

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

AGENCY ATTENDEES: U.S. Army

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| Caitlin Smith | ANMC | Cultural Resources Program Manager |
| COL Michael Binetti | ANMC | Chief of Staff |
| Steven Crawford | ANMC | Architect |
| Kerry Meeker | ANMC | Chief of Public Affairs |
| Jenifer Van Vleck | ANMC | Public Affairs Specialist (Contractor) |
| Emily VanderBush | ANMC | Public Affairs Specialist – Digital Media |
| Eva Falls | USACE, Baltimore District | Cultural Resources Program Manager |
| Juliet Healey | USACE, Baltimore District | NEPA Specialist |
| Connie Ramsey | USACE, Baltimore District | Section Chief, Installation Support Branch |
| Michael Schuster | USACE, Baltimore District | Branch Chief, Installation Support Branch |
| Alice Pool | USACE, Norfolk District | Project Manager |
| David Poole, Jr. | USACE, Norfolk District | Design Manager, COR |
| Breeana Harris | USACE, Norfolk District | PAO Deputy Chief |
| Matthew Karlinchak | USACE, Norfolk District | Branch Chief, ANC Program |
| Kristina Whitney | Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall | Cultural Resources Program Manager |
| David Howlett | U.S. Army Legal Services Agency | Environmental Law Division |

FEDERAL CONSULTING PARTIES

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|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) | Lauren Cooper | Army Liaison with the ACHP |
| Federal Highway Administration | Miguel Caro | Civil Engineer |
| National Park Service | Gail Gladstone | Cultural Resource Program Manager |

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| National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway | Maureen Joseph | Chief of Resource Management |
| | Raymond Nuesch | Professional Services Division |
| | Megan Bailey | Cultural Resources Program Manager and Section 106 Coordinator |
| National Capital Planning Commission | Lee Webb | Federal Preservation Officer |
| U.S. Commission of Fine Arts | Carlton Hart | Senior Urban Planner |
| | Daniel Fox | Senior Advisor for Design Review and Historic Preservation |
| Washington Headquarters Services | Cameron DeLancey | Pentagon Reservation Master Planner |

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE CONSULTING PARTIES

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|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office | Tim Dennee | Architectural Historian |
| Virginia Department of Historic Resources | Jennifer Bellville-Marrion | Project Review Archaeologist |

OTHER CONSULTING PARTIES AND ATTENDEES

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|--|-----------------|--|
| Arlington County Government | Lorin Farris | Supervisor with Arlington County's Historic Preservation Program |
| | Brian Shelton | Transportation Planning and Capital Projects Manager |
| Arlington Historical Society | Marty Suydam | Chair of the Historic Research and Preservation Committee |
| Military Women's Memorial | Clare Tomasetti | Chief of Staff |
| Virginia Department of Transportation | Timothy Belcher | Assistant District Location and Design Engineer |
| Washington Area Bicyclist Association | Kevin O'Brien | Organizer |
| | Kalli Krumpas | Advocacy Director |

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;
 - 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 Historic Background and Site Orientation

- a. ANC: Ms. Smith gave an overview of ANC's history and mission. ANC receives millions of visitors each year, including visits from the President of the United States, dignitaries, family and friends of the deceased. The agency's primary mission remains the honorable burial and commemoration of our nation's veterans. More than 6,500 funerals are conducted yearly at ANC. Additionally, up to 3,000 other ceremonies occur regularly, such as: commemorations, dedication/wreath ceremonies, and dignitary visits.
- b. Entry Corridor: Ms. Smith gave an overview of the Entry Corridor's history and development over time. While the total cemetery is more than 630 acres, the portion the project is focusing on is the approximately 35 acres centered around the cemetery's entry corridor. The project includes Memorial Avenue, the public parking garage, Welcome Center, tram station, Administration Building, and the hemicycle, which contains the Military Women's Memorial. The entry corridor is part of both the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District and the Arlington Memorial Bridge, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. This corridor was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White in the 1920s.

4. Section 106 Review Summary (Presentation of ANMC's findings)

- a. Description of the Undertaking: Ms. Smith then defined the proposed undertaking. 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:
- i. new columbaria and in-ground burials to the north of the Avenue and south of the parking garage
 - ii. improvements to Memorial Avenue, including security screening for vehicles and buses and improved signage for visitors
 - iii. parking garage reconfiguration for better vehicular flow
 - iv. a pedestrian screening facility and arrivals plaza with new bathroom facilities
 - v. construction of a new Welcome Center and central plaza,
 - vi. interpretive gardens,
 - vii. an amphitheater, and
 - viii. outdoor gathering spaces.

