building featuring three land-based pavilions located south of the existing Edward Durell Stone building on a site that was formerly used for parking. The Kennedy Center, NCPC and the NPS completed an EA for the expansion in October 2014. NCPC approved the final design in July 2015 and the project was approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in September 2015. Construction on the expansion began in the Fall of 2015. Since final approval of the expansion, the Kennedy Center has been developing concept level designs for a connection between the new expansion occurring at the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. These concepts form the basis for the alternatives studied for the Connection Project.

Project Description

The Kennedy Center is proposing a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center expansion and the Rock Creek Paved Recreational Trail. The proposed expansion will include new classrooms, rehearsal rooms, event spaces and offices in a dedicated area.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Kennedy Center and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and to improve access and create a public waterfront link to and from the Kennedy Center from the new expansion area on the south, the Potomac River waterfront, NAMA, and the surrounding vicinity.

The project is needed because there is no direct access to and from the Kennedy Center to the east, or southeastward to Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, NAMA, and the Potomac River. The only pedestrian/bicycle access from the Potomac riverfront to the Kennedy Center is provided by a series of crosswalks across F Street NW and the RCPP, approximately 0.25 miles north of the south parking garage. This lack of a direct and convenient path not only limits visitors' access to both NPS and Kennedy Center amenities, but also creates a disconnect between the Kennedy Center, which is the United States' living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, and those other presidential memorials found within the National Mall. These include: the Washington Monument; Thomas Jefferson Memorial; Lincoln Memorial; and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. In addition, Theodore Roosevelt Island, which is also the Presidential Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt and administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, is located directly across from the Kennedy Center on the western edge of the Potomac River. Theodore Roosevelt Island is accessible via the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge (I-66). Creating a more direct and convenient link would benefit visitors to the Kennedy Center, NAMA, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the

Potomac River waterfront by providing a convenient and logical pedestrian/bicycle connection and expanded interpretation opportunities of the area's presidential memorials.

Site Description

The Kennedy Center is located at 2700 F Street NW in Washington, DC at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue NW and the RCP. The Kennedy Center is bounded to the north by F Street NW and to the south by the former above-grade parking area, which serves as a buffer between the Kennedy Center, the Potomac Expressway and Interstate 66 (Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge). The project area is show on Figure 1.



Figure 1: Project Area Map

The project area is defined as the area between the existing Edward Durell Stone building, Interstate 66/U.S. Route 50, Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and F Street NW. The existing site layout and the existing conditions are shown in Figure 2.

