# Government of the District of Columbia

## Department of Transportation

**d. Planning and Sustainability Division**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment

**FROM:** Kelsey Bridges
Manager, Neighborhood Planning Branch

**DATE:** September 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** BZA Case No. 21515 – 601 New Hampshire Avenue NW (Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia)

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### APPLICATION

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia (the "Applicant"), pursuant to Title 11 of the *District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR)*, requests a Foreign Mission approval for the matter-of-right uses of Subtitle U § 501 to construct an addition, an accessory structure, and a security fence, to an existing, detached, chancery building. The site is in the MU-2 zone at 01 New Hampshire Avenue NW and is not served by a public alley.

### RECOMMENDATION

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the application materials and has determined that the proposed action will not have adverse impacts on the District's transportation network. DDOT has no objection to the approval of this application.

### STREETSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM

DDOT's lack of objection to this application should not be viewed as an approval of the public realm. If any portion of this or future projects at the property propose elements within District-owned right-of-way, the Applicant is required to pursue a public space construction permit, including any proposed fencing, as well as potential changes to the existing curb cut driveways.

DDOT expects the adjacent public realm to meet all District standards. The Applicant should refer to Titles 11, 12A, and 24 of the *DCMR*, the most recent version of DDOT's *Design and Engineering Manual*, and the *Public Realm Design Manual* for public space regulations and design guidance. A permit application can be filed through the DDOT Transportation Online Permitting System (TOPS) website.

The Applicant is encouraged to participate in a Preliminary Design Review Meeting (PDRM) with DDOT and the Office of Planning (OP) to discuss the public space comments in this report.

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**HERITAGE AND SPECIAL TREES**

According to the District's Tree Size Estimator map, there are five (5) Heritage and 36 Special Trees on the property and surrounding streetscape. DDOT expects the Applicant to coordinate with the Ward 2 Arborist regarding the preservation and protection of existing Heritage, Special, and small street trees, as well as the planting of new street trees, in bioretention facilities or a typical expanded tree planting space.

Heritage Trees have a circumference of 100 inches or more and are protected by the Tree Canopy Protection Amendment Act of 2016. With approval by the Mayor and DDOT's Urban Forestry Division (UFD), Heritage Trees might be permitted to be relocated. As such, the Applicant may be required to redesign the site plan to preserve the Non-Hazardous Heritage Trees. Special Trees are between 44 inches and 99.99 inches in circumference. Special Trees may be removed with a permit. However, if a Special Tree is designated to remain by UFD, a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) will be required.

KB:eo