

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

**SLIDE 1**

**Eva Falls (Cultural Resources Program Manager, USACE, Baltimore District):**

[0:12] Good Afternoon. Thank you for attending this meeting of consulting parties regarding the Entry Corridor Area Improvements project at Arlington National Cemetery. Before we begin, I want to cover a few administrative items.

**SLIDE 2**

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[0:26] This slide shows how attendees can set up closed captioning in Teams. To turn on closed captioning: Click on the "Show live captions" button. You can find this at the top of your screen under "More" and then "Language and speech." As presenters speak, words will continue to scroll across the bottom of your screen. You can then turn this function off by clicking the "Hide Captions" button in the same area of your screen.

**SLIDE 3**

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[0:58] Before we discuss the project, I also want to set some ground rules for today's meeting. During the discussion portion of today's meeting, participants can raise their hand to provide comments or questions. All attendees should keep their microphone and camera off until they are called on to speak. Once called on, you will have the ability to unmute your mic and turn on your camera.

[1:25] Questions or comments may also be typed into the chat, and I will read them out loud for the group. Once we have gone through all the commenters with raised hands one time through and have read comments in the chat, I will then call on those on the phone to come off of mute if you would also like to participate.

[1:41] The audio and visual portions of this meeting are being recorded and a transcript is being written to help with the writing of the environmental analysis for this project. If you do not wish to be part of the public record for this meeting. Please do not make any comments (written or verbal) during the meeting.

[1:58] Lastly, should you have any issues hearing or seeing the presentation, entering questions in the chat box, or for technical issues with Teams, you can type your issue into the chat box.

[2:10] I was the one who sent the meeting invite; you can also e-mail me quickly so I will have that up as well. And those on the phone should try one of the numbers in your Team's e-mail confirmation. If you're having difficulties. A few numbers were provided.

[2:23] So, at this time I'm going to call on those individuals who have dialed into the meeting via phone. We're going to ask those on the phone to identify yourself, your title, and this will allow us to provide an accurate list of attendees. For those on the phone, if you would like to bring yourself off of mute, once I call on you, you can press \*6 to unmute yourself. For those dialed in by phone, use \*6 to mute or unmute yourself. Also, for those on the phone, you can press \*5 to raise or lower your hand.

[2:57] Alright, so. For the phone number \*\*\*-\*\*\*-9077. Please come off of mute if you're able to and let me know who you are.

[inaudible 03:17]

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[3:27] I'm sorry. Can you repeat yourself one more time?

[3:41] All right, with the number ending in 1859? Please press \*6 to unmute yourself.

**Kristina Whitney (Cultural Resources Program Manager, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH)):**

[4:00] Kristina Whitey, with Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[4:04] Hi, Kristina. Thank you.

[4:07] The number ending in 3023.

**Jennifer Bellville-Marrion (Project Review Archaeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR)):**

[4:14] Jenny Bellville-Marrion, Virginia DHR.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[4:19] Hi, thank you. Alright. I'm just checking. OK. I think that was all of the phone numbers. Thank you for your assistance and patience while we address these administrative items at the start of the meeting. I will now hand the meeting over to Ms. Caitlin Smith, who will be leading us today. Caitlin.

#### **SLIDE 4**

**Caitlin Smith (Cultural Resources Program Manager, Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC)):**

[4:50] Thank you, Eva. Good afternoon. I am Caitlin Smith, and I'm the agency's Cultural Resources Program Manager and the compliance lead for the project's National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance efforts. Assisting me today as a meeting moderator is Ms. Eva Falls from the Army Corps of Engineers who is supporting us on this project. If you have not yet done so, I invite you to visit our website to view all public notices and information released about this project. The website link is shown on the slide. This is also where we will upload the slides, recording, and transcript for this meeting.

[5:27] Please also make note of the agency's e-mail address to which you can send your comments. When you do, please include "Entry Corridor Area Improvements" in the subject line.

#### **SLIDE 5**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[5:39] The agenda for today's meeting is shown on this slide. First, we will have introductions and a roll call of attendees. Then, we will lay out for you the role of our consulting parties and expectations for your participation. I will then present a quick summary of the history of ANC, who we are and our mission, and provide an overview of the proposed project or undertaking. Next, we will describe where we are in the Section 106 process.

[6:06] I will discuss the Area of Potential Effects, identification of historic properties, and the agency's Assessment of Effects. We will then open the floor for all consulting parties to provide comments on these topics and the agency's findings. After receiving your comments, we will discuss the next steps in the Section 106 process and give you an update on where we are in the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA review. I will now turn it back over to Eva to conduct the roll call and introductions.

**SLIDE 6/7**

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[6:41] All right. So, in the next few slides, we have a listing of organizations and affiliations invited to participate as consulting parties for this undertaking. I will call on those organizations we have marked present today. When I call your organization name, please unmute yourself and provide your name, title, and your consulting party affiliation. Again, for those dialing in by the phone [inaudible 07:03].

[7:12] So, all right. Starting us out, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Lauren Cooper.

**Lauren Cooper (Army Liaison, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)):**

[7:24] Hi, this is Lauren Cooper. I'm the Army liaison with the ACHP.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[7:33] Thank you. Commission of Fine Arts, Daniel Fox.

**Daniel Fox (Senior Advisor, Design Review & Historic Preservation, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)):**

[7:40] Senior advisor for design review and historic preservation.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[7:49] Federal Highway Administration, Miguel.

[inaudible 07:53]

[8:13] Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Kristina Whitney.