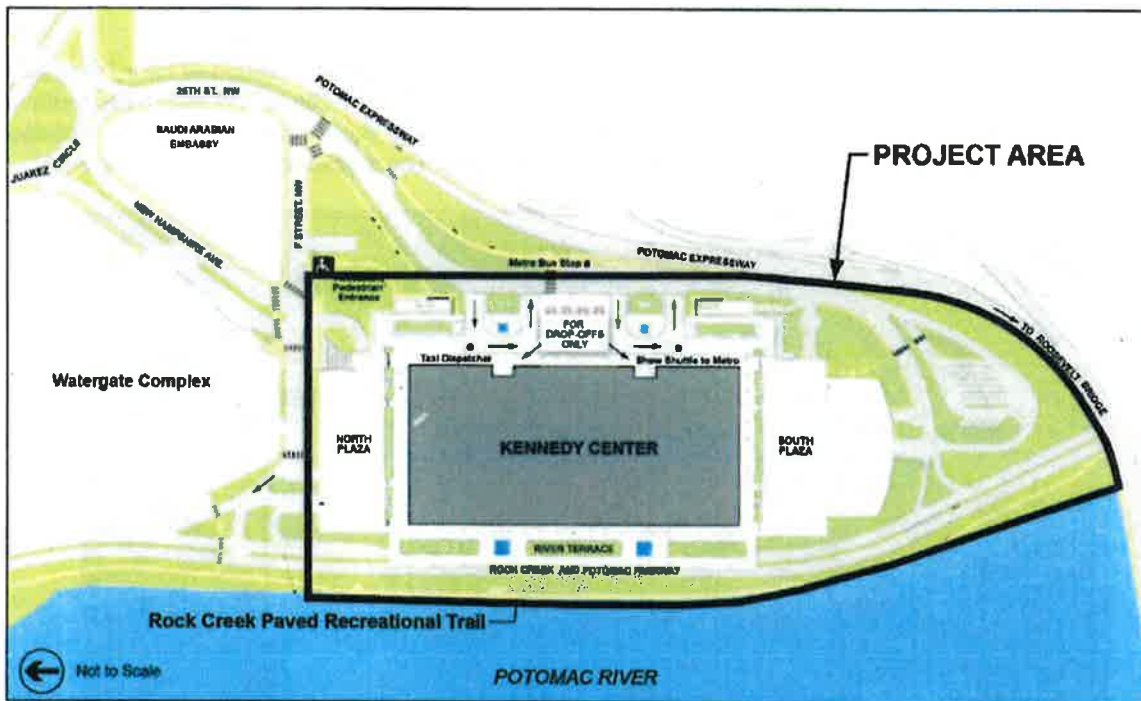


Figure 2: Existing Site Layout

General Floodplain Characteristics

Floodplain Description

The Kennedy Center south plaza area, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail are located within the 100-year floodplain of the Potomac River as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel Number 1100010018C, dated September 27, 2010 (Figure 3). According to the FIRM Panel, the 100-year flood elevation of the Potomac River adjacent to the Kennedy Center is 15 feet above mean sea level (msl). As a reference, the top of the seawall is at approximate elevation 8.4 feet msl, and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway is at approximate elevation 12 feet msl. The Kennedy Center building itself is located above the 100-year flood elevation, but parts of the project area are located within the 100-year floodplain.

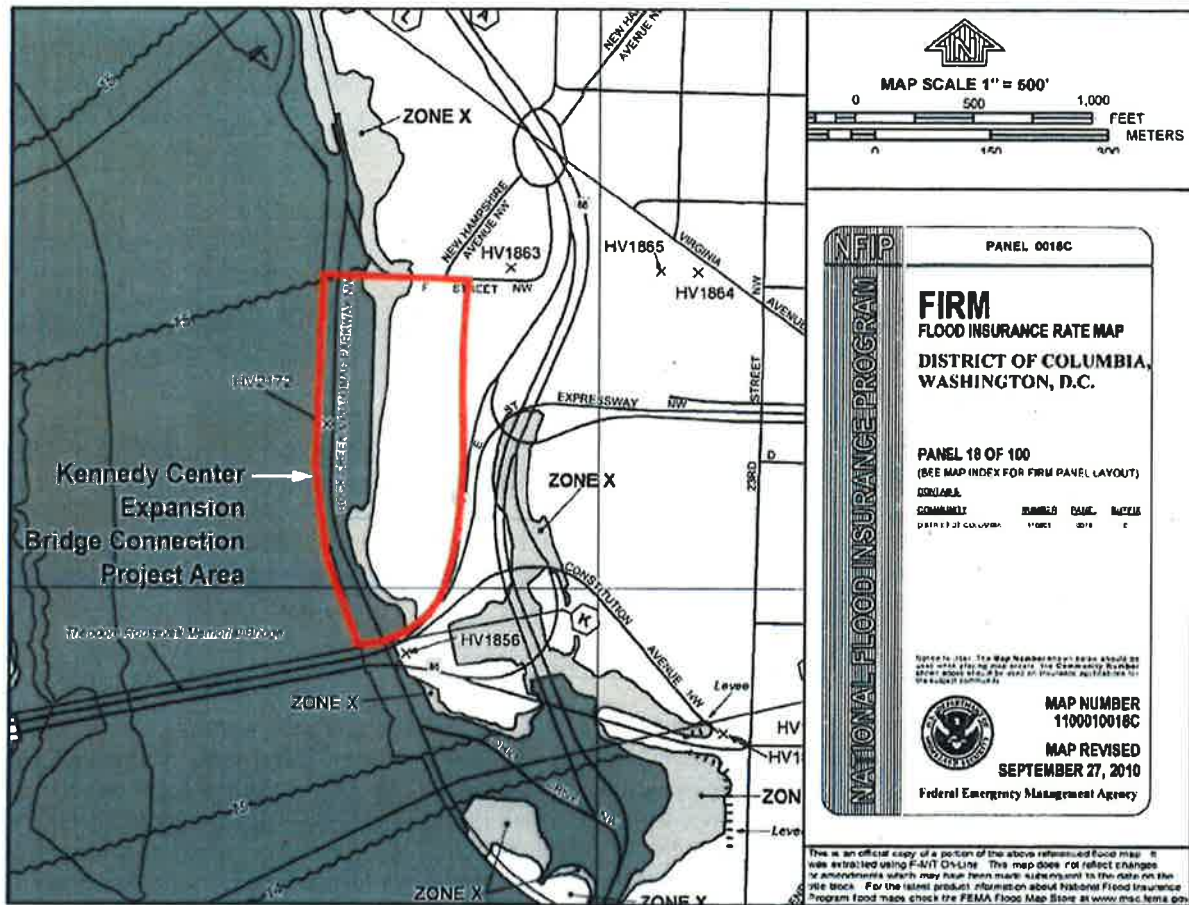


Figure 3: Floodplain Map

Source: FEMA, Flood Insurance Rate Map, District of Columbia, Washington, DC, 2010.

The functional value of the project area floodplain is low to marginal in that the area has already been developed with the Potomac River seawall, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the Kennedy Center. Due to these features, many natural functions of the floodplain are not available. These functions include providing flood conveyance, providing habitat, reducing excessive erosion, trapping sediments, and removing pollutants from waters. Currently, the main floodplain function in the project area is to provide flood storage capacity in the south plaza area, and scenic beauty and recreational opportunity to Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail users and Kennedy Center visitors.

