GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jerrily R. Kress
Director
Office of Zoning

FROM: Ken Laden
Associate Director
Transportation Policy and Planning

DATE: September 6, 2001

SUBJECT: BZA Application Number 16739 – To permit the location of a Chancery for the Embassy of Latvia in the D/R-3 District at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

The District Division of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the application and other material submitted by the applicant. This report addresses the transportation aspect of the proposal.

The applicant, the Embassy of Latvia, requests permission to relocate its Chancery at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Presently, the Chancery is located at 4325 17th Street, NW. This facility will continue to accommodate some of its consular activities, however all visa applications will be processed at the new site. Ten diplomats and two non-diplomatic staff members will staff the new Chancery. Two of these employees will reside at the new site. According to the applicant, the number of diplomats and staff will not increase in the foreseeable future.

The property is located on the south side of Sheridan Circle where Massachusetts Avenue and 23rd Street NW intersect. There is a parking lot adjacent to the site on the west side of the building. The applicant intends to use the property for consular and residential purposes.

Visitors to the current Chancery number approximately two per day seeking visas, and an additional two per month for additional activities. The Chancery will not provide on-site parking for visitors except with prior or specific arrangements.

BZA
Case No. 16739
Exhibit No. 34

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16739
EXHIBIT NO.34

We have examined and assessed the anticipated trips generated by the Chancery, the existing traffic flow in the area, the existing road network serving the area, the available public transit and the parking supply required to accommodate the proposal.

Regarding vehicular trip generation, the applicant states that seven employees will regularly drive to work. This amount of traffic is insignificant to affect existing capacity and the level of service in the area.

As regard to the road network, we note that the Chancery will be relocated within the Dupont Circle area that is served by several major arterial streets, including Massachusetts, Florida and Connecticut Avenues as well as R, Q, 22nd and 23rd Streets. Therefore, the site is easily accessible by automobile.

With regard to mass transit, the Dupont Circle Metrorail Station is located three blocks from the site. In addition, there are numerous bus routes operating along Massachusetts Avenue and Q Street. The Division of Transportation concludes that the site is well located with respect to public transportation.

With regard to parking, the Chancery is providing on-site parking for nine cars. Additionally there are thirty-two parking spaces located in the Sheridan Circle area that are designated for diplomatic use.

In consideration of the accessibility of the site provided by the road network, the excellent proximity to mass transit and availability of on-site and commercial parking facilities near the site, DDOT supports the proposal.