GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-17
Exhibit 25

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Kenneth G. Laden
Associate Director for Transportation Planning
Transportation Policy and Planning Administration

DATE: September 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Zoning Commission Case No. 03-17; Special Exception Application by Howard University to Demolish and Replace the Existing Bethune Hall Residence Dormitory

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The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the subject application and attached material. This memorandum addresses the transportation aspects of the proposal.

The applicant, Howard University (HU), seeks a special exception to demolish the existing six-story Bethune Hall and replace it with a newly constructed seven-story building bearing the same name. The project site is located on the southeast corner of 4th Street and College Street, NW within the area of the HU campus. South of the project site is the Bethune Annex, a grouping of two seven-story buildings on the east and west and one three-story building on the south, placed around an open courtyard forming three sides of a quadrangle with the new Bethune Hall completing the arrangement.

HU submitted its proposed campus plan for the period of 1998 to 2008 in January 1998, and the plan was approved on September 2, 1998. The campus plan listed Bethune Hall as an existing residence hall for women proposed to be renovated and converted into a faculty center. HU states in its application it is necessary to continue the use of the site to serve the residential needs of students for the foreseeable future. The newly renovated Bethune Residence Hall will have the capacity to house 326 students, primarily freshman women. HU enforces a policy to actively discourage underclassmen from having cars on campus.

HU is not required to provide additional parking for the new building as the current parking level of parking spaces exceeds the approved Campus Plan number according to information submitted by

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the HU Office of Parking and Shuttle Operations dated February 24, 2003. Loading will be provided by a proposed service drive on the east edge of the site, aligning with an existing service drive that serves the Bethune Annex to the south.

In order to improve the area surrounding the project site, HU is seeking to close to the public the use of College Street, NW adjacent to the site through the Street and Alley Closing Application (SO) process in the DC Office of the Surveyor, in order to provide landscaping and enhanced pedestrian circulation for students. If the SO application is approved, HU will be required to work with DDOT to approve proposed changes to the street and impacts on existing publicly owned amenities including utilities.

The proposed project is consistent with the goals of the Campus Plan and will complete the design of the Bethune Hall/Bethune Annex quadrangle and maintain residential uses for the entire block. The proposed project will not result in an increase of the student population, nor will it increase staff employment. Accordingly, DDOT has no objection to the application.

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