The project area is separated from the Potomac River by the existing seawall. The seawall is at approximate elevation 8.4 feet msl. During a 100-year flood event, floodwaters breach the seawall, and when floodwaters continue to rise, eventually flow over the Parkway and into the south plaza area. The parking garage and south parking lot experience high flows from River flooding and storm surges during the 100-year flood event.

Justification of Use of Floodplain

The Kennedy Center connection area, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail are located entirely within the floodplain of the Potomac River at the project site. An EA for the Kennedy Center Expansion Project was completed by the Kennedy Center, NCPC, and the NPS in October 2014. The selected alternative, which would include the construction of three land-based pavilions, would expand the Kennedy Center to the south. The area for the expansion is located within the 100-year floodplain.

It was determined that there were no practicable alternatives to locating the expansion of the Kennedy Center outside of the 100-year floodplain. Locating the proposed pedestrian/bicycle connection outside of the 100-year floodplain would not be possible because any connection outside the floodplain would not connect the Kennedy Center expansion with the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, both of which are located within the floodplain.

Alternatives

Alternative A – No Action

No action does not imply or direct discontinuing the current action or removing existing uses, development, or facilities. The No Action Alternative provides a basis for comparing the management direction and environmental consequences of the other alternatives.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Kennedy Center Connection Project would not be implemented. This alternative would include the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Kennedy Center, including construction of the planned and NCPC-approved Kennedy Center expansion project, which includes three land-based pavilions located south of the existing facility. This alternative also includes the continuation of the existing conditions, operations, and maintenance of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail.

Alternative B – Three Land Based Pavilions

Alternative B (Figure 4) would provide an at-grade street crossing of RCPP from the Kennedy Center to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail (pursuant to Public Law 107-224) that would traverse the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP. A crosswalk would be provided that would allow pedestrians and bicycles to cross the RCPP safely. Under this alternative, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would remain in its current location, and no trees would be removed or relocated. Two trail spurs would be added to connect the at-grade crossing with the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the crossing. Because the slope of the land between the RCPP and the Kennedy Center expansion area is too steep and too narrow to accommodate an accessible ramp on the east side of the RCPP, bicyclists would be required to go through the Kennedy Center parking garage to make the connection to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. Bicyclists would enter the parking garage along the east side of the Kennedy Center either from the existing pedestrian/bicycle route that parallels 25th Street NW or from the expansion area. Once entering the garage, bicyclists would continue through the garage to connect with the at-grade crossing at the RCPP. Under this alternative there would be no dedicated bicycle route through the garage due to space limitations. Appropriate signage would be used to inform motorists of the shared use of the garage with bicyclists. The portion of the parking garage that would be utilized by bicyclists would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pedestrians would be able to use the elevator in the River Pavilion during performances to access the at-grade crossing. At other times pedestrians would utilize the parking garage to gain access to the at-grade connection.

