

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



July 15, 2020

Mr. Jeffery P. Foltz
Federal Reserve Board Development Team
FRB-Renovation@frb.gov

FROM: Richard Busch, Member, Historic Preservation Subcommittee
Committee of 100 on the Federal City

SUBJECT: June 24 Presentation for Federal Reserve Board (FRB) Consulting Parties Meeting

Re: Proposed Renovations and New Construction for the Marriner S. Eccles Building and
Federal Reserve Board-East Building

Dear Mr. Foltz:

As the representative of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City (C100), a Consulting Party reviewing subject project, I am pleased to offer the following supporting comments on the committee's behalf:

Eccles Building

- We endorse the proposed skylight at either Level 4 or 5, whichever best meets the FRB's needs. Our review suggests that any view from Constitution Avenue is minimal, if at all. In terms of the overall Area of Potential Effect (APE), the skylight will only be seen from the top of the Washington Monument, where it will clearly be defined as new construction.
- Proposed infill on east and west sides of the existing building is acceptable.
- Proposed facade and iron work restoration is excellent.
- The architectural team's Materials Board is satisfactory.

Federal Reserve Board-East Building

- Street level views of proposed new rear construction from C and 20th Streets, C Street and Virginia Avenue, and 19th Street, NW, will be clearly differentiated from the existing 1930s structure. In the APE, proposed new construction will be clearly visible from the Washington Monument.

Proposed Landscaping

- We assume that the proposed new security barriers with cables enclosed in bronze sleeves, will have the tensile strength to withstand any attempted vehicular incursion.

Interior Historic Preservation

- We support the proposals as stated.

Selective Proposals for Early Demolition

- We support the proposals for early demolition of non-historic elements as presented.
- We endorse the Commission of Fine Arts' recommendation that given the fact that work station designs will likely change during the coming decades, a balance be sought that meets current requirements while providing flexibility to easily introduce future changes.

Summary of Assessment of Effects

- The design team has done an excellent job applying the Secretary of Interior Standards to the historic preservation elements of this project.

Potential Site Mitigation

- We support a Conservation Management Plan for the two building sites of this project, the notion of a site history and educational element to inform FRB staff who work on the sites and as a handout for official visitors, and signage identifying the background of both the Eccles and the Federal Reserve Board-East buildings to inform passersby.
- We recommend further work on the creation of the Northwest Federal Rectangle Historic District that includes individual landmarks 1 – 12 listed on page 66, and the costs associated with it.

The C100 again compliments the design and planning team for the organization of its presentational materials and the quality of the photography supporting this part of the overall review process.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Richard Busch

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