



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

District of Columbia Division

November 4, 2011

1990 K Street, NW  
Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-219-3570

In Reply Refer To: HDA-DC

Mr. David Maloney  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Maloney:

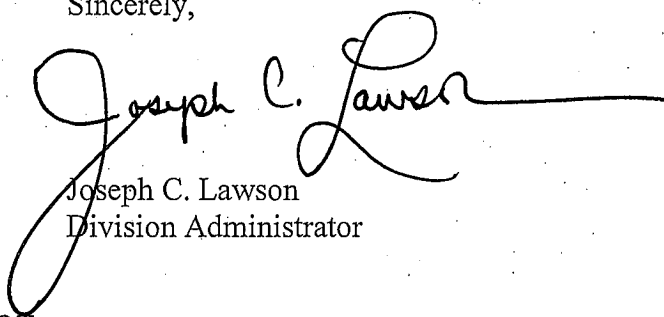
On May 8, 2011, FHWA agreed to Lead Agency status regarding the CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) project regarding proposed changes to the Virginia Avenue Tunnel. Based on information provided from CSXT to date, it is anticipated the proposed reconstruction of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel will require closure of an I-295 access point (ramp) on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, SE and temporary usage of I-295 air/subsurface rights associated with that ramp.

It has been determined that the National Environmental Policy Act classification of action required for the CSXT project is an Environmental Assessment. At the time of lead agency acceptance by (FHWA), the effects of the CSXT project on historic resources were not known; however, after further consideration of the project and the anticipated area of potential effects (APE), FHWA has determined that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is applicable. The project area consist of Historic Capitol Hill, the L'Enfant Plan of the city of Washington (each National Register listed), the Virginia Avenue Tunnel and Saint Paul's African Union Methodist Church which are eligible for the National Register. In an effort to streamline the Section 106 process for this federalized project, FHWA is requesting initiation of early consultation to resolve effects to the Section 106 resources. We are also requesting your input on the list of potential consulting parties to be developed.

Once the construction phase begins, it is anticipated there will be effects to historic resources; therefore, FHWA seeks the involvement of all stakeholders in the findings and determinations made during the Section 106 process regarding the Virginia Avenue Tunnel reconstruction. A map of the APE and a project area map are enclosed.

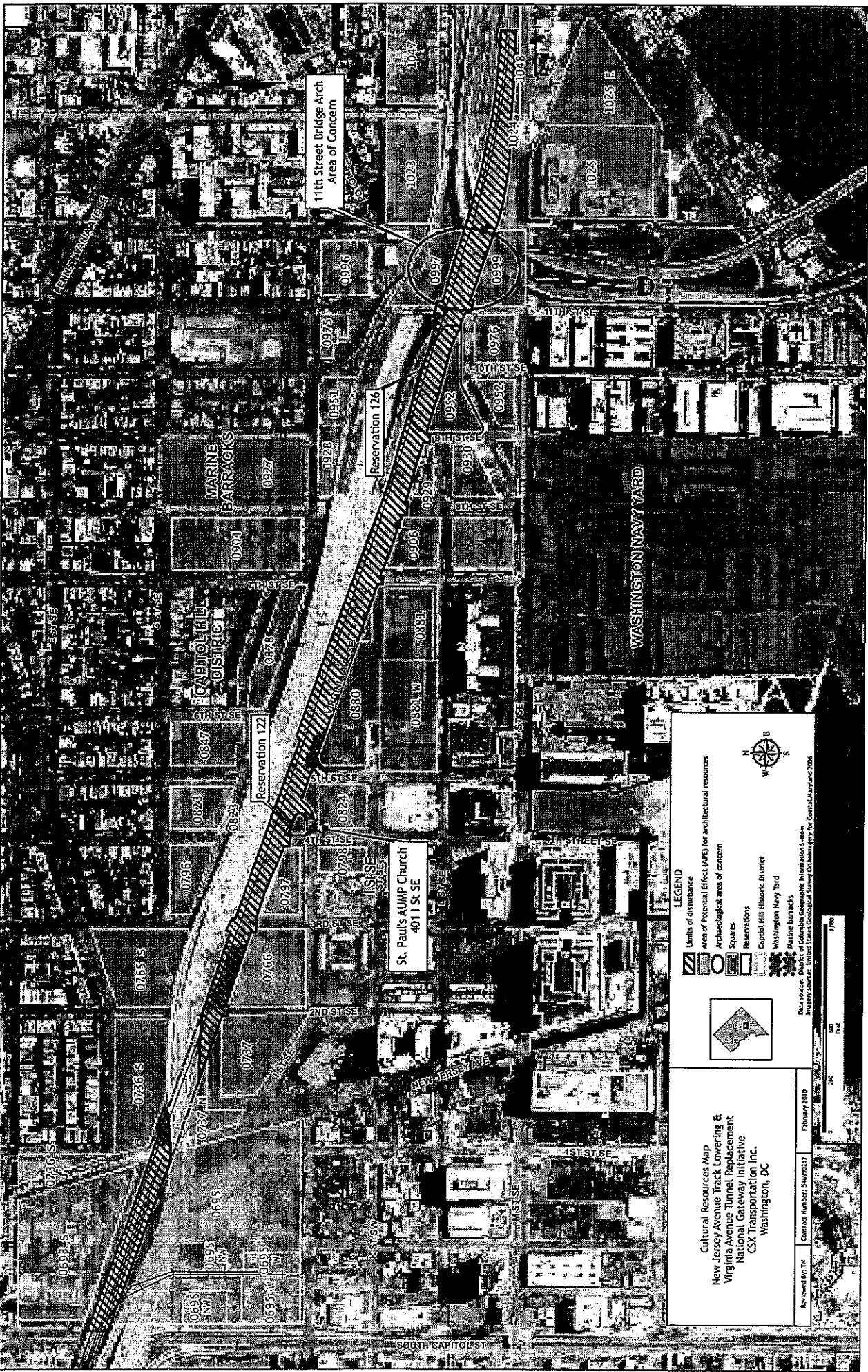
If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact either Michael Hicks of my staff at (202) 219-3513 or by email at [Michael.Hicks@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.Hicks@dot.gov); or Faisal Hamed, DDOT at (202) 671-2326 or by email at [Faisal.Hameed@dc.gov](mailto:Faisal.Hameed@dc.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph C. Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph C. Lawson  
Division Administrator

cc: Faisal Hameed, PPSA, DDOT  
Andrew Lewis, DC SHPO  
Keith Brinker, CSX



Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project  
Cultural Resources Map

**Cultural Resources Map**  
New Jersey Avenue Track Lowering &  
Virginia Avenue Tunnel Replacement  
National Gateway Initiative  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
Washington, DC

Reviewed By: T.J.    Contract Number: 5499R317    February 2010

Map of Washington, DC showing project location

**LEGEND**

- Units of distance
- Area of Potential Effect (APE) for architectural resources
- Archaeological area of concern
- Squares
- Reservations
- Capitol Hill Historic District
- Washington Navy Yard
- Marine Barracks

Map scale: 0, 100, 200 Feet

Map data: United States Geological Survey, Digital Data, Copyright 2006