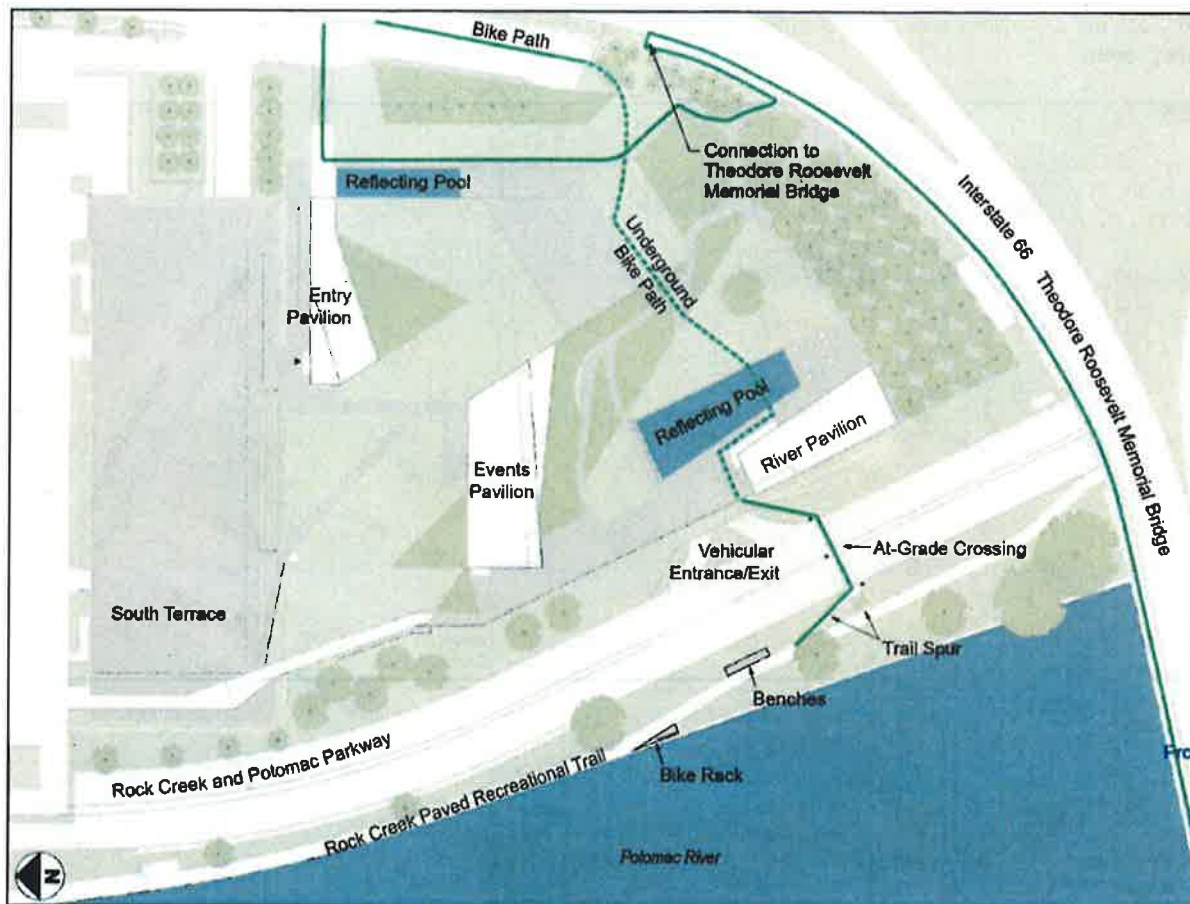


Figure 4: Alternative B: At-Grade Crossing

Alternative C – Two Land Based Pavilions & One River Pavilion

The Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs Alternative (Figure 5) proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail via a bridge that would span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and would be accessed from the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail by both a ramp and stairs. The connection would be a steel structure, and the bridge component would measure approximately 11-feet wide and be ADA-compliant for use by pedestrians, including persons with disabilities, and also by bicyclists. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage on the bridge and ramps, which would include dismounting and walking bicycles on the bridge and ramp. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough for the stairs that would allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would be rerouted and three trail spurs would be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the landing of the north stair. The trail spurs would provide a transition area where the stairs and ramp meet to provide sufficient space to minimize user conflicts. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree would be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree would be planted near the location of the original.

Pathways are currently under construction for the Kennedy Center Expansion that would connect the Kennedy Center to the I-66/Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge path on the east side of the Kennedy Center and the proposed bridge on the west side of the Kennedy Center. Signage may be incorporated to define the route

through the expansion area. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage while pedestrians are present.