**Kristina Whitney (JBM-HH):**

[8:31] Cultural Resources and NEPA Program Manager.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[8:45] Lee Webb.

**Lee Webb (Federal Preservation Officer, National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)):**

[8:48] Good afternoon. Lee Webb, National Capital Planning Commission, Federal Preservation Officer.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[8:59] National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Megan Bailey.

**Megan Bailey (Cultural Resources Program Manager and Section 106 Coordinator, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway (NPS-GWMP)):**

[9:05] Yes, hi, I'm Megan Bailey. I'm the cultural resources program manager and section 106 coordinator for George Washington Memorial Parkway.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[9:22] Jenny Bellville-Marrion.

[9:46] Virginia Department of Transportation, Timothy Belcher.

**Tim Belcher (Assistant District Location and Design Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)):**

[9:53] Tim Belcher, I am one of the assistant district location and design engineers for Virginia Department of Transportation and I am the new project liaison for the construction for the interchange for the Southern Expansion.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[10:19] Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Kevin O'Brien.

**Kevin O'Brien (Virginia Organizer, Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)):**

[10:25] Yeah. Kevin O'Brien, organizer with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[10:38] Arlington Historical Society, Marty Suydam.

**Martin Suydam (Chair of the Historic Research and Preservation Committee, Arlington Historical Society):**

[10:43] Marty Suydam. I am Chair of the Historic Research and Preservation Committee, Arlington Historical Society.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[10:54] There was a couple I missed. So, Gail Gladstone.

**Gail Gladstone (Regional Section 106 Coordinator, National Park Service, National Capital Region):**

[11:00] Yeah. Hi, Gail Gladstone, with the National Park Service. I'm the regional section 106 coordinator for the National Capital Region.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[11:11] Arlington County Government, Lorin Farris.

**Lorin Farris (Acting Historic Preservation Supervisor, Arlington County Government):**

[11:16] Good afternoon. This is Lorin Farris. I'm the supervisor with Arlington County's Historic Preservation Program. Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[11:27] Clare Tomasetti.

**Clare Tomasetti (Chief of Staff, Military Women's Memorial):**

[11:31] Good afternoon, Claire Tomasetti, Military Women's Memorial Chief of Staff.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[11:41] All right, I'm going to open it up now. Anyone else that I may have missed? I know people were calling in while we were doing that. Brian Shelton.

**Brian Shelton (Transportation Planning and Capital Projects Manager, Arlington County Government):**

[11:53] Hi, Brian Shelton, transportation planning for Arlington County.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[12:01] Maureen Joseph.

**Maureen Joseph (Chief of Resource Management, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway (NPS-GWMP)):**

[12:03] Good afternoon, everybody. Maureen Joseph, I'm with the George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[12:11] Cameron DeLancey.

**Cameron DeLancey (Pentagon Reservation Chief Master Planner, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)):**

[12:13] Cameron DeLancey, Pentagon Reservation, Master Planner.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[12:23] And Raymond Nuesch.

**Raymond Nuesch (Landscape Architect / Project Manager, Professional Services Division, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway (NPS-GWMP)):**

[12:27] Yes, Raymond Nuesch, also with George Washington Memorial Parkway, Professional Services Division.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[12:40] All right. Anyone else? OK, well.

[inaudible 12:47]

## **SLIDE 8**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[13:11] All right.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[13:12] Apologies for those who are unable to hear. I was just thanking everyone for calling in and Caitlin will now start discussing the project. Caitlin.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[13:22] Thank you. All right. Well, Army National Military Cemeteries, which you'll hear me refer to in shorthand as ANMC throughout the presentation. We appreciate everyone taking time today to join us for this consulting party's meeting. This meeting provides an opportunity for the agency to consult directly with those individuals and organizations that have a stake in the process and the outcome of the proposed Entry Corridor Area Improvements project. We are soliciting thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to properly analyze and move through each step of the Section 106 process. The goal for today's meeting is to obtain comments regarding the agency's defined Area of Potential Effects, identification of historic properties, and assessment of effects.

[14:07] For those new to the consultation process, please note the consulting parties have particular rights. These include sharing their views, receiving and reviewing pertinent information and documentation to support consultation, offering ideas, and considering possible solutions together with ANMC and other consulting parties. The agency will take this feedback into consideration when evaluating and designing the proposed project. But note that the agency is not obligated to carry out the preferences and recommendations of invited consulting parties.

**SLIDE 9**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[14:43] Arlington National Cemetery, or ANC, is known as our nation's most sacred shrine, and the country's premier National Cemetery. ANC receives millions of visitors each year, including visits from the President of the United States, dignitaries, and family and friends of the deceased. The agency's primary mission remains the honorable burial and commemoration of our nation's veterans.

[15:07] More than 6,500 funerals are conducted yearly at ANC. Additionally, up to 3,000 other ceremonies occur regularly, such as commemorations, dedication and wreath ceremonies and dignitary visits.

[15:21] Founded in 1864 during the American Civil War, ANC is the final resting place for American veterans who have fought in every war since the nation's inception. Over 150 years later, nearly 400,000 veterans and their family members are laid to rest at the cemetery.

[15:38] With the burials of two U.S. presidents, numerous historical figures, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the cemetery has grown in size, significance, and prominence through the years. A visit to this national shrine continues to remind each generation of the sacrifice that members of the armed forces and their families make in the defense of freedom.

[15:58] ANMC's motto is Honor, Remember, Explore. ANMC honors the service and sacrifice of eligible service members, veterans and their family members with dignity, compassion, and accountability. We remember those from each generation who have answered the call to serve by preserving the cemeteries in a way befitting their sacrifices. And we enable guests to explore the rich history of ANC and to gain an appreciation for those who have defended our freedom and helped shape our nation's history.

**SLIDE 10**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[16:34] While the total cemetery is more than 630 acres, the portion we are focusing on today is the approximately 35 acres centered around the cemetery's entry corridor. The focal point of this area is Memorial Avenue, which is the central eastern entrance to the cemetery and the primary entrance for most funeral attendees, dignitaries, and public visitors.

[16:57] It includes within its bounds the public parking garage, the Welcome Center, the tram station, the Administration Building, and the Hemicycle, which contains the Military Women's Memorial. The 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.

**SLIDE 11**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[17:21] The construction of Arlington Memorial Bridge and the development of the Grand Avenue are expansions of the work started by the Senate Park Commission of 1901, also known as the McMillan Commission, and their 1902 report, which came to be known as the McMillan Plan. This corridor was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White in the 1920s. Bridge construction began in 1926, and the corridor continued to develop through the 1930s with the construction of the Hemicycle at the western terminus framed by rows of white oaks and holly hedges down the length of the Avenue. Here you can see the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission landscape plans circa 1933.

**SLIDE 12**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[18:07] Over the decades, roadways came and went. Memorials and sculptures were added in niches along the Avenue. In the late 1970s, the cemetery Metro station opened on the Avenue. In the late 1980s, the cemetery's visitor center was built. In the late 1990s, the Women in Military Service for America Memorial was built into the Hemicycle. Most recently, in 2019, Congress transferred the western portion of the Memorial Avenue corridor from the National Park Service to the U.S. Army. In response, ANC modified its operations and maintenance practices to take on caring for the entry corridor area. In the agency's latest master plan identified potential projects that could help better integrate the corridor into the cemetery.

**SLIDE 13**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[19:00] Now that you have some background on the project area and its historical significance, let's discuss the proposed improvements.

[19:08] As noted earlier, the entry corridor area is located in the northeast portion of the cemetery and serves as the primary visitor and ceremonial entrance to ANC. It includes significant facilities such as the Welcome Center, Public Parking Garage, Administration Building, Military Women's Memorial, and various support areas.

[19:27] Covering approximately 35 acres, this area is pivotal for managing the high volume of visitors and ceremonial activities. The proposed improvements would address various operational challenges and enhance the experience for visitors, funeral attendees, and staff.

[19:43] A feasibility study for the proposed undertaking was completed in the summer of 2024, but formal design has not yet started. As the project is currently in the concept design phase, the images shown in this slide deck are very preliminary.

[19:59] 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.

**SLIDE 14**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[20:21] To achieve these objectives, the agency proposes:

- new columbaria and inground burials to the north of the Avenue and South of the parking garage,
- improvements to Memorial Avenue, including security screening for vehicles and buses and improved signage for visitors,
- parking garage reconfiguration for better vehicular flow,
- a separate pedestrian screening facility and arrivals plaza with new bathroom facilities,
- construction of new Welcome Center and central plaza,
- interpretive gardens and amphitheater, and outdoor gathering spaces.

**SLIDE 15**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[21:03] The largest built feature of the proposed undertaking is the new Welcome Center, shown as #9 on this image. The existing Welcome Center would be demolished and

replaced with outdoor gathering spaces, shown as #8 on this image. The new Welcome Center, roughly the same size as the existing Welcome Center, which is approximately 33,200 square feet. It would be constructed further West providing more separation between the security screening facility, which is shown as #5, more separation between that facility, the Administration Building, and the visitor services areas. The project proposes constructing the new Welcome Center immediately West of the existing building, which is proposed for demolition once the new Welcome Center opens. The new building would be roughly the same size, and it would be restricted to approximately 38 feet in height to preserve the viewshed along Memorial Avenue and the bridge.

[22:02] Most views of the building would be obstructed behind the hedgerows. The space where the old Welcome Center stood would become outdoor, gathering spaces, again shown as #8 on this image. The overall effect is greater physical and functional separation between the security screening facility shown as #5, the Administration Building, and the visitor services facilities. The historic Administration Building would remain in place. Landscape improvements are proposed around the building to separate the funeral support services from general visitor support and tourism service areas.

#### **SLIDE 16**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[22:43] Now that you have an idea of what the proposed project entails, let's talk about where we are in the NHPA Section 106 compliance review process.

[22:51] When the agency identified that there was a federal undertaking, we initiated the Section 106 process and notified the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, also known as the Department of Historic Resources or DHR. We then identified and contacted potential consulting parties. Next, the agency identified the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects, also known in shorthand as the APE, and identified historic properties in the APE that would potentially be affected. The agency has now reached the assessment of effects stage and provided its finding to the DHR and the consulting parties. As part of this meeting, we would like to review these findings, which you should have received with your consultation invitation, they are also available for public viewing on the agency's public notices website. Throughout the entire Section 106 process, the federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues.

#### **SLIDE 17**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[23:52] The agency identified the Area of Potential Effects, or APE, for the proposed project, the full extent of which will be determined in consultation with the DHR. The APE is the geographic area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of the historic properties. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking. This includes locations where the project may be visible and or audible.

[24:25] DHR guidelines recommend that the APE includes all locations where the project will cause ground disturbance (the limits of disturbance for the proposed undertaking), all locations from which the project may be visible or audible (for example, during construction activities and after construction completes and there are changes to the built environment and landscape), and it includes all locations where the project may result in changes to land use, public access, traffic patterns, viewsheds, et cetera.

[24:54] For this undertaking, the project area is located within the Arlington National Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Historic District, and at the western terminus of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and its related features.



[25:07] On these images, the project's limits of disturbance or "LOD" is outlined in bright yellow. On the image to the left, the APE is highlighted in a lighter yellow that shows the anticipated reach of noise and viewshed impacts. 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 grave sites. On the image to the right, historic properties and districts in the vicinity are outlined in blue.

#### **SLIDE 18**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[25:49] The agency completed a viewshed study to better identify the extent of potential visual impacts and thereby determine the extent of the APE. As the tallest structure in the proposed redevelopment project, the new Welcome Center is the focal point of this viewshed analysis. Approximately 12 viewsheds were identified and analyzed in the study. Resulting renderings, a sample of which are shown here, demonstrate the undertaking's negligible visual impact on the viewsheds, which contribute to the National Register eligibility of both the Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery.

[26:25] The full viewshed study was transmitted to all invited consulting parties and has been made available on the ANC public notices webpage.

[26:34] During construction, temporary sound and visual effects are expected within 100 yards of the project area. In addition, there will be temporary, localized impacts to traffic patterns in the cemetery and along Memorial Avenue and Route 110.

#### **SLIDE 19**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[26:52] Once the agency defined the APE, we could move on to the next step in the process and determine if there are historic properties which may be affected by the undertaking.

[27:02] At this time, ANMC has determined that there are properties potentially affected. As discussed, 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.

[27:18] ANC was listed on the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C: under Criterion A for the "commemoration of our nation's military;" under Criterion B for graves of important people that relate to the history of the country or region; and under Criterion C as a cemetery that reflects the "design characteristics associated with the picturesque rural cemetery movements or the establishment of national cemeteries" and more specifically design elements that reflect the influence of the McMillan Plan, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the City Beautiful movement.

[27:52] This slide shows a list of historic structures and character defining features contributing to the historic properties' National Register nominations that are also located within or adjacent to the APE. For example, this list includes the Superintendent's house, also known as Lodge 1, the Administration Building, the McClellan Gate, the Kennedy family grave sites, the President William Howard Taft Monument, and the Arlington Hemicycle, also known as the Military Women's Memorial.

#### **SLIDE 20**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[28:26] Now that potentially affected historic properties have been identified, the agency must determine if any of the effects are adverse. An adverse effect is found when an

undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association.

[28:51] Under NHPA, adverse effects include: physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property; alteration, inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties; relocation and or removal of the property; neglect and deterioration; changing the character of the property's use or setting; introduction of incompatible visual, atmospheric, or audible elements; transfer, lease or sale of a historic property out of federal control.

[29:22] Based on the results of the viewshed study, the 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.

[29:42] At this time, we are seeking your concurrence with this finding. This next couple of slides will better explain how ANMC reached this conclusion.

## **SLIDE 21**

### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[29:55] Construction and operation of the proposed entry corridor improvements will have direct and indirect impacts on the historic properties.

[30:03] ANMC has carefully considered ways to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to historic properties for the proposed undertaking. The roadways immediately surrounding the site will be temporarily impacted by construction. There will also be temporary noise and visual impacts during construction. The project would be phased to minimize impacts to regular operations, including selective use of night work.

[30:27] There are no long-term impacts to land use or public access, as the completed project area is within the grounds of an existing government facility. The proposed project expands compatible and existing land uses by replacing or expanding the capacity of existing facilities currently performing the same functions. For example, the new tram support structures replace existing tram structures in the same location. And new columbaria are proposed in turfed areas adjacent to active burial sections, a compatible use consistent with the character of the surrounding landscape. Visitor services remain concentrated within the entry corridor area, and the proposed project maintains a separation of general visitor services, burial services, and government operations.

[31:14] The project is designed to preserve character-defining viewsheds, structures, and landscapes. In particular, the iconic viewshed that stretches West to East from Arlington House, down the Avenue, across the Memorial Bridge, and down to the Lincoln Memorial.

[31:31] There will be no adverse effects to the integrity of the historic properties that would diminish their historical and architectural significance; and there are no adverse effects to characteristics that qualify the historic properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

## **SLIDE 22**

### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[31:53] The agency has determined that the effects to the Memorial Avenue, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Hemicycle are not adverse. The site line, design, and landscape

features of Memorial Avenue are contributing elements of the National Register-listed ANC Historic District and Arlington Memorial Bridge. The proposed undertaking has been carefully developed to ensure nothing obstructs sightlines down the Avenue. For example, the height of the new columbaria north of Memorial Avenue and the new Welcome Center will be restricted behind the holly hedges, ensuring that they are largely obstructed from view along the Avenue or the bridge. These are illustrated here in the central image.

[32:32] The tops of some new structures may be visible from the roof of the Hemicycle, also known as the Military Women's Memorial. However, the addition of new oak trees and plantings will minimize these effects. Special care will be given to preserve the extant holly hedges and white oak trees, which are contributing and character defining features of the historic properties, and these bound either side of Memorial Avenue. Selective removals would only occur where necessary to improve safety, security, and circulation for pedestrians and vehicles.

[33:03] As a result, the proposed undertaking is expected to result in net positive improvements to the landscape. Through the decades, construction of Highway 110 in the 1940s and the ANC Welcome Center in the 1980s resulted in the removal or loss of oak trees along the Avenue. This project proposes restoring the hedgerow in selective locations and adding new trees to reestablish the double row of white oaks called for in the McMillan Plan and designs by McKim, Mead, & White. The image on the far right illustrates potential tree removals and potential locations for new white oaks.

#### **SLIDE 23**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[33:42] The undertaking includes the demolition of the present-day Welcome Center and improvements to the adjacent parking garage. The present-day Welcome Center and adjacent parking garage were completed in 1988 and are non-contributing elements of the ANC historic district. The proposed entry corridor projects would better integrate these functional features into the historic landscape.

[34:03] The design of the new Welcome Center would be more consistent with ANC's design standards, and views of both structures again would be largely obstructed within the cemetery and from the bridge by existing and proposed new landscaping, including the hedgerow and oak trees that line the Avenue.

#### **SLIDE 24**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[34:24] The International Style Administration building was built circa 1975 in line with the 1968 Master Plan by Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon Architects, and it is a contributing element of the ANC historic district. Its setting dramatically changed when the adjacent Welcome Center and parking deck were constructed in 1988.

[34:44] The proposed undertaking would result in temporary visual and sound impacts during construction, and long-term changes to the viewshed. Proposed landscape improvements include relocating the Welcome Center and adding plantings as vegetative screening between the Administration Building and visitor services areas. As a result, there are improvements to the viewshed and a restoration of the pastoral landscape around the Administration Building. Otherwise, the building and its historic function remain unchanged.

#### **SLIDE 25**

##### **Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[35:18] ANMC also considered potential impacts to archaeological resources. There are no known archaeological sites within the project's limits of disturbance or LOD. In 2024-25, we

began an in-progress assessment of ANC's archaeological resources and areas of archaeological potential. This study has found that the project's LOD has low archaeological potential, except for areas around the ANC boundary that have low to medium archaeological potential.

[35:49] This assessment then combined these archaeological potential findings with information about ground disturbance related to the construction of buildings and infrastructure to determine that the area within the project's LOD has low archaeological sensitivity. As a result, no Phase I or Phase II archaeological surveys are recommended for this proposed project. It is assumed there is a high degree of disturbance from previous construction activities, especially around the Welcome Center, utility corridors, roadways, and the parking deck. ANMC has provided the DHR with the full assessment report to assist in their review of these findings.

[36:27] As is required in all of the agency's projects involving ground disturbance, in the event of an unanticipated discovery, all work would cease, and the agency's cultural resources manager (CRM) is contacted. The CRM then notifies the Department of Historic Resources and other appropriate agencies, and standard procedures around unanticipated finds are followed to protect the potential artifacts and determine their significance.

[36:51] Now that I have presented the agency's findings, I will turn things back over to Eva, who will guide us through the consulting party comment portion of today's meeting. Eva.

## **SLIDE 26**

### **Eva Falls (USACE):**

[37:02] Thank you, Caitlin. So, we will be soliciting your comments on various aspects of the Section 106 process to include if you concur or do not concur with the Area of Potential Effect, our list of identified historic properties, and with the agency's finding of no adverse effects. If you do concur with the APE, the historic properties, or the effects finding, you may comment in the chat.

[37:30] If you do not concur, below are the questions we will be asking: If you do not concur with the APE, how would you redefine it? If you do not concur with the list of historic properties within or adjacent to the APE, please explain. And if you do not concur with the finding of no adverse effects, please elaborate. Are there effects the agency has not considered fully or neglected to consider?

[37:57] Participants may now raise their hand in the Team's function to provide comments or questions. All attendees should keep their microphone and camera off until they are called on to speak. Once you're called on, you'll have the ability to state your name, organization, unmute yourself, and turn on your camera. Once you have finished your response, please go back on mute.

[38:18] Questions or comments may also be typed into the chat, and I will read them out loud for the group.

[38:24] Once we have gone through all of the commenters with raised hands one time through and have read comments in the chat, I will then also call those on the phone to come off mute if you would also like to participate.

[38:37] So. Looking so far, it looks like no one has raised their hand yet. Ah, Maureen Joseph.

**Maureen Joseph (NPS-GWMP):**

[38:49] Good afternoon again. This is Maureen Joseph with the National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway. My question is regarding whether there will be any kind of barrier along Memorial Avenue just to direct traffic going to the Welcome Center. Just trying to understand what's going to be on the Avenue just to make sure that cars are diverting to the right location. Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[39:28] Caitlin or Steven, would you like to provide some feedback? We can also, of course, provide additional materials based on the questions asked today.

**Steven Crawford (Architect / Project Manager, Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC)):**

[39:41] Eva, this is Steven Crawford. I can jump in. Was that question, Maureen, for during construction or after construction?

**Maureen Joseph (NPS-GWMP):**

[39:49] I guess what the final appearance will be after construction. Kind of wondering, right now, as we know, there's a lot of staffing and trying to direct people to the right location. There's screening guards. Just trying to understand just what the corridor will look like post construction.

**Steven Crawford (ANMC):**

[40:12] Sure. So that's still going to be developed in the future phases of design, whatever is going to be put there, though, I think the intent is that it's not permanent. Something better looking than cones, but something, yes, that directs traffic, but there will still be staff out there directing traffic as well. Over.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[40:40] All right. I have one comment so far in the chat. This is from Daniel Fox from the Commission on Fine Arts: Can you or someone from the Advisory Council speak to the role of screening vegetation in assessing adverse effects? In our own design review, we disregard screening vegetation when considering the impact of a project.

