

## 6.0 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 6.1 Agency Coordination

DDOT conducted agency coordination as part of the planning process for the Pennsylvania and Minnesota Avenues, SE EA. Agency coordination included project scoping, consultation with resource agencies in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), consultation with the DC SHPO and NPS in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, and individual scoping meetings. Agency correspondence is included in *Appendix C, Agency Coordination and Public Involvement*. Coordination with the DC SHPO is included in *Appendix E, Section 106 Consultation and Cultural Resources Information*.

#### Agency Scoping

FHWA, NPS and DDOT held an inter-agency meeting on September 6, 2012 at the DDOT headquarters in Southeast D.C.

The following agencies were sent initial project information and were invited to the interagency meeting at DDOT headquarters:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)
- Washington Metropolitan and Transit Administration (WMATA)
- Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
- DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)
- DC Office of Planning (DC OP)

Agencies in attendance included DC SHPO, WMATA, EPA, and CFA. The purpose of this scoping meeting was to solicit feedback from the agencies that could potentially affect the scope or content of the EA and to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the improvements to be made at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Minnesota Avenue, SE.

The NCPC provided scoping comments on October 15, 2012 stating that a request that the EA analyze all potential action alternatives for consistency with applicable planning policies of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements, and also noting that any transfer of jurisdiction of lands between NPS and DDOT is subject to review and approval of NCPC. NCPC was invited to be a cooperating agency on the EA and as a consulting party under Section 106 in a letter dated September 27, 2012.

### NPS and FHWA Meetings

Initial discussions with the NPS regarding the project intersection took place in 2006 with the development of the Pennsylvania Avenue Great Streets Program given that NPS owns some of the land at this intersection.

At the commencement of the EA planning process, DDOT, NPS and FHWA attended a kick-off meeting in August of 2010 to re-introduce the project to NPS and FHWA and to discuss agency roles for the development of the EA. NPS and FHWA were both involved during the concept design phase in 2006 and 2007 throughout the Great Streets Concept Design Report. Following the initial kick-off meeting, the agencies met several times throughout the EA planning process to discuss the alternatives and the resource impact categories. Following the Agency Scoping Meeting in September of 2012, NPS and FHWA determined that FHWA would be the lead federal agency because they would be contributing funds to the project, and NPS would be a cooperating agency due to the transfer of land jurisdiction between NPS and DDOT.

Letters were submitted to NPS and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) on September 27, 2012 with an invitation for these agencies to become cooperating agencies in the development of the EA.

### DC SHPO

Coordination with the D.C. SHPO commenced about the project intersection originally began in 2006 with the development of the Pennsylvania Avenue Great Streets Program when tasked with considering the environmental constraints. When DDOT began refining the project alternatives at the start of the EA process, DDOT submitted a letter to the D.C. SHPO on December 17, 2010 to formally initiate the Section 106 process in accordance with the NHPA. DDOT held a meeting to re-introduce DC SHPO staff to the project on February 2, 2011 to discuss the project status, any cultural resources in the project vicinity, the potential APE, and any necessary consulting parties. In March of 2011, DDOT requested DC SHPO's concurrence with the project APE. The DC SHPO responded with their concurrence on April 8, 2011.

In July of 2011, DDOT submitted an *Archaeological Assessment of Potential* to the DC SHPO with recommendations for archaeological survey.

On October 26, 2011 the DC SHPO provided additional Section 106 comments on the project with response that no previously identified historic properties are located in the APE and that if the Build 1 Alternative – Revised Square Alternative (referred to as Modified Square Alternative in the letter), the project would likely have no adverse effect on historic properties. Geoarchaeological coring was requested to further investigate the potential for archaeological resources. A Special Use Permit was obtained from NPS and the testing was conducted in November of 2012 (signed copy of Special Use Permit is included in *Appendix E, Cultural Resources*). The *Geoarchaeological Interpretations in the Vicinity of the Intersection of Pennsylvania and Minnesota Avenues in the Anacostia Section of Washington, D.C.* provides the results of the preliminary testing.

NCPC was invited to be a cooperating agency on the EA and as a consulting party under Section 106 in a letter dated September 27, 2012.

Coordination with the DC SHPO and cultural reports submitted are provided in *Appendix E, Cultural Resources*.

### **Environmental Assessment (October 28, 2013)**

*Upon the Notice of Availability and publication of the EA for public review on October 28, 2013, hard copies or electronic copies of the document were distributed to the appropriate District and Federal agencies. An email “blast” was distributed to additional members of these agencies with Draft EA release information. Additionally, agencies were invited to attend an Inter-Agency Meeting at DDOT for information and updates pertaining to the release of the EA from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Wednesday, November 13, 2013.*

*Two comments were received from agencies during the EA comment period. The DDOE stated that the Water Quality Division (WQD) assessed that there is no apparent significant adverse impact or likelihood of substantial negative impact to water quality and quantity with regards to Sections 7201.2(c), (d), and (l) of the Environmental Policy Act. WMATA requested additional information related to WMATA infrastructure and bus pull off areas in the Study Area. The EA was updated to include the requested information. Agency comments received and formal DDOT responses, along with other correspondence regarding the release of the EA are included in Appendix C, Agency Coordination and Public Involvement.*

## **6.2 Public Involvement**

### **Public Scoping**

DDOT sent scoping notices to the public to solicit comments on environmental, historical, cultural and other issues relevant to the proposed project. Scoping notices, scoping letters and project brochures were distributed to the public in September 2012. DDOT provided a project website in the fall of 2012 that detailed the project history and proposed improvements. The public was asked to send comments by mail to DDOT or to leave comments on the project website by October 15, 2012. A summary of comments from the public is presented in *Appendix C, Agency Coordination and Public Involvement*.

