

**Arlington National Cemetery Entry Corridor Area Improvements
Consulting Party Meeting Minutes
17 October 2025
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

AGENCY ATTENDEES: U.S. Army

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC)	Caitlin Smith	Cultural Resources Program Manager
	Margaret Arlotto	Cultural Resources Program Intern
	Christian Dvorak	Project Manager
	Jenifer Van Vleck	Public Affairs Specialist (Contractor)
	Michael Horace	Chief of Design & Construction
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District	Eva Falls	Cultural Resources Program Manager
	Marisa Wetmore	Section Chief, Installation Support Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Norfolk District	David Poole, Jr.	Design Manager, COR
	Matthew Karlinchak	Branch Chief, ANC Program

FEDERAL CONSULTING PARTIES

Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)	Sarah Koeppel	Sr Environmental Planning and Cultural Resources Specialist
	Cameron DeLancey	Pentagon Reservation Master Planner / Deputy Federal Preservation Officer (DFPO)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE CONSULTING PARTIES

District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office	Anne Brockett	Project Review Architectural Historian
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	Adrienne Birge-Wilson	Project Review Architectural Historian

OTHER CONSULTING PARTIES AND ATTENDEES

Arlington County Government	Mical Durak	Principal Planner, Arlington County Historic Preservation Program (HPP)
	Lorin Farris	Program Supervisor, Arlington County Historic Preservation Program (HPP)
	Valerie Mosley	Transportation Planning Capital Projects Management, Department of Transportation (DOT)
	Mark Dennis	Acting Capital Program Manager, Department of Environmental Services (DES)

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Transportation Resources for Arlington County (TRAC) / Shared Mobility Arlington	Thomas Hillman	Principal Planner
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Robert Burton	Land Use Transformation and Permitting
	Marc Cioffi	Land Use Transformation and Permitting
	Anissa Brown	District Assistant Environmental Manager, Northern Virginia District's Environmental Program
	Isabella Rae Davis	Architectural Historian

1. Introductions

- a. Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager: Lead Presenter
- b. Eva Falls, USACE-Baltimore District, Cultural Resources Program Manager: Co-Presenter
- c. Consulting Parties in Attendance

2. Roles and Rights of Consulting Parties

- a. Rights of a Consulting Party for this undertaking
 - i. Share their views;
 - ii. Receive and review pertinent information/documentation to support consultation;
 - iii. Offer ideas; and
 - iv. Consider possible solutions together with ANMC and other consulting parties.
- b. ANMC will consider all feedback when evaluating and designing the proposed project.

3. Overview of the Undertaking

- a. Ms. Smith provided a review of the proposed undertaking, as previously presented in the 1 May 2025 Consulting Parties Meeting.
- b. The primary objectives of the proposed undertaking include increasing burial capacity, overall security improvements, improving transportation and pedestrian circulation, and wayfinding, and improving both the Welcome Center and the overall visitor experience. To achieve these objectives, the agency proposes to:
 - i. Build new columbaria and in-ground burials to the north of the Avenue and south of the parking garage;
 - ii. Make improvements to Memorial Avenue, including security screening for vehicles and buses and improved signage for visitors;
 - iii. Complete parking garage reconfiguration for better vehicular flow;
 - iv. Construct a pedestrian screening facility and arrivals plaza with new bathroom facilities; and
 - v. Construct a new Welcome Center and central plaza, interpretive gardens, an amphitheater, and outdoor gathering spaces.

4. NHPA Section 106 Process

a. Completed Steps of the Section 106 Process:

- i. Identified Consulting Parties and Initiated Consultation – Fall 2024
- ii. Defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) – Spring 2024
- iii. Identified Historic Properties within the APE – Spring 2024
- iv. Assessing Effects – Consulting Parties meeting was held on 1 May 2025
 - i. *During the May 1 consulting party meeting, ANMC made a tentative 'no adverse effect' determination. After receiving feedback from the consulting parties and the state preservation office, ANMC concurred that at this early stage, there is not enough information about the project's design to make a formal effect determination at this time.*
- v. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred that a Programmatic Agreement (PA) was the appropriate path forward to resolve potential effects to historic properties in August 2025.
- vi. The execution of an agreement would also provide the cultural resources input needed to complete the Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

b. Current Step of the Section 106 Process- Programmatic Agreement (PA):