[41:04] Lauren Cooper from the Advisory Council, or Caitlin, would you like to jump in and perhaps provide a little bit of feedback about how vegetative screening plays a role in the Section 106 assessment of effects?

**Lauren Cooper (ACHP):**

[41:35] This is Lauren Cooper with the ACHP. I'll defer to Caitlin in this instance because, Daniel, I think I need a little bit more context, a little bit more detail before I could fully respond.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[41:52] Would anyone from the Virginia SHPO, the Department of Historic Resources, like to weigh in on this question?

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[42:14] So this is Caitlin again. So, if DHR does not want to comment, I will just say that we have typically in the past, for Section 106, we have included as part of our viewshed analysis the landscape and landscape features and plantings. And we usually do touch on what the landscape looks like even at different times of year. We usually do include planting as screening as part of a designed landscape as part of our analysis. That's typically what we've done for our Section 106, and I think this is a very high-level overview at this point, but

in the final design, we've highlighted mostly the trees and the hedgerow here, I think the final design includes a far more in-depth planting plan but also, probably changes a bit in grading and integration of the landscape and using it in creative ways as a barrier between to separate functional areas because the cemetery has a need and a desire to maintain separation between functions, particularly public functions where the Welcome Center and the tram area are, and separating that from the Administration Building, where funeral attendees and family members start (where they come before the funeral to gather). It's a large priority at the cemetery to separate those areas and those functions, and our landscape design is part of how we do that. But long story short, we have typically included it in the 106 analysis. Over.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[44:31] Daniel Fox, did you want to include any other elaboration on your question or any other thoughts that ANC should be considering?

**Daniel Fox (CFA):**

[44:40] Yeah, sure. Hi, this is Dan from the Commission of Fine Arts. I can elaborate a little bit more. Appreciate the responses. Yeah, I was commenting from our own design review perspective, which is not the Section 106 process. It's just often what we determine is that vegetation is ephemeral, and so when we're evaluating a project, we basically say, what would this look like without the vegetation there, considering vegetation again is ephemeral and can go away, and something that's built usually is permanent. But I do also understand that when we've participated in 106 processes in the past at ANC, when we're considering long views from Arlington House or other long views, it's been accepted that you know, if there are a lot of trees or something is in the way, it is sort of is considered not visible and therefore whatever the change is not considered an impact from that view. But you know, if you're closer up, it's sort of like, well, if the hedges weren't there, there could be an impact, although the adjacent use is the same. And the design is going to quickly go through a process too, so it really was kind of a question for the Advisory Council in a way: how vegetation is treated in the 106 process, or if they have any guidance. But you know, as a consulting party, we don't usually agree or disagree with any findings of adverse effects or not. So, it's a general question about the process, really, and it doesn't have a bearing on whether I think there's an adverse effect or not for our agency.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[47:10] Thank you, Dan. And I would say that for this process, being a historic landscape, the landscape design is an important feature, and we do have a long view of that. And especially when we talk about restoring parts of the McMillan Plan, you know that is an important part of the historic significance of the site. And so, we would not consider the landscape trivial, certainly. And then the other thing we would re-emphasize is this is all very preliminary. But currently, one of the design restrictions we have made a priority is considering and restricting the height of any new structure. So, we are maintaining uses in their current areas, but also thinking about the form and mass of the structures and that they remain appropriate and that we keep a similar scale to what we have today. Over.

**Daniel Fox (CFA):**

[48:11] Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[48:15] Lee Webb, NCPC, you had a comment?

**Lee Webb (NCPC):**

[48:18] Yeah, and thanks. I'm Lee Webb. I'm the federal preservation officer at the National Capital Planning Commission and NCPC pretty much always is with CFA when we're

reviewing projects from agencies. And so, similar to what Dan said, we typically, depending on the project, the setting, how the vegetation... But I think Caitlin's point that this is a designed landscape with the elements like the hedgerows and the hemlocks are considered contributing elements, that the idea is that they will always be retained as elements that contribute to the landscape, the design, and just the setting. So, I think now I'm kind of putting on my former hat as an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Analyst where I think you can use that as part of the determination, it's somewhat different. They're not considered ephemeral because they should be maintained and consistent. Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[49:26] Thank you, Carlton Hart.

**Carlton Hart (CFA):**

[49:30] Yes, hi. Thank you. Carlton Hart with the Commission of Fine Arts, Senior Urban Planner. One question that I had was with regard to a new structure, which is the vehicle screening structure that's kind of South of the Avenue. And the reason that I'm bringing it up is because, often times with... Thank you for going to it... [Slide 15 displayed.] So, it's #3, Building #3. That's actually a new structure in a new location. I can understand the conversation or the presentation that you were giving, Caitlin, regarding the existing memorial structure, not memorial, Welcome Center structure. That structure is there; it's being replicated kind of to the West, I guess, actually East and West. But 3 is actually kind of a brand-new structure in a new location. And oftentimes, what I found on military installations is that there is a desire not to have vegetation near it, so that you can have clear lines and so that may cause a conflict with the hedgerow, with the new trees that you are proposing, and maybe a problem in terms of the need to have sight lines and then the need to have security and the desire to keep, to maintain the hedgerow and the vegetation that's there. The trees that are there. So, I think that may be somewhat of a concern just to understand that. I would not want to see the removal of the hedgerow because of, you know, the need for sight lines and the need for maintaining the security or understanding, maybe just really understanding what that security requirement is in a little bit more detail.

[51:51] So that's kind of one issue. The other issue has to do with, I'm not exactly sure what's being proposed for the middle of the Avenue. I know that there is a something that was called a V-O-S. I don't know what that means exactly. It's a little box that's shown on one of the images in the middle of the Avenue, and I just would like to understand a little bit more what that is. Maybe you did describe it; I just may have missed it, so actually it's in here too-so it's #2 on this list.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[52:29] Yeah, certainly.

**Carlton Hart (CFA):**

[52:30] Thanks.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[52:31] Yeah. No, thank you, Carlton. So, I'll start with your latter question first. The VOS. That's a shorthand we use, VOS, that's our Visitor Services Staff. So currently, we have those contracted staff who we station throughout the cemetery and the Avenue strategically to help guide visitors. And so, it's really a manned station, and those are mobile. It's where they stand, usually under an umbrella, depending on the weather, and they direct the public and vehicles to where they need to go. Because we have so many restrictions, because we're trying to preserve the views on the Avenue, because we can't build, we don't have many permanent structures for these folks. We have to manually man these stations. And that is what helps us limit signage and permanent structures. So, V-O-S is a shorthand for

VOS and those are our visitor services staff, so I hope that clarifies that question.

[53:36] To your earlier point about the vehicle screening center. You are, of course, correct. Yes, that is a new building, a substantial, a small structure, but a new feature. Part of the thinking here is to better meet Army/DoD standards for security and screening. You know, we should have a facility like this, this capability. And by putting it here, we're taking that off the Avenue, because normally that would be at your entryway, at your gate. So, to keep that function off the Avenue, this is currently one of the proposed designs, but you're right, it's still a new structure.

[54:26] Now, one of the concerns, I think, or one of the potential issues you mentioned was that we might be inaccurately showing the landscaping. I will just say, because of course I need to be careful about how we talk about security facilities, and we are in the very preliminary design stage, but I would say that as an installation, ANC recognizes we hold a different place than most military installations. We are a National Register historic site, and we are a public site. And so, we take our setting and our landscape very seriously and we have perhaps different restrictions than other military installations. So, this is currently how we do believe that the design would be in line with this, but it is still early, early days.

**Carlton Hart (CFA):**

[55:26] And I appreciate that. The only thing I was trying to raise was understanding that, and I am very much happy to see that that is not in the middle of the Avenue, so please don't take it as I didn't want to see it, it was more, I know that sometimes there are security concerns regarding viewsheds... sight lines from the security station out to different locations and out to, you know, what's kind of coming towards them, and the hedgerow and some of the vegetation that's shown, while I would like to keep it, there may be issues with not having those sight lines, and at least a long enough sight line. And so, it's trying to make sure that you maintain the integrity of the hedgerow was really what I was trying to get at, but I appreciate the response, and I'll just leave it there. Thank you.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[56:33] Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[56:37] Lorin Farris.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[56:41] Hi. Thanks so much. I wanted to ask a little bit about the white oaks, which I'm very excited to see. I couldn't remember is that...that is an existing condition, and you all are proposing, but so, there's a lot of proposed new ones. So, that's because existing ones are being removed and new ones are going in? I'm sorry, I may have missed that part.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[57:07] Oh, thank you for your question. Let me see if I can clarify it a bit. I think it's certainly unclear. So, we do have existing white oaks, but there are not as many as was originally intended, and they've been impacted by many things. The design of the Avenue has changed so many times over the last couple decades. When we built the metro, when the roads realigned, when we built a utility corridor, which is not shown (it's underground). There's an interceptor for the local area. When we built the Welcome Center, when we built the parking garage, all that construction caused a lot of loss and damage. A lot of trees didn't survive a lot of those construction activities and in many cases, they weren't replaced.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[57:56] Mm hmm.



**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[57:57] And the hedgerow has been impacted through the years, and different entryways have been poked through it. [Slide 22 displayed.] So, in the diagram to the right, and I think this may skew things a little bit because it's not showing all the new plantings and it's not highlighting all the trees that would remain. It's highlighting, that image on the right that they've just pulled up, is trees that we think would be impacted or removed and, in many cases, those would be replaced. We are an Arboretum, a Level III Arboretum. So, we do have standards to maintain from a historical landscape side of things, but also to maintain our Arboretum status. So, this is showing potentially trees that would be removed, but all the green ones, the numbered ones are proposed white oaks, and, where we can, we would like to add them back.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[58:51] Mm hmm.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[58:53] And we are also looking at the north side of the Avenue, where again there were a lot of losses or they're missing, and putting them back on the north side of the Avenue so over time (it will take time) that we get more of that allée, more of that framed corridor that we've lost through the years for various reasons.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[59:15] Thanks for clarifying.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[59:16] I don't know if that's any clearer. Over.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[59:17] Yeah, because the white, our white oaks in Arlington County has definitely been struggling. We've had a lot of blight and so I appreciate you specifying that. With the diagram before, the rendering before, do you have an idea of the tree canopy, that crown that we're looking at for the 11s, the ones that are going to be the new replacement trees? [Slide 15 displayed, proposed new white oaks are shown as #11 and preserved heritage white oaks are shown as #10.] Do you know if that is like them at maturity? Or...because I'm curious to get a sense of how healthy they're going to be if they have enough space to really thrive. Or if you have an idea of what level of tree canopy are you starting to get? Is that what you think it's going to be at first planting, or this is in 10 years, 20 years, or at maturity?