### **Public Meetings**

DDOT hand-delivered brochures in the project Study Area in April of 2013 that contained project information and notice of a project presentation at the ANC 7B Monthly Meeting held on May 16, 2013. There were approximately 50 attendees at the meeting. DDOT presented the project purpose and need, proposed action and alternatives being carried forward in the EA. Handouts were provided for attendees, along with optional comment cards that could be left at the meeting or mailed to DDOT. The public had an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the information provided. The majority of comments were questions regarding the traffic operations of the alternatives and concerns regarding bicycle and pedestrian movement through the intersection.

### **Environmental Assessment**

*The Notice of Availability for the EA and public hearing date was advertised in The Washington Times and as a DDOT Press Release on Monday, October 28, 2013. The EA public review and comment period was extended an additional 30 days, through December 31, 2013; however comments continued to be accepted through March 2014. The EA was available for review in hardcopy at DDOT (55 M Street, SE, Washington, D.C.), FHWA (1990 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C.) and the Francis A. Gregory Library (3660 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C.). A public hearing was held at the Francis A. Gregory Library on November 13, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Announcement of the availability of the EA and the public hearing were also advertised on the project website. Electronic and/or hard copies of the EA were submitted to all ANC7B and 8A commissioners, relevant civic associations, the Mayor, and Ward 7 and 8 councilmembers for their review and distribution. Approximately 17 members of the public attended the public hearing and six people provided official testimony. Additionally, nine written comments were received from the public or community organizations during and following the public comment period.*

*DDOT has attended multiple civic association and ANC meetings since the publication of the EA to provide project information and to update the public on the EA's progress. Additionally, this project was included in the projects presented at the public meeting for the DDOT Projects Update: Ward 7 on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

*Public comments received on the October 2013 EA and DDOT responses to comment, along with public meeting materials, are included in Appendix C, Agency Coordination and Public Involvement.*

## 7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Jon G. Whitney, PE	Task Manager – Alternatives Development and Preliminary Engineering; QA/QC
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Alan McDonald, EIT	Traffic Analysis and Noise Monitor Data Collection
Ryan Carey, EIT	Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and EA development
Royce Bassarab	Noise Analysis
Dara Soum	Preliminary Engineering/ Roadway Engineer
Kent Miller	GIS Analysis and Graphic Development
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Elizabeth Comer	Project Manager for Archaeology and Historic Architecture
Tery Harris	Principal Investigator- Archaeology

## 8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DISTRIBUTION

Various federal and District agencies, as well as many other organizations and groups representing project stakeholders, were provided with copies of the Final EA. The Final EA is also available for review on the DDOT and NPS websites.

### 8.1 Federal/Regional Agencies

Federal Highway Administration

National Park Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commission of Fine Arts

National Capital Planning Commission

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

### 8.2 District Agencies

District Department of Transportation

DC State Historic Preservation Office

District Department of the Environment

DC Department of Parks and Recreation

### 8.3 District Elected Officials

The Honorable Vincent Gray

Mayor, District of Columbia

Executive Office of the Mayor

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316

Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Yvette Alexander

Ward 7 Councilmember

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Marion Berry

Ward 8 Councilmember

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 102

Washington, DC 20004

### 8.4 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

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ANC 7B03

3200 S Street, SE

Washington, DC 20020

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ANC 7B07

3200 S Street, SE

Washington, DC 20020

Holly Muhammad

ANC 8A01

2100-D Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20020

Robin Marlin, Vice Chair

ANC 7B05

3200 S Street, SE

Washington, DC 20020

## 8.5 Utilities

PEPCO  
DC Water and Sewer

## 8.6 Neighborhood Associations

Hillcrest Community Civic Association

Randle Highlands Citizen Civic Association

Penn- Branch Citizens/Civic Association

*Fairlawn Citizens Association*

## 8.7 Public Review Copies

**District Department of Transportation**  
Project Development and Environment Division  
Infrastructure Project Management Administration  
55 M Street, SE, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20003

**Federal Highway Administration**  
District of Columbia Division  
1990 K St. NW, Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20006

**Francis A. Gregory Library**  
3660 Alabama Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20020

## 9.0 REFERENCES

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#### **District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Major for Planning and Economic Development**

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#### **District of Columbia Office of Zoning**

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#### **District of Columbia Online Public Records**

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#### **District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)**

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**Transportation Research Board**

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