- i. Ms. Smith reviewed why a Programmatic Agreement (IAW 36 CFR §800.14(b)) is appropriate to resolve Section 106 for this undertaking.
 - i. *Complex project with multiple components that could be designed and funded incrementally over several years.*
 - ii. *The Cemetery still must operate during construction = Project Phasing*
 - iii. *Trying to comply with the NEPA EA 1 Year Timeline -> the EA is already in progress; ANC needs to complete Section 106 before signing the Finding of No Significant Impact or "FNSI"*
- ii. A draft PA was sent to all identified consulting parties by 3 October 2025, and a notice announcing the development of the PA was posted on ANMC's Public Notices website.

c. PA Content:

- i. Preamble - Whereas Clauses
- ii. Stipulations
 - i. *How the Consulting Parties will participate in Design Reviews for the Project*
 - ii. *Agreed to Avoidance and Minimization Measures that will be incorporated into the Design*
 - iii. *Effect Determination Process*
 - iv. *Standards, Procedures, and Professional Qualifications for individuals carrying out work under the PA*
 - v. *Administrative Procedures PA Signatories agree to comply with*
- iii. Signature Pages

d. Draft PA Highlights: Avoidance and Minimization

- i. ANMC shall prioritize the preservation of and/or the best treatments for the following elements, in designing the modifications of the Entry Corridor site. The current list comes from the agency's identification of character-defining features of the potentially effected historic properties:
 - i. *Oak Trees and Hedgerows lining Memorial Avenue*
 - ii. *Durex Roadway*
 - iii. *Memorial Avenue Viewshed and Lines-of-Sight*
 - iv. *Monuments and Memorials*
 - v. *Arlington Hemicycle*
 - vi. *Character and Associations*

5. Comment & Discussion Period

- a. Mark Dennis: Arlington County is working on a project adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. The team has been coordinating with ANMC, and the project is in the early stages, but Arlington County wanted to ensure that these are the correct points of contact to continue communicating with as they move forward with the project.
 - i. Caitlin Smith: Yes, from the Army side these are the correct points of contact. The County can look at the lists of interested parties in the current project's materials on ANC's website.
- b. Michael Horace: There is recent news from the White House that there are plans for a project on the circle at the base of Memorial Bridge. Do we need to incorporate that in these project plans?
 - i. Caitlin Smith: This is a very recent announcement, and we'll need to see how those plans progress before making any determinations.
- c. Lorin Farris: Are there certain sections of the PA that are causing the most concern for ACHP or VDHR?
 - i. Caitlin Smith: ACHP participated in the May consulting parties meeting, and the August entitled parties meeting. Afterwards, ACHP provided notification that it was concluding its participation in this consultation, so we believe there are no concerns on their part. VDHR provided comments on the draft PA, which ANMC accepted. VDHR also requested a more robust description of character-defining features, so the latest version of the PA expands on these elements. This project could go on for many years, so we're trying to make the PA as robust and flexible as possible.
 - ii. Adrienne Birge-Wilson: Our initial concern was primarily the character-defining features, but that looks to be clarified in the latest version of the PA.
- d. Anne Brockett: Can you share today's presentation?
 - i. Eva Falls: Yes, today's presentation, along with meeting minutes, will be posted on ANMC's public notices website.
- e. Lorin Farris: When Arlington County signs documents, it can take some time because approval is needed from the County Board. That should be taken into consideration if the County is going to sign. We also need to have an internal discussion to determine if we do or do not want to be a signatory on this PA.

- i. Caitlin Smith: Please let us know the outcome of that decision, as we currently have the concurring parties page blank, but would like to know which parties have interest in being concurring parties on this agreement. This is a good reminder that any parties wanting to be a concurring party to the agreement should submit that request with their comments on the draft PA by 3 November.

6. Next Steps

- a. Receive and resolve Consulting Party comments on the Draft PA
 - i. *Current comment window remains open until **3 November 2025***
- b. Circulate the PA for signatures
- c. Once the PA is finalized and executed, the NEPA EA and draft FNSI will be released
- d. Design start ~FY27; Construction start ~2029-2032

7. Meeting Close

Email: usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil

Website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices>