



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Mall & Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



D66 (NCR-NAMA)

November 2, 2010

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 803  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) on the Washington Monument Visitor Security and Screening Project, an undertaking which will have an effect upon historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As the primary memorial to the nation's first president, the Washington Monument is one of the most prominent American icons and hosts approximately one million visitors annually. In 2001, a visitor screening facility was constructed that was intended to be temporary, and in 2006 a permanent perimeter vehicular barrier system with landscape improvements was completed. The purpose of the proposed project is to complete the last phase of comprehensive perimeter security improvements by replacing the existing temporary facility and improving the overall security of the Monument in a manner that maintains and preserves the visitor experience and cultural landscape of the Washington Monument Grounds. The attached materials provide a synopsis of the goals and anticipated work components of the project. The materials include a proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE), which is subject to modification based on this consultation process. The NPS has also initiated consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts regarding the proposed project.

The NPS has begun scoping in preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts specific to the Washington Monument Visitor Security and Screening Project. The NPS intends to complete the Section 106 process concurrently with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) per the ACHP's regulations (36 CFR 800.8). The NPS plans to consult the public per 800.3(e) in public meetings and through our

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Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website – [www.parkplanning/nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning/nps.gov). The first meeting open to the public will be a public scoping meeting to be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2010 in the Cafeteria of the NPS National Capital Region Headquarters, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC.

At this conceptual stage, the NPS has not yet made a formal determination of the effect of the project on historic properties. The APE includes many highly significant cultural resources, such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and several historic district and cultural landscapes. These resources have been extensively documented in connection with other projects on the National Mall; therefore we do not identify a need for additional survey requirements on potentially affected architectural or landscape resources. We intend to conduct a geoarcheological investigation to determine the potential of the site for archeological resources.

Because of the sensitive nature of the project site, and the potential for adverse effects, we are happy to invite the active participation of the Council in the Section 106 process. Please indicate whether you wish to do so or have any other questions about the undertaking by contacting Kristen Murphy, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (202) 245-4674.

Sincerely,



Maria Burks  
Acting Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks

cc:

Ms. Katry Harris  
Historic Preservation Specialist, Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 803  
Washington, D.C, 20004

Mr. David Maloney  
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office

Ms. Nancy Witherell  
National Capital Planning Commission

Mr. Tom Luebke  
Commission of Fine Arts

# Washington Monument Visitor Security Screening

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



- Legend
- Project Area
- Washington Monument Grounds

Project Area

# Washington Monument Visitor Security Screening

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## Proposed Actions

This EA presents a range of alternatives to improve the security and visitor screening at the Washington Monument (the Monument) located on the Washington Monument grounds in Washington, D.C.

In 2002, the NPS completed a design for the Washington Monument Permanent Security Improvements that included a comprehensive landscape solution for a perimeter vehicular barrier system and a new screening facility. However, only the vehicular barrier system and a portion of the landscape design were implemented. The NPS is currently revisiting the feasibility of a new entrance and visitor screening facility and the removal of the existing temporary facility. These proposed actions are the subject of this EA and are explored in several alternatives.



Temporary visitor screening facility



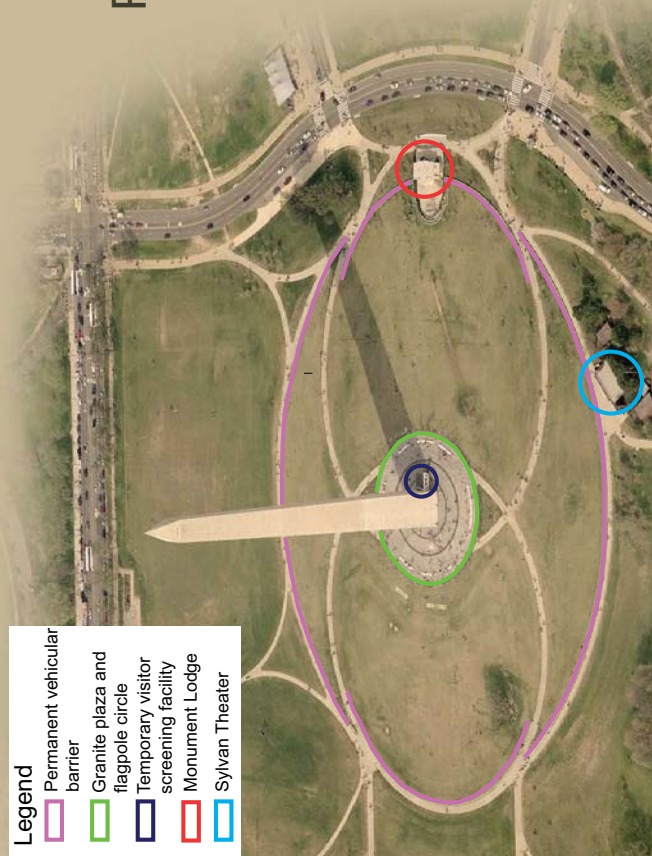
Visitors waiting to enter the Monument.

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed actions is to improve the security of the Monument in a manner that maintains and preserves the visitor experience and cultural landscape of the Monument grounds.

As the primary memorial to the nation's first president, the Monument is one of the most prominent American icons and is visited by approximately one million visitors annually. Its popularity, combined with its status as an icon, makes it a potential target for terrorist attacks. In 2001, a visitor screening facility was constructed that was intended to be temporary. In 2006, a permanent perimeter vehicular barrier system with landscape improvements was completed. Action is needed to complete the comprehensive perimeter security improvements.

- Legend
- Permanent vehicular barrier
  - Granite plaza and flagpole circle
  - Temporary visitor screening facility
  - Monument Lodge
  - Sylvan Theater





## Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

If it is determined that the proposed action could affect historic properties, S106 is triggered. The Section 106 task and the NEPA assessment need to be closely coordinated.

## Section 106 Process

- Define Undertaking / Initiate Section 106
- Identify Consulting Parties
- Plan to involve the Public
- Define Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Identify Significant Cultural Resources in APE
- Assess Effects on Significant Resources
- Apply Criteria of Adverse Effect
- Continue Consultation
- Draft Agreement Document, if needed

## Area of Potential Effect

According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

