GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jerrily R. Kress, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning

FROM: Kenneth Laden
Associate Director, District Department of Transportation
Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

BZA
Case No. 16988
Exhibit No. 24

DATE: February 11, 2003

SUBJECT: BZA Application No. 16988 Special Exception Application to Replace a Telecommunications Facility at 320 McMillan Drive, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

The District Department of Transportation has reviewed the application and other material submitted by the applicant. This memorandum addresses the transportation aspects of the proposal.

This is an application by the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) for a special exception to replace and construct a telecommunications facility at 320 McMillan Drive, N.W. The current facility consists of one 180-foot lattice telecommunications tower and two monopoles. The new facility will replace the current 180-foot tower with a tower of the same size and an upgraded communications system. The existing two monopoles will be removed. The proposed tower will provide upgrades of the emergency radio system for police, fire and emergency preparedness personnel. A new shelter will be constructed to house equipment on property grounds. The current emergency communications network does not have the capacity to support effective communications among multiple agencies, and a significant natural disaster or attack on the capital could overwhelm the current system.

The site is in a primarily residential neighborhood, zoned R-B-5. The McMillan facility is on the grounds of the District's Public Safety Communications Center and serves as a communications

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hub for all emergency services operations. Consolidating the existing tower from three towers into one will not create increased employee staffing needs and scheduling, thereby generating an increase in trips to and from 320 McMillan Drive. Current transportation use by District employees to access the site is expected to remain unchanged. Further, consolidating the existing towers will not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood.

Thus, the District Department of Transportation supports the applicant's request for a special exception to replace and construct an upgraded communications facility at 320 McMillan Drive.