

# President's Park South Project

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & SECTION 106

## PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of these proposed actions by the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) and the National Park Service (NPS) is to provide the security needed for the White House by providing permanent, more aesthetically pleasing security elements while preserving the historic cultural landscape in President's Park South.

The proposed actions grow out of needs identified by USSS concerning the level and type of security required for the White House. Road closures and related security elements in President's Park South, considered temporary since 2001, need to be evaluated to determine whether they will remain in perpetuity. These temporary security elements are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park (2000). Permanent, aesthetic improvements compatible with these guiding principles are needed to preserve the visual character and integrity of the White House and its environs while continuing to meet security requirements.

## HOW THE ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED

- Results of public scoping (Spring 2011)
- The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) design competition (Summer 2011)
- Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park (2000)

The agencies developed a range of draft alternatives including a no action alternative and four draft alternative concepts.

## NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no action alternative represents a continuation of the existing conditions and operations of President's Park South and E Street. All temporary security elements remain in place and E Street remains closed to public traffic.

- Public access to First Division Monument and Sherman Park would continue with temporary security closures.
- Jersey barriers would remain along E Street.
- Public viewing areas would not change.

## ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL DRAFT ALTERNATIVES

Any of the draft alternatives would include the same proposed actions as follows:

- Public access to First Division Monument and Sherman Park would continue with temporary security closures.
- A permanent pedestrian barrier would be installed between First Division Monument, Sherman Park and the White House complex.
- Public pedestrian access to the Ellipse and its side panels would continue.
- Add ADA access to 1st Division Monument.
- Surface parking would remain on the Ellipse.
- E Street and the Ellipse roadway would be closed to public vehicular traffic.
- Authorized traffic would be one way on the Ellipse and two ways on E Street.
- Aesthetically improved vehicular check points would be provided at 15th and E Streets and at 17th and E Streets.

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 1

Proposes new security elements and improvements to enhance the aesthetics and security of the area.

- Public viewing area at Zero Milestone would be enlarged.
- Add bike access along E Street.
- New aesthetically improved vehicular check point added at 15th Street and Constitution Avenue and a vehicle exit added at 17th Street and Constitution Avenue.
- Remove vehicular check point at 16th Street and Constitution Avenue.
- Add a permanent vehicular barrier along the perimeter of the Ellipse side panels winding through the landscape.



## DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 2

Proposes new security elements and improvements to enhance the aesthetics and security of the area.

- Expanded viewing areas for the public south of the White House fence and at the Zero Milestone.
- Add bike access along E Street.
- Add check points to 15th Street and 17th Street for vehicles entering the Ellipse.
- Remove vehicular check point at 16th Street and Constitution Avenue.
- Add a permanent vehicular barrier on the south side of E Street.

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 3

Proposes new security elements and improvements to the area.

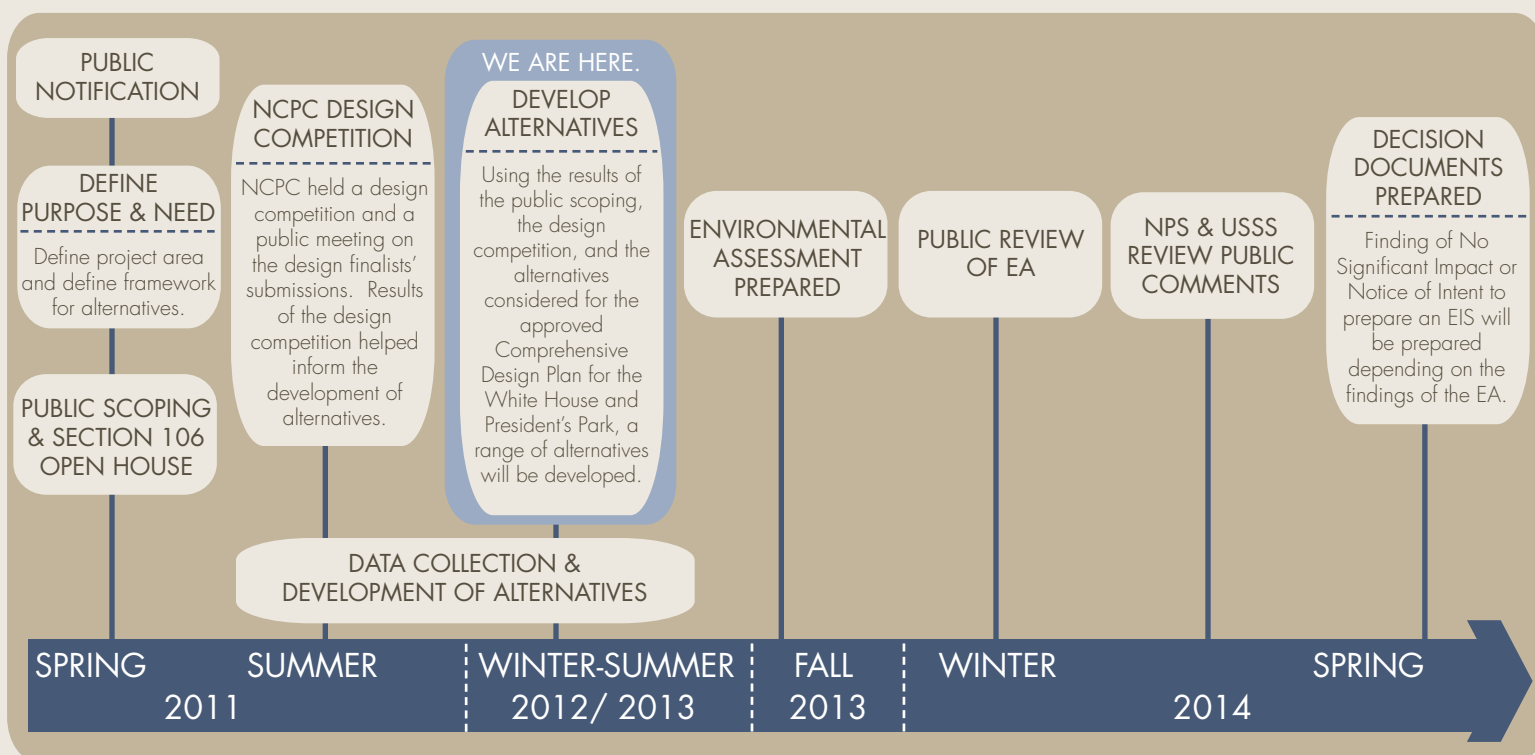
- Expanded public viewing plaza between White House fence and the Ellipse.
- Bicycle route using perimeter streets.
- Remove vehicular check point at 16th Street and Constitution Ave.
- A short roadway would be added from the corner of 17th Street and E Street to the Ellipse roadway.
- Add a permanent vehicular barrier along the north side of the northwest and northeast dog legs and continuing around the south side of the Ellipse.

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 4

Proposes new security elements and improvements to enhance the aesthetics and security of the area.

- Expanded public viewing plaza between White House fence and the Ellipse.
- Bicycle route using perimeter streets.
- A short roadway would be added from the corner of 17th Street and E Street to the Ellipse roadway.
- Short roadways would branch at E Street for circulation.
- Add a permanent vehicular barrier surrounding the entire project site.
- The permanent vehicular barrier would also be located from West Executive Avenue around the public viewing plaza to East Executive Avenue.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE



## HOW TO COMMENT

To provide public comments on the proposed alternatives you may:

- Attend the public open house on July 9, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library, 901 G St. NW Washington, DC, 20001 and:

» Complete the comment form and leave it with us before you go or return it to us by mail.

» Write your comments on the flip charts at the comment stations.

- Write your comments at the Project Website at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/prpa>

- Mail or hand-deliver comments to:

President's Park South Project Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House  
National Park Service, National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. Room 344  
Washington, D.C., 20242

PLEASE NOTE: Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Please submit comments prior to September 12, 2013.