



**The Guild of Professional Tour Guides
of Washington, DC**

3306 Potterton Drive
Falls Church, VA 22044

May 10, 2008

Ms. Susan Spain, Project Executive
The National Mall Plan
National Mall & Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

Dear Susan,

Attached are the Guild's comments on the Draft Alternatives Matrix -The National Mall Plan dated April 7, 2008.

We believe that the Mall Plan should include an identification of the tour bus parking issue as this is common to all alternatives. The Plan does not address this issue although it acknowledges that for many Mall events participants arrive in tour buses. At the January 9, 2008 meeting one of the Guild representatives identified this issue as an extremely important one but was dismissed with a response that "We are working with the DC Government on this issue." The Guild has seen little or no progress on this issue since the publication of the District of Columbia's "Tour Bus Management Initiative" in January of 2004. We have repeatedly urged the District of Columbia Department of Transportation to implement the little or no cost initiatives without success. It is suggested that NPS management at an appropriate level initiate discussions with the Mayor's Office to seek resolution of the problem and that it also be identified and addressed in the Mall Plan.

Sincerely,

Shirley Timashev
President
703-992-9395

Copy to: Peggy O'Dell, NPS Washington
Mary McVeigh, NPS Denver

Attachment: Guild Comments on NPS National Mall Plan of 04/08



The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC

Guild of Professional Tour Guides Comments on National Mall Plan Alternatives Matrix dated 16 April 2008

Comment: Para 5.1 column 3, "tour guide guild"

Recommendation: Change to read "Guild of Professional Tour Guides, Washington, D.C."

Comment: Para 6.2, NPS Visitor Transportation Study

Recommendation: At last bullet change to read "A one-way loop serving Arlington Cemetery with extensions to the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, the Air Force Memorial and the Pentagon Memorial with connection to the National Mall service."

Comment: Para 11. the Guild strongly supports providing a new Metro station in East Potomac Park convenient to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

Comment: Para 7.4 Lighting Hierarchy and Guidelines. The Guild has recommended in January 2008, that a lighting plan be developed now without regard to which Alternative is selected. The plan should address improvements that are common to all four alternatives.

Comment: Para 13.8 Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building. The Guild strongly supports use of the Arts and Industries building as a Washington, D.C. visitor and welcome center.

Comment: Para 13.9 Public Safety. Expediting the development of a Mall lighting plan will be a much needed initial step in upgrading public safety.

Comment: Para 14.1, Washington Monument. The Guild strongly supports the extension of Washington Monument hours. Because of the present limited hours we suspect a ticket scalping operation is in existence. This problem has been reported to the NPS Guild liaison officer.