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:00:10] I don't think this diagram is that specific at this time, but that is something we can look into.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[1:00:12] OK.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:00:14] And I can already see, just off the cuff, that they are showing the same trees at different sizes. The most mature trees are, on this image, top right. And then, I can just see from the sizes, I don't know if they've done this purposefully, but in some cases, I'm seeing... if I were giving them credit for being purposeful in this rendering, and I'm not sure they were, there are smaller trees as you go down the line, where we would be plugging holes.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[1:00:41] Mm hmm.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:00:44] Yeah, but that is something we can look into further or that would come in later design stages when we hire the architectural engineering firm.

**Lorin Farris (Arlington County):**

[1:00:56] Great. Thank you.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:00:58] Thank you.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[1:01:01] There was one question in the chat that was when the viewsheds survey was done: Did they also do leaf off or winter views as well as at the height of summer? So, that was from Maureen Joseph from George Washington Memorial Parkway.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:01:36] I think in most cases we just got one view and most of them look pretty leafed in. [Slide 18 displayed.] The images were taken in a variety of seasons, but a lot of them in sort of the fall to winter. So, you can see the top image in the middle, the leaves have fallen. And, yes, when they sketched in the new trees, they sketched them in fully leafed out, so that you could better see them. So, obviously, if there are comments about the information in the viewshed study, please submit those and we can look at improving the information there if it does not feel adequate. Over.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[1:02:23] Thank you. OK. I'm not seeing any other hands up or, at this time, or any other comments in the chat. If there is anyone on the phone who wanted to give a comment, you can come off of mute by pressing \*6. So that would be ending in 9077. Or ending in 1859. OK. Well, if there are no other comments or questions that we have not had a chance to get to, we will start to wrap up this presentation. So, thank you everyone. And back to you, Caitlin. Oh wait, we have a comment from Tim Belcher, VDOT. Tim.

**Tim Belcher (VDOT):**

[1:03:24] Alright, thank you. I guess the question is...There, looking at the, I guess the perimeter, I know that there was a...I think it's still in the Arlington County master plan, that there's a proposed, you know, trail, or shared use path that runs along Route 110. Is all that outside of these limits or is it incorporated into it? [Slide 17 displayed.]

**Steven Crawford (ANMC):**

[1:04:07] Uh, sure. This is Steven Crawford again. Yes, the bike path is still part of the county's plan and is incorporated along our property. So, we will be providing infrastructure for some of that path along our property, as we need to build a retaining wall to get up from the lower part of [Route] 110 up to Memorial Avenue, but all of that will be on ANC property. Over.

**Eva Falls (USACE):**

[1:04:45] OK. And we had one other comment that I can read aloud from Kalli Krumpas: "I wanted to share my support for the planned improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists. We strongly support the Arlington Memorial Trail and believe that it will play an important regional role and provide additional non-vehicle access to the site, whether ultimately built directly by ANC as part of this project or developed concurrently and in conjunction with Arlington County."

All right. Thank you so much, Kalli, for your comment. OK. So, we will turn it back to you, Caitlin.

**SLIDE 27**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:05:30] All right. Thank you, Eva, and thank you all for your comments and your participation. So let me provide a quick update on the Section 106 process.

[1:05:41] So, at this point, ANMC has defined the APE for the undertaking, identified historic properties within the APE, and we are seeking your concurrence with the agency's determination that no historic properties would be adversely affected by the proposed project. Please note that the comment period on the agency's Section 106 findings is open through May 14th.

[1:06:04] If there is a concurrence with the finding of "no adverse effect on historic properties," then the Section 106 process is concluded. The finding of no adverse effects will be incorporated into the NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) document. Should the project change later during the design development phase, then the Section 106 consultation would be reopened, and then consulting parties reengaged.

[1:06:29] If there is not concurrence on the findings, ANMC will continue consultation. If the final determination is that there are adverse effects, the agency will continue consultation on ways to resolve them. The agency and consulting parties will work to reach agreement on a resolution. The agency would continue to explore measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties and reach agreement with the parties on measures to resolve them.

**SLIDE 28**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:06:58] This Section 106 review will also feed into the preparation of the Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. Please know that the results of our consultations are an important component of the environmental analysis. That is why ANMC is working these two compliance procedures in conjunction with one another. In the Environmental Assessment, the agency is analyzing potential impacts resulting from the proposed action to a broad array of resources. ANMC is anticipating the draft Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment will be available for public comment this summer. After completing the EA, the agency will decide whether to move forward with the proposed undertaking and whether to contract an architecture and engineering firm to fully develop the designs.

**SLIDE 29**

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:07:50] We appreciate your participation in today's consulting party's meeting. We will remain in contact with you throughout this process via e-mail and on the ANC website, where we continue to provide information as it becomes available on the status of the NHPA and NEPA compliance processes. Please make note again of the agency's public notices website, shown on this slide. And a final reminder that the comment period for the Section 106 findings is open through May 14th. Please submit written comments to the e-mail shown on the screen. You also received it in your consulting party invitation. All comments submitted will be included in the project's Administrative Record.

[1:08:31] Thank you again for your time, and for your continued support of Arlington National Cemetery.

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[1:08:38] This concludes our meeting. We'll leave the slide up for a few minutes for everyone to make any notes that they need to.

**Lee Webb (NCPC):**

[1:08:47] Thank you.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:08:48] Thank you.

**Carlton Hart (CFA):**

[1:08:51] Thank you.

**Caitlin Smith (ANMC):**

[1:08:52] Thank you.

**David Howlett (U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Environmental Law Division):**

[1:08:54] Very good meeting. Thank you.

**End of Recording [1:09:09]**