
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Takoma Park Historic District	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
	WMATA Bike and Ride Storage Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Calendar
Address:	327 Cedar Street, NW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction
Meeting Date:	April 30, 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> Alteration
H.P.A. Numbers:	20-221	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and KGP Design Studio seek conceptual design review of a free-standing bike storage structure known as a Bike and Ride. The structure is proposed for the Takoma Metro Station in the Takoma Park Historic District.

Takoma Park Historic District

Takoma Park is a historic suburban neighborhood with significance stemming primarily from the quality and variety of its residential architecture. The historic district retains a high degree of integrity in areas dating from its original development by Benjamin F. Gilbert in 1883. However, the Takoma Metro Station and its immediate environs do not contribute to the significance of the historic district.

Proposal

WMATA currently provides bicycle storage for its patrons at the Takoma Metro Station via large, gray, utilitarian containers positioned east of the station, and north of the intersection of Cedar Street, NW and the station's bus driveway. The features which characterize the site include modern glass and steel bus stops, bike share stations, open green space, a great deal of hardscape, and the metro station itself.

The proposed Bike and Ride will replace the lockers in the same location and introduce a more attractive, contemporary structure approximately 53' wide, 22' deep and 12' tall. The design proposes a dramatically curved steel frame structure capped with a tent-like membrane roof and enclosed on the sides with a continuous security mesh that will allow visibility throughout. The structure will feature an automatic sliding door and modest iconographic signage.

Evaluation

The contemporary design of the Bike and Ride Facility could potentially be out-of-character elsewhere in the historic district, but the proposed site is not highly visible from many historic buildings and, as indicated above, the Metro Station complex is a non-contributing intrusion that has a dramatically different physical context from the remainder of the district.

In this more modern setting, the proposed bike storage facility is fully compatible and will represent a substantial aesthetic improvement over the existing storage containers. An evaluation of the plans has established that the ground disturbance associated with the proposed construction will not affect any archaeological resources.

Recommendation

HPO recommends that the Board:

- 1. Find the proposed concept compatible with the proposed site within the Takoma Park Historic District; and*
- 2. Delegate final review to the Historic Preservation Office.*

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