- b. APE: The APE extends to the northeast corner of the cemetery, covers part of the county and federal road network to the east, extends down to the northern edge of ANC's columbarium courts, and extends west towards the Kennedy family gravesites. The agency completed a viewshed study to better identify the extent of potential visual impacts and thereby determine the extent of the APE. On slides 17 and 18, Ms. Smith described how the viewshed study informed the APE determination.
- c. Identification of Historic Properties: the proposed project falls within the boundaries of two historic properties on the National Register, the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District and the Arlington Memorial Bridge. ANC was listed on the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C. Slide 19 of the presentation gave a full listing of those contributing features that are within the APE.
- d. Assessment of Effects: Based on the results of the viewshed study, scope of the project, and by applying the criteria of adverse effects, ANMC finds that the proposed undertaking for entry corridor area improvements will result in no adverse effects to historic properties listed on the National Register within and adjacent to the undertaking's APE. Ms. Smith described how ANMC reached this determination and elaborated on potential impacts specifically to Memorial Avenue, the Hemicycle, the Welcome Center and Parking Deck, and the Administration Building.

5. Comment & Discussion Period

a. Appearance of Memorial Ave

- i. Ms. Joseph questioned how Memorial Ave will appear at the end of the project and whether infrastructure would be built in the avenue. Mr. Crawford replied that the intent is to not place anything permanent in the avenue. Staff will still be on Memorial Avenue to assist with directing traffic.
- ii. Mr. Hart wondered about the appearance of the visitor services booth (VOS) that would be on Memorial Avenue. Ms. Smith replied that the intent is for the VOS structure to be mobile and not permanent. It would be another tool to assist wayfinding for visitors.

b. Security Building – Funeral Screening Canopy

- i. Mr. Hart wondered if placing the funeral screening canopy structure so close to the hedgerow would obstruct security lines of sight. The concern would be the removal of white oaks for security sight lines. Ms. Smith acknowledged this concern and answered that ANMC is tracking the proximity of the structure to the white oaks, and that will be a consideration during design. There is no intent to remove vegetation for security buffers.

c. Vegetative Screening, the White Oaks, and the Hedge Row

- i. Mr. Fox questioned whether vegetative screening is appropriate minimization as vegetation can be ephemeral. Ms. Smith acknowledged that while vegetation can be ephemeral, in this case, the vegetation along Memorial Avenue contributes to the historic district's formal planned landscape. Its restoration (the rows of white oaks and hedges) will be a beneficial impact to the historic district. Mr. Lee echoed that the vegetation along Memorial Ave should be maintained.
- ii. Ms. Farris asked for clarification on the number of white oaks that will need to be removed or replaced. Ms. Smith replied that over the years many of the trees have been lost to construction projects or storms. This project would restore trees in

those areas. The image on slide 15 was used to elaborate on the proposed landscape plan. Ms. Farris asked that the team look at the amount of space the trees will need to thrive into full maturity, i.e. canopy space. Ms. Smith agreed that this will be considered in the design.

- iii. Ms. Joseph asked if they looked at winter and summer renderings for the viewshed survey. Ms. Smith said she believed they looked at both, but if additional images are needed, please let ANMC know after the consulting parties review the viewshed survey.

d. Bike Trail:

- i. Mr. Belcher inquired about the proposed plans for a bike trail along Route 110 that will be partly on ANC property. Mr. Crawford confirmed that this is still in the master plans for the county.
- ii. Ms. Krumpal expressed her support for the Arlington Memorial Trail.

6. Next Steps

- a. ANMC awaits the DHR's response on the following submissions:
 - i. Concurrence on the APE & Viewshed Study
 - ii. Identification of any other Historic Properties
 - iii. Concurrence/Comments on the No Adverse Effects on Historic Properties Determination
- b. Comment period open through May 14
 - i. Email: usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil
 - ii. Website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices>
- c. Next steps in the Section 106 Process:
 - i. If there is concurrence that there will be "No Adverse Effect on Historic Properties," then the Section 106 process is concluded.
 - ii. Should the project change during design, then Section 106 consultation will be reopened, and the consulting parties reengaged.
- d. Current Status of NEPA
 - i. Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is ongoing
 - ii. Expected Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and copy of the EA is anticipated to be published for public review in summer 2025

7. Meeting Close