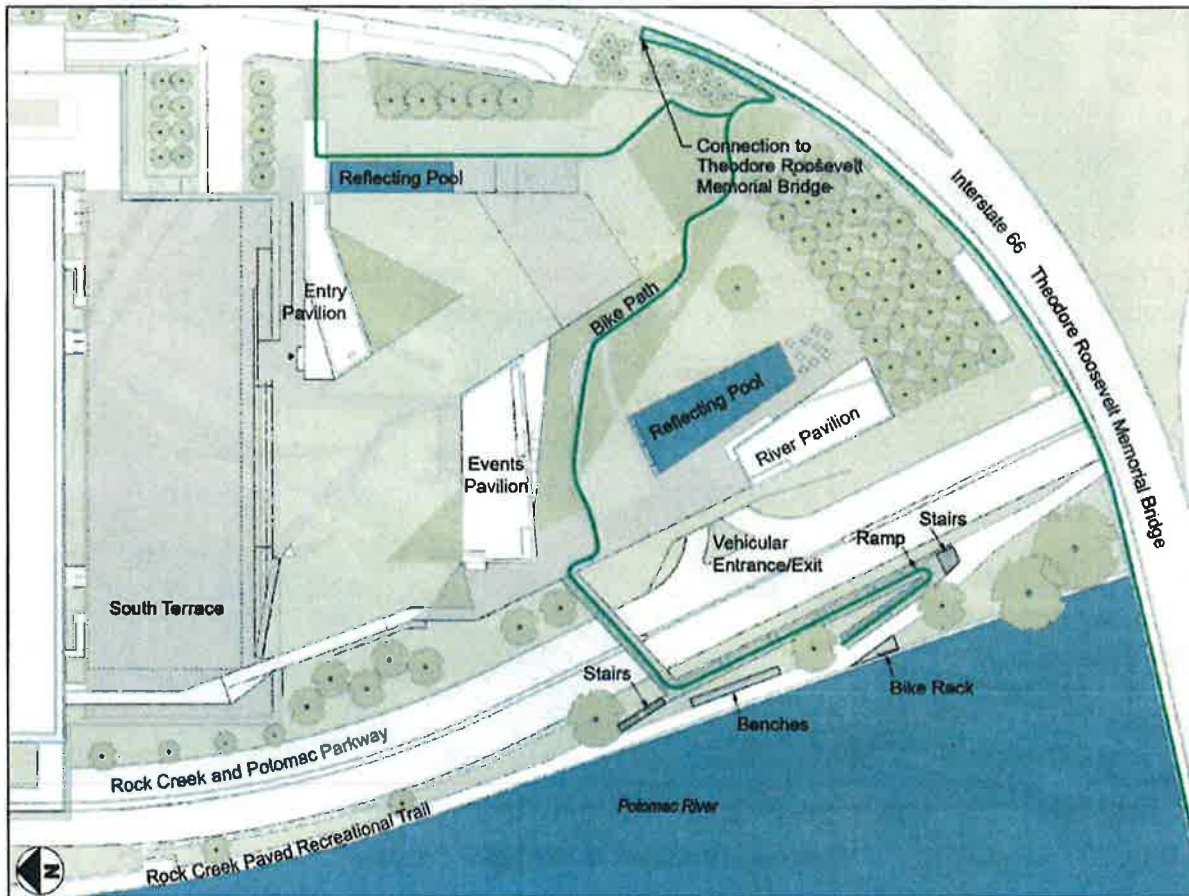


Figure 5: Alternative C - Bridge Access with Ramp and Stairs

Alternative D – Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator

The Bridge Access with Ramp and Elevator Alternative (Figure 6) proposes to connect the Kennedy Center Expansion Project and the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail via a bridge that would span the northbound and southbound lanes of the RCPP and would be accessed from the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail by both a ramp and an elevator. The connection would be a steel structure, and the bridge component would measure approximately 11-feet wide and be ADA-compliant for use by pedestrians, including persons with disabilities, and also by bicyclists. Under this alternative, a section of the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail would be rerouted and three trail spurs would be added to connect the trail with the landing of the stair at the south end of the ramp, the ramp landing, and the elevator threshold. The trail spurs would provide a transition area where the stairs and ramp meet to provide sufficient space to minimize user conflicts. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage on the bridge and ramps, which would include dismounting and walking bicycles on the bridge and ramp. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough for the stairs that would allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Small-scale features, including a bench and a bicycle rack, would be added along the trail in the vicinity of the bridge. One tree would be removed for the construction of the ramp, and a replacement tree would be planted near the location of the original.

Pathways are currently under construction for the Kennedy Center Expansion that would connect the Kennedy Center to the I-66/Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge path on the east side of the Kennedy Center and the proposed bridge on the west side of the Kennedy Center. Signage may be incorporated to define the route through the expansion area. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage while pedestrians are present.

