



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2009

Mr. Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Acosta:

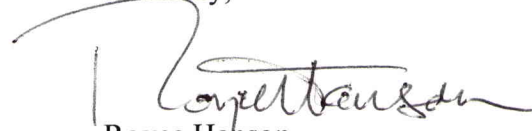
The Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed the final Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan (TMP) for the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) at its regularly scheduled meeting of January 15, 2009. The Board unanimously approved staff's recommendations (a copy of the staff report is attached) with additional comments to be transmitted to the National Capital Planning Commission. A summary of the Planning Board's recommendations are as follows:

1. Continue to submit plans for individual campus buildings to the Planning Board for mandatory referral reviews. Subsequent mandatory referral review submissions need not include transportation studies for individual buildings as the offsite impacts of the proposed master plan changes have been identified in the May 2008 Record of Decision.
2. Additional on-campus housing will be a positive change that provides affordable housing for; and reduces traffic by; patients, their families and visitors traveling long distances to reach the National Naval Medical Center.
3. The Master Plan should consider two additional elements:
 - a. Relocation of the helipad to a more internal (and elevated) location to provide for more safe and efficient landings and departures and to reduce noise impact to surrounding neighborhoods.
 - b. Incorporation of kiss-and-ride facilities on the campus along the site perimeter but outside security gates to promote inter-campus ridesharing opportunities
4. The TMP should strengthen the mechanisms to encourage non-single occupancy vehicle travel by visitors and more fully explore opportunities to combine shuttle service programs with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

5. The TMP should provide more details on monitoring and enforcement and the annual progress report on the TMP should be provided to the County Executive and M-NCPPC staff for their review and comments to enhance the program.
6. NNMC should consider enhancing their shuttle service program, possibly in cooperation with National Institute of Health (NIH), to transport employees and visitors to Metrorail stations and other focal destinations in Montgomery County and beyond to reduce traffic congestion.
7. NNMC should obtain funding for construction of a second entrance to the Medical Center Metrorail station on the east side of MD 355 to ease the use of public transportation by employees and visitors. The facility should be designed to provide safe crossing of MD 355 between the NNMC and NIH campuses.
8. NNMC should explore the feasibility of providing off campus housing and lodging in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area for patients and visitors.
9. NNMC should create a liaison committee that includes representatives of surrounding communities and NNMC to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Master Plan and TMP. Should you have any questions or desire further information on this matter, please call Mr. Shahriar Etemadi at (301) 495-2168.

Sincerely,



Royce Hanson
Chairman

cc: Robert Rosenbush