



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Capital Bikeshare Stations

PEPC Project Number: 39234

Project Description:

The National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) proposes to participate in the Capital Bikeshare program by permitting five bikeshare stations on NAMA-managed property. The Capital Bikeshare program is a regional alternative transportation amenity for visitors and residents and has quickly become a viable form of public transportation. Bikeshare members may check out bikes at over 110 stations across Washington, D.C. and Arlington, VA. Participating in this bikeshare system would fulfill the goal of enhancing bicycle use at the park, as envisioned in NAMA's 2008 National Mall Visitor Transportation Study and the 2010 National Mall Plan. Increasing bicycle use reduces traffic congestion, fossil fuel use and air emissions, and provides an additional and affordable form of access to destinations throughout the park. Plans for the five Capital Bikeshare stations are as follows:

(1) Smithsonian Metro Station entrance on National Mall

Location: West of the existing information kiosk on Jefferson Drive, in the gravel area, adjacent to paved sidewalk. Size: Single load station - 60' long x 6' wide

(2) Lincoln Memorial

Location: On Lincoln Memorial circle between 23rd and Daniel French Dr. at the former Tourmobile kiosk area (existing paved space). Size: Double load station – 32' long x 15' wide

(3) Jefferson Memorial

Location: South of East Basin Drive from Tourmobile pull-off between curb and existing sidewalk. West of crosswalk intersection. Size: Single loaded station - 60' long x 6' wide

(4) Washington Monument

Location: Jefferson Drive between 14th and 15th at the Tourmobile pull-off along sidewalk east of kiosk Size: Single loaded station - 60' long x 6' wide

(5) FDR/MLK

Location: West Basin Drive at Ohio Drive, at the Tourmobile pull-off, on sidewalk west of existing kiosk and water fountain. Size: Single loaded station - 50' long x 6' wide

These locations have been selected based on their proximity to visitor destinations, access to compatible modes of transportation such as Metro and bike paths, and connectivity to other Capital Bikeshare stations. They are located in the vicinity of "Visitor Transportation Stops" as

shown on the Circulation Map for the Preferred Alternative in the National Mall Plan.

On November 22, 2011, NAMA initiated a public comment period in order to solicit input from the community with regard to the proposal. During the 30-day comment period, NAMA received over 100 comments. The great majority of the comments were positive. In general, the public stated that the selected locations for the bikeshare stations are appropriate; the stations will provide an important connection to the existing regional bikeshare network; offer a means of transportation to locations currently not easily accessible for visitors; and provide an environmentally sustainable, low cost, low impact transportation alternative which should be encouraged.

The table below summarizes the public comments, in addition to those mentioned above, and provides NAMA staff response. NPS finds that the proposed project would not have significant environmental impacts, would not be controversial and therefore warrants this Categorical Exclusion.

Public comments (grouped as appropriate)	NAMA Response
<p>There were numerous comments requesting additional bikeshare stations to complement the stations in this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add stations on the east side of the National Mall. • Add stations at National Gallery of Art, National Air and Space Museum, and National Museum of the American Indian. • Add stations at Arlington Cemetery and Iwo Jima Memorial. • Add a station near the WWII Memorial, along 17th Street, and Tidal Basin Parking Lot. • Add stations at the Ellipse, President's Park South, Capitol, Botanic Gardens, and East Potomac Park. <p>Comments on the proposed locations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to access the Washington Monument station site. • The station at Smithsonian Metro is not easily seen as you exit escalator. 	<p>The initial bikeshare locations have been selected based on their proximity to primary visitor destinations, access to compatible modes of transportation such as Metro and bike paths, and connectivity to existing Capital Bikeshare stations. They are located in the vicinity of "Visitor Transportation Stops" as shown on the Circulation Map for the Preferred Alternative in the National Mall Plan. Other locations maybe added in the future based on demand. Over time, the proposed locations may be adjusted based on accessibility and need.</p> <p>Many of the stations mentioned by the public as potential bikeshare locations are outside of the NAMA/NPS jurisdiction and are managed by other entities such as the Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and the Architect of the Capital, and are therefore outside of the scope of this project. NAMA/NPS does support a fully integrated regional bikeshare system and future connections with the National Mall.</p>
<p>The bikeshare stations need to be of sufficient size to support the demand at these locations.</p>	<p>The proposed bikeshare stations will accommodate up to approximately 23 docks or about 19 to 20 bicycles. The double-loaded station proposed at the Lincoln Memorial will</p>

	<p>be slightly smaller and include approximately 17 docks. This is the station size range currently recommended for higher demand locations.</p>
<p>The use of a bikeshare system may pose safety concerns.</p>	<p>Bicycle and pedestrian safety is a primary concern to NPS. Capital Bikeshare provides safety information on its webpage and maintains the bikes to ensure that they are in good working order. Bicycling groups in the Washington DC area offer free bicycle safety classes to educate riders on the skills needed to safely ride a bike in an urban environment. NPS will continue to explore best practices to ensure the safety of both cyclists and pedestrians.</p>
<p>A comprehensive approach for a Bicycle Plan for the National Mall is needed.</p>	<p>As bicycle usage may increase with the introduction of bikeshare stations, NAMA is currently exploring bicycle connectivity between the park roads, bike paths, other areas of the City, and near-by Virginia jurisdictions. These planning efforts include an evaluation of the existing signage, crosswalks, and other pedestrian and bicycle-related infrastructure.</p>
<p>Will other bicycle rental companies be allowed on the National Mall?</p>	<p>The Capital Bikeshare program is not a typical bike rental program. Capital Bikeshare is designed to provide a regional alternative transportation amenity for visitors and residents and has quickly become a viable form of public transportation. The National Mall stations will integrate the park with the rest of this transportation system. The fee structure encourages short trips between bikeshare stations and is not designed as an all day bike recreational bike rental program. Riders must be at least 16 years old. The Capital Bikeshare program received a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant this year as a mode of region-wide transportation.</p>

Project Locations:

Location

County:	NA	State:	DC
District:		Section:	
Geo. Marker:		Other:	

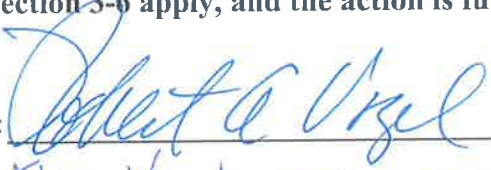
Mitigation(s):

N/A

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.18. Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent:  Date: 1-19-12

NPS Contact: Eliza Voigt 202-245-4694 Date: 1-17-2012