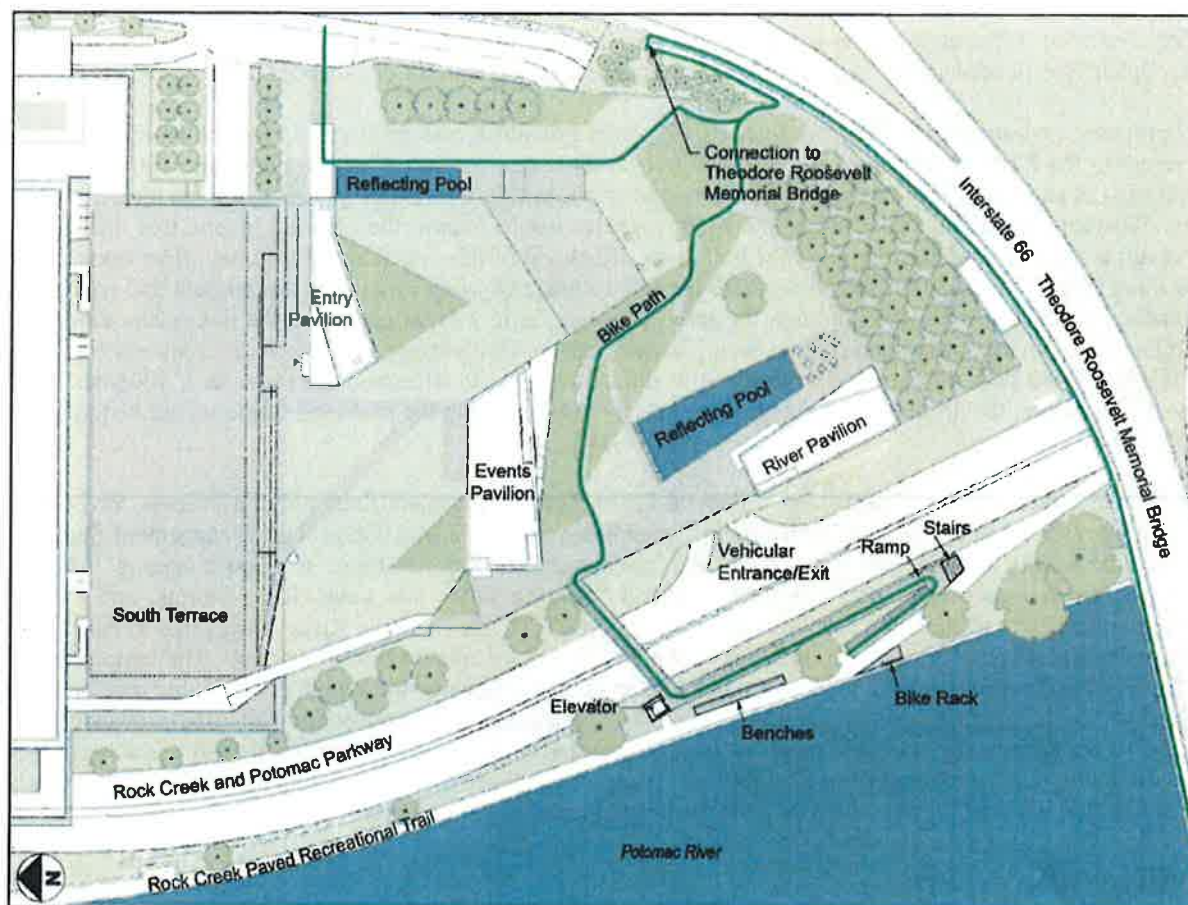


Figure 6: Alternative D - Bridge Access with Elevation and Ramp

Alternative E – River Terrace Access Alternative

Alternative E includes a pair of curved staircases with integrated elevators that would provide pedestrian and bicycle access from the Kennedy Center to the Potomac riverfront (Figure 7). Portions of the existing terrace wall and planter structure would be removed and 20-foot wide platforms would be constructed to extend approximately 16 feet over the southbound lanes of the RCPP. Each platform would be centered on the existing terrace fountains and the entrances to the Hall of Nations and the Hall of States and connect to a staircase and hydraulic elevator. At the bottom of the stairs and elevator structures, a landscaped plaza of approximately 13,100 square feet would be constructed of asphalt, concrete, or pavers. The plaza would provide unimpeded accessibility to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail and the Potomac riverfront. In order to alert Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail users to the plaza approach, the segment of trail in front of the Kennedy Center would be resurfaced with a material unique from the surrounding trail and the new plaza. Alternative E would not provide dedicated bicycle access through the Kennedy Center, but a pedestrian/bicycle path would be created through the expansion area on the south end of the Kennedy Center and would connect with the terrace. The Kennedy Center would develop policies for bicycle usage on the terrace, which would

include dismounting and walking bicycles across the terrace. The Kennedy Center is also considering the installation of a bicycle trough that would allow bicyclists to walk their bicycles up and down the stairs. Bicyclists could also utilize the proposed elevator in order to access the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail.

Site Specific Flood Risk

The Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) includes development that would be located in the 100-year floodplain (the floodplain that has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year).

A proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge over RCPP would provide access from the Kennedy Center Expansion Project to the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail. This bridge would be located above the 100-year flood elevation at an elevation of 29 feet msl; however, up to six bridge and ramp supports would be located within the 100-year floodplain. The bridge and ramp supports would require the clearing of one tree and would convert a small area of existing grass for trail spurs. Removal of this vegetation would not affect flood flows or flood levels. The supports would decrease the flood storage capacity by a negligible amount and would not impede the flow of flood water through the area. However, in its current condition, the floodplain within the project area provides little flood storage, as it is already covered with impervious areas. The supports would be subject to flood flow during flood events, but would be designed to withstand the forces of a 100-year flood event. Therefore, the decrease in flood storage capacity resulting from the proposed action would be too small to detect.

Executive Order 13690: "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input," establishes a new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard which takes into account climate change and gives agencies the flexibility to choose among different approaches to assess risk. Per the report entitled "Surging Seas: Sea Level Rise, Storms, and Global Warming's Threat to the US Coast" published in March 2012, the Potomac River is expected to rise by 13 inches by the year 2050 project an increase to the 100-year flood elevation to 16.08 feet. The bottom of the proposed bridge would be built to 29 feet mean sea level (msl). Because the design of the bridge uses both the freeboard value approach and a climate-informed science approach, the connection would be protected from floodwaters and would not have short- or long-term impacts on the floodplain, even with climate change. Based on the relative magnitude of the Potomac River, the proposed action would not have appreciable effects which would increase the risk of flooding or hazards to human life or property.

Mitigation

The preferred alternative is not expected to significantly alter the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain.

Compliance with Development Requirements

Communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, such as Washington, DC, are required to enforce floodplain management regulations that meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Furthermore, in order to comply with Executive Order 11988 & 13690, Federal Agencies must demonstrate there are no reasonable alternatives outside of the floodplain and study ways to reduce the flood risk associated with the proposed action. Therefore, in order to follow guidelines for regulated development in the 100-year floodplain so that there are minimal impacts to the floodplain, adherence to general building and development requirements as outlined in the National Flood Insurance Program requirements is recommended.

