



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Region  
Rock Creek Park  
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008-1207

October 4, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service is proposing road safety improvements where the southbound ramp of Waterside Drive merges onto Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this proposed project is to improve traffic flow and to minimize the number of accidents along the Parkway in the vicinity of Waterside Drive.

Proposed safety improvements at this location originally were part of a larger planning effort, undertaken by the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2006, to reconstruct and rehabilitate Beach Drive and the Parkway from Calvert Street, N.W., to P Street, N.W. At that time, an Environmental Assessment was prepared for this project, part of which discussed safety improvements at Waterside Drive and identified a preferred alternative. In July 2011, soon after construction began at the intersection, the National Park Service learned that this section of the project was not following the preferred alternative discussed in the Environmental Assessment. Consequently, the National Park Service halted construction at Waterside Drive to re-initiate planning and compliance for this portion of the project. Construction of other portions of the project will continue as planned.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the proposed safety improvements. The Environmental Assessment will address project background, purpose and need for the proposed improvements, environmental and cultural issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered in the Environmental Assessment (including the no-action alternative), and public involvement and agency coordination.

In addition to addressing safety improvements at Waterside Drive, the Environmental Assessment also will consider ecologically sensitive methods of stabilizing the stream bank on the opposite side of Rock Creek from Waterside Drive. Severe erosion of this bank occurred during August and September of 2011, the result of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. This erosion is affecting the stability of the adjacent Rock Creek Multi-use Trail.

As part of this planning effort, the National Park Service will hold a public scoping meeting on **Thursday, October 27, 2011, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center**. The Nature Center is located at 5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, D.C. 20015, near

the intersection of Military Road and Glover Road. (For directions, visit the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/rocr/planyourvisit/directions.htm>.) During the meeting, the National Park Service will deliver a presentation about the proposed project. After the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments.

**After the meeting, attendees will be able to submit comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rocr>) or in writing at the following address:**

Superintendent  
Attn: Waterside Drive Comments  
Rock Creek Park  
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**Comments submitted after the meeting must be posted to PEPC or postmarked by Friday, November 18, 2011, to receive consideration. Anyone submitting a comment may ask the National Park Service in their comment to withhold their personal identifying information from public review. However, the National Park Service cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.**

If you need additional information or special assistance to participate in this meeting and/or comment process, please contact Rock Creek Park Environmental Protection Specialist Michael Buckler at (202) 895-6076.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tara Morrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tara Morrison  
Superintendent  
Rock Creek Park