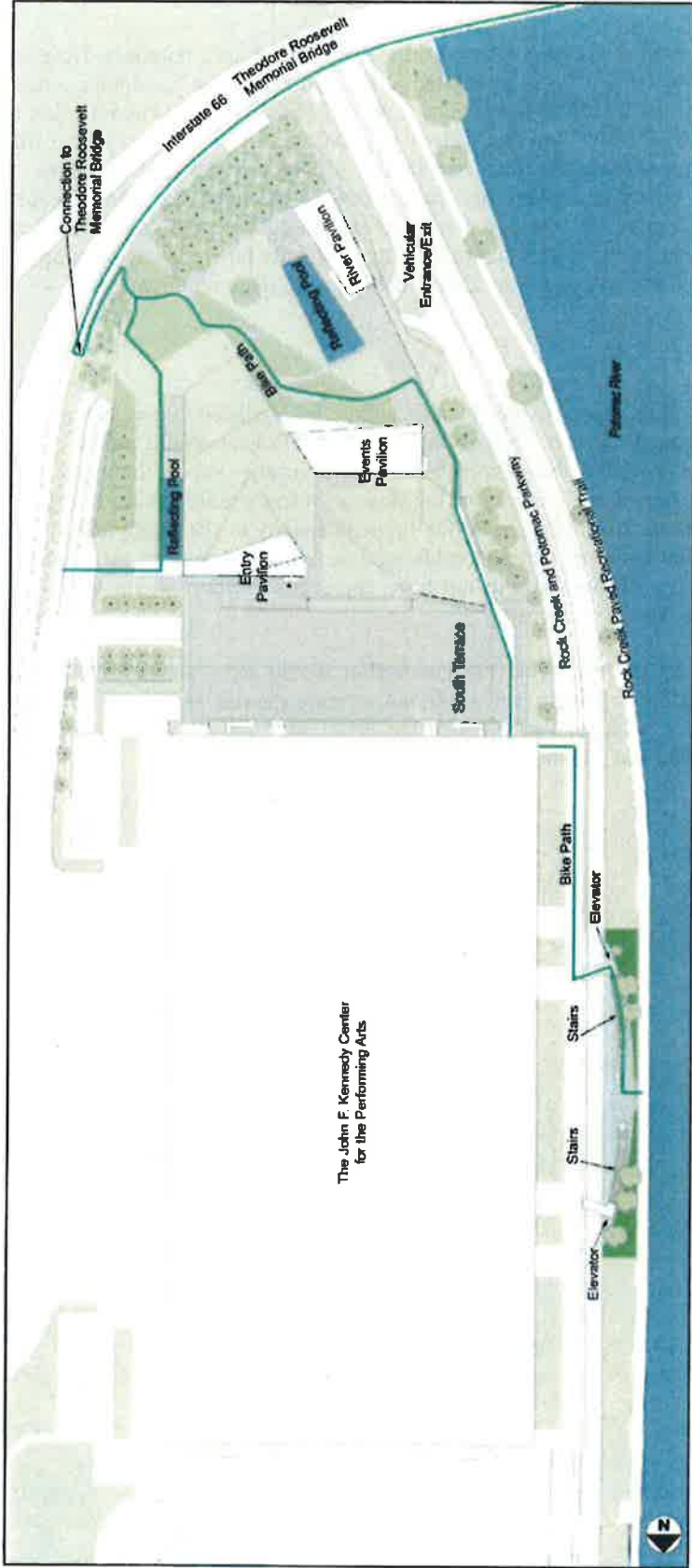


Figure 7: Alternative E - River Terrace Access

Development in the floodway is also an issue to consider for compliance purposes. Development is generally not permitted in the floodway, and fill is prohibited in the floodway. The floodplain consists of two types of flood areas: the floodway and the flood fringe. The floodway is the area that encompasses the stream channel and is where floodwaters generally flow the fastest. By definition it is the area where fill cannot be placed without resulting in a cumulative one foot rise in the 100-year floodwater elevation. The flood fringe comprises the remainder of the floodplain that extends beyond the floodway area. According to the detailed hydraulic study for Washington, DC, the Potomac River does not have a designated floodway (FEMA, 1985). Therefore, the preferred alternative meets compliance requirements for floodway development. The proposed actions under the preferred alternative will be able to comply with these requirements.

Conclusions

The proposed action would include activities located within the regulated 100-year floodplain of the Potomac River. The proposed Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project would create additional obstructions within the floodplain; however, the obstructions would not noticeably impact the water surface level during a flood event. A slight decrease in the capacity of the floodplain to store floodwaters would occur, as well as a slight decrease in infiltration. However, due to the limited capacity of the floodplain in its current condition, these alterations would not result in a measureable adverse impact. Based on the relative magnitude of the Potomac River, the proposed actions would not have appreciable effects which would increase the risk of flooding or hazards to human life or property.

In summary, the proposed pedestrian/bicycle connection would have no significant effect on natural or beneficial floodplain functions. The project would not increase the risk associated with flooding for the 100-year event. Therefore, the National Park Service has determined the proposed actions would be consistent with Executive Order 11988 and 13690.

ATTACHMENT 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED

PEPC Project ID: 61730, DocumentID: 71744

Correspondence: 1

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Ron Vederman
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2132 Bucknell Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20902
USA
E-mail: ronvederman@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/27/2016	Date Received: 03/27/2016
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I am a bike rider and Volunteer in the Park (VIP) with the National Park Service who assists Park Rangers with weekend Bike Tours on the National Mall. I am fully supportive of any initiative that proposes bicycle access and safety to our Washington DC treasures, such as The Kennedy Center. Personally I have experienced the difficulty in navigating safe travel from the National Mall and Rock Creek Park to The Kennedy Center. Whatever makes that safer and easier would be appreciated.

Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 61730, DocumentID: 71744

Correspondence: 3

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dan Kirby
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 200 North Emerson Street
Arlington, VA 22203
USA
E-mail: dan11b40@msn.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/27/2016	Date Received: 03/27/2016
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed connection from the Kennedy Center to the Rock Creek Park trail. I fully support the connection as it will enhance the user and visitor experience in the vicinity of the Kennedy Center. For too long the Center has been cut off from the area along the Potomac River. As an NPS volunteer on the National Mall visitors often ask me for directions to the Center via the paths along the river. Quite frankly, I am baffled as to how to direct them to the Center safely. A direct connection from the river side to the Center will improve the area for local citizens and visitors alike. I will leave the design and location aspects to those who are more knowledgeable. However, I do favor a connection from the River Terrace (Concept E) as long as bicycle traffic does not interfere with pedestrian traffic or create a bicycle raceway along the terrace.

PEPC Project ID: 61730, DocumentID: 71744

Correspondence: 5

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dave Guinn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 7903 Sandalfoot Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
USA
E-mail: permetricsdg@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/27/2016	Date Received: 03/27/2016
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

I would like very much to lend my support to this project. As a regular volunteer at NAMA and President's Park, I find it very difficult to describe an easy and safe way to reach the Kennedy Center. My enthusiasm for the project is already strong but it becomes even more enthusiastic. Might greatest dream in this vain is much easier access to Roosevelt Island. One of our greatest presidents is hidden away in a very nice site. I hate sending families over the Roosevelt Bridge, there just is no easy and safe way for visitors to visit this wonderful memorial.

PEPC Project ID: 61730, DocumentID: 71744

Correspondence: 7

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Laurie Landy
Organization: FBWEV
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Washington DC, DC 20037
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/04/2016	Date Received: 04/04/2016
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please be sure that there is a separate bike path. Currently bike riders push pedestrians on to the grass along Rock Creek Parkway path. The bike riders tend to be very aggressive and not very considerate.

Estes, Liz

From: Estes, Liz
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Davis, Jessica
Subject: FW: NOTICE - Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project Environmental Assessment - Public Comment Period

Liz Estes

Associate, Environmental Planning
Stantec
6110 Frost Place Laurel MD 20707-2927
Phone: (301) 982-2874
Cell: (301) 332-6395
Fax: (301) 220-2595
liz.estes@stantec.com



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Hart, Carlton [<mailto:carlton.hart@ncpc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Estes, Liz
Cc: Hirsch, Jennifer; Kruse, Kathy; Whitaker, Thomas G.
Subject: FW: NOTICE - Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project Environmental Assessment - Public Comment Period

FYI – I got this email with regard to our EA.

I met with Iris a few months ago to discuss one of her student's designs. It was a link to the east.

-Carlton

From: irislarrymiller [<mailto:irislarrymiller@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 10:35 AM
To: Hart, Carlton <carlton.hart@ncpc.gov>
Cc: David Hathcock <david.hathcock@dmsas.com>; pmay@nps.gov
Subject: RE: NOTICE - Kennedy Center Expansion Connection Project Environmental Assessment - Public Comment Period

Dear Carlton,

This past weekend, I went to the West End Library at Watergate to review the alternate proposals for a Rock Creek/Potomac Parkway crossing from the south end of Kennedy Center to the promenade along the Potomac Riverfront. I concluded that the best option at this time is "**Alternate B: At-Grade Crossing.**"

I reached this conclusion after speaking with people who currently cross at grade. With a crosswalk and optional traffic light, pedestrian and bicycle crossing apparently works quite well. Further, this option can serve as a welcome traffic

administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway - another NPS administrative unit - is located directly across from the Kennedy Center on the western edge of the Potomac River. Theodore Roosevelt Island is accessible via the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge (I-66). Creating a more direct and convenient link would benefit visitors to the Kennedy Center, the Rock Creek Paved Recreation Trail, and the Potomac River waterfront by providing a convenient and logical pedestrian/bicycle connection and expanded interpretation opportunities of the area's presidential memorials.

The purpose of this email is to notify members of the community and other stakeholders that the EA is being made available to the public for review for a period of 30 days from March 23, 2016 to April 25, 2016. A copy of the EA is available for public review at the following locations:

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20566

The National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001 Southwest Library
900 Wesley Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024

West End Library
(interim location)
2522 Virginia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

The preferred system for receiving public comments electronically is through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, where the EA is publicly posted on the internet. The PEPC database is a tool used by the NPS to manage official correspondence and analyze public comment in the planning process. The website address is: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/KennedyCenterConnection>. You may complete a comment form online. From the list of projects, click on the Kennedy Center Expansion Project. In the left menu, click Document List, then March 2016 Environmental Assessment, and Comment on Document.

Written comments may also be mailed to:

Mr. Tom Whitaker,
Interim Vice President of Facilities
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
2700 F Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20566

Mailed comments must be postmarked by April 25, 2016 to receive consideration.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

APPENDIX A: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT