

Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction Project

Cultural Resources MOA - Quarterly Progress Report

June 5, 2015 - September 5, 2015

September 9, 2015

Work Completed this Quarter:

Status of Legal Injunctions

- The Committee of 100 on the Federal City filed a new motion on July 6, 2015 to the District Court to reconsider the preliminary injunction based on a recent Supreme Court Case regarding a cost-benefit analysis. On August 3, 2015, the District Court denied this motion to reconsider.
- On August 21, 2015 the Committee of 100 on the Federal City filed a request for discovery to supplement the administrative record and for leave to conduct additional discovery.
- A consolidated response to their request for discovery was submitted by FHWA/DDOT/CSXT on September 3, 2015.

Status of Project Activities

- Noise, vibration and air quality monitoring is ongoing within the project corridor. Monitoring report summaries are uploaded to the project website monthly.
- Utility relocations within and adjacent to the existing Virginia Avenue SE are ongoing.
- Pile drilling for support of excavation is ongoing west of 2nd Street SE (Area 1), between 4th and 5th Streets SE (Area 4), between 5th and 7th Streets SE (Area 5), in Virginia Avenue Park (Area 6), and east of 11th Street SE (Area 7).
- Safety fencing and erosion and sedimentation control measures have been installed as required by construction activities.

Status of Construction Damage Claims

- No construction damage claims were received during this quarter.

Meetings

- A community forum - "Coffee with Chuck" (Chuck Gullakson, CSX Vice President and Engineering Manager) – was held on June 17, 2015.
- Project coordination quarterly conference call conducted with the DC SHPO and DDOT on July 22, 2015.
- A community forum - "Coffee with Chuck" (Chuck Gullakson, CSX Vice President and Engineering Manager) – was held on July 23, 2015.
- Open House for the general public was held on August 13, 2015.
- A community forum - "Coffee with Chuck" (Chuck Gullakson, CSX Vice President and Engineering Manager) – was held on August 19, 2015.

Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction Project Work Area Location Map



MOA Stipulation I - Historic Built Environment

A. Identification of Additional Historic Built Environment Properties and Assessment of Project Effects

Date	Location	Resource/Number	Description	Follow-up Action
7/31/15	Area 6	Streetcar tracks on 8th Street SE VAT-2015-HB-001	Streetcar slot and wheel rails and access frames and panels from underground conduit system, installed by Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company in 1892 and in use until 1962.	Prepare a DC SHPO Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form; photodocument streetcar tracks as exposed in future construction activities; dispose of rails and infrastructure properly during future removal
8/7/15	Area 7	Railroad Spur VAT-2015-HB-002	Two rails, wood ties, and single shoulder tie plates with tapered and pointed rail spikes; consistent with location of 1919 spur depicted on the Baist Atlas (Plate 31).	Dispose of rails properly in accordance with federal law.
8/17/15	Area 5	Brick sidewalk VAT-2015-HB-003	Soldier brick set along the north sidewalk edge with diagonal brick pattern in the sidewalk center; likely installed post-1906 based on the close proximity to the 1906 portion of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel and the broad lateral excavation during that construction.	Photodocument and record extent of brick sidewalk as exposed in future construction activities

C. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Recordation of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel

- On June 16, 2015, Richard O'Connor, Ph.D., Chief, Heritage Documentation Programs, NPS sent an email requesting that the Virginia Avenue Tunnel documentation be submitted through the NPS HAER program for accessioning at the Library of Congress.
- Electronic pdf version of the HAER documentation was sent to Justine Christianson, HAER Historian on July 22, 2015 for review.
- Comments and minor edits on the HAER documentation were received from Justine Christianson, HAER Historian on July 31, 2015.
- Final HAER documentation was transmitted to Justine Christianson, HAER Historian for accessioning to the Library of Congress on September 1, 2015.
- Final HAER documentation was uploaded on the Virginia Avenue Tunnel (VAT) project website and the DC SHPO and consulting parties were notified by email on September 2, 2015.
- Courtesy print copies of the Final HAER documentation were sent to the MOA signatories on September 2, 2015.

G. Interpretive Signage for the Virginia Avenue Tunnel

- Preliminary draft text and graphics were submitted to the DC SHPO on July 1, 2015.
- Comments on the draft text and graphics were received from the DC SHPO on August 21, 2015.

H. Interpretive Signage for the L'Enfant Plan and Reuse of Virginia Avenue Paving

- Preliminary draft text and graphics was submitted to the DC SHPO on July 1, 2015.
- Comments on the draft text and graphics were received from the DC SHPO on August 21, 2015.

I. Donation and Relocation of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Portals Stones

- An email was sent to the DC SHPO verifying that The Friends of Garfield Park were the only Eligible Entity that submitted a reuse plan for the portal stones on June 9, 2015.
- The DC SHPO provided conditional approval on reuse plan for the portal stones prepared by The Friends of Garfield Park on June 11, 2015.
- A site visit to discuss transport and storage of the portal stones under the overpass at 2nd Street and Virginia Avenue SE was conducted on June 29, 2015 with Bill Phillips, The Friends of Garfield Park.

J. Designation of Control Point Virginia Tower

- Comments on the draft NRHP nomination form for Control Point Virginia Tower were received from the DC SHPO on June 18, 2015.
- CSX responses to comments were submitted to the DC SHPO on July 21, 2015.

K. Rehabilitation of Control Point Virginia Tower

- The DC SHPO submitted comments on the draft Rehabilitation Plan for Control Point (CP) Virginia Tower on July 16, 2015.

MOA Stipulation II - Archaeological Stipulations

A. Virginia Avenue Paving Site (52SE062)

Date	Location	Activity	Dimensions
6/18/15, 6/22/15-6/26/215	Area 7	Removal of in situ paving stones under 11th Street SE bridges	Approximately 30 m x 6 m
6/18/15,6/23/15, 6/25/15, 6/29/15	Area 7	DDOT transport of paving stones	
7/23/15	Area 7	Identification of additional in situ paving stone segment east of 11th Street SE bridges	Approximately 15.8 m x 3.8 m
8/5/15	Area 7	Identification of additional in situ paving stone segment underlain by large wood planks east of 11th Street SE bridges	Approximately 36.5 m x 5.1 m
8/5/15-8/7/15	Area 7	Removal and stockpiling of paving stones east of 11th Street SE bridges	
8/25/15	Area 7	Identification of additional in situ paving stone segment east of 11th Street SE bridges	Approximately 23 m x 6 m
8/25/15-8/28/15	Area 7	Removal and stockpiling of paving stones east of 11th Street SE bridges	
8/26/15, 8/28/15, 8/31/15	Area 7	DDOT transport of paving stones	

- An additional 300 paving stones are still in situ under the 11th Street Bridges (Area 7) but are currently located beneath the main access road into the construction staging area and will be removed at a later date.
- No paving stones have been encountered to date within utility relocation excavations near the intersections of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th Streets SE with Virginia Avenue SE.

B. Unanticipated Archaeological Discoveries

Date	Location	Resource/Number	Description	Collected Artifacts
6/9/15	Area 7	Historic domestic/architectural debris VAT-2015-001	A thin scatter of historic domestic and architectural debris about 30-40 cm deep eroding from the hill slope with no clearly defined cultural layer.	Half pint dairy cream bottle
6/11/15	Area 7	Historic/Modern debris VAT-2015-002	Surface and subsurface scatter of railroad related materials (rails, wood ties, and tools) and general dumping of large items such as tires, concrete fragments,	1950s-1970s liquor and soda bottles, post WWII metal cigarette lighter, and fire brick with maker's mark

			mattress pad, baby stroller, motor oil bottles, rusted water heater, sewer and water pipe fragments, and miscellaneous metal and modern plastic trash. Historic debris consisted of brick and brick fragments, a cut granite block paving stone, and red ceramic sewer pipe fragments.	
6/19/15	Area 5	Red Rock/Stone Deposit VAT-2015-003	A red rock and large gravel conglomerate deposit about 40 cm thick at a depth of 1.34 m.	None
6/22/15	Area 7	Historic domestic debris VAT-2015-004	Broken and complete liquor, medicine, and cleaning bottles and jars from 1885-1962, 1960s plastic toy, whiteware, shell, bowl base with blue patterned design from unknown depth.	1885-1926 bottles, 1960s plastic child's toy
7/23/15	Area 6	Concrete layer with granite stones VAT-2015-005	Concrete layer about 15-20 cm thick with square granite blocks at both ends	None
7/23/15	Area 1	Linear granite slabs VAT-2015-006	Large linear granite slabs about 20 cm thick and about 2.25 m long each.	None
7/23/15	Area 6	Isolated artifact	1963 Coca-Cola bottle	None
7/24/15	Area 5	Construction debris VAT-2015-007	Cast iron bar associated with brick fragments, a clear flat glass fragment, and a small chunk of bricks with mortar.	None
7/24/15	Area 4	Isolated artifact	Iron draft horse horseshoe	Iron horseshoe
7/31/15	Area 6	Isolated artifact	Iron spike	None
8/5/15	Area 7	Brick-lined Concrete Foundation VAT-2015-008	Concrete foundation with subsurface brick veneer along south elevation; the west and north elevation are not brick lined. The brick are stretcher courses, one brick wide. The brick are small (20 cm x 8.5 cm x 6.5 cm) and exhibit large and varied temper/inclusions. The mortar is thin and friable.	None
8/17/15	Area 1	Concrete layer VAT-2015-009	Concrete layer about 15-20 cm thick	None
8/17/15	Area 4	Isolated Artifact	1905 Silver plated spoon	Spoon
8/20/15	Area 1	Isolated Artifact	1974 Liquor bottle	Liquor bottle
8/24/15	Area 6	Isolated Artifacts	1960s Soda bottles	Soda bottles

C. Unanticipated Archaeological Discoveries and Treatment of Human Remains on NPS Property

- The approved Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit was received from the National Park Service on June 8, 2015. The period of performance is from June 10, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

MOA Stipulation IV-Document and Deliverable Review

G. Notification to Consulting Parties

- Notification of the availability of the Final HAER documentation on the VAT project website was sent by email on September 1, 2015.

Anticipated Work for Next Quarter:

MOA Stipulation I - Historic Built Environment

A. Identification of Additional Historic Built Environment Properties and Assessment of Project Effects

- Submit a brief DC SHPO Determination of Eligibility Form on the 8th Street SE streetcar tracks prior to removal and disposal of the rails and rail infrastructure during future construction.
- Continue to document additional historic built environment resources as needed.

C. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Recordation of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel

- Submit final HAER Recordation to the Washingtoniana Room at the Martin Luther King Library, and the Historical Society of Washington.

G. Interpretive Signage for the Virginia Avenue Tunnel

- Submit text, graphics, and sign schematic for interpretive sign to the consulting parties for 30-day review.

H. Interpretive Signage for the L'Enfant Plan and Reuse of Virginia Avenue Paving

- Submit text, graphics, and sign schematic for interpretive sign to the consulting parties for 30-day review.

J. Designation of Control Point Virginia Tower

- Submit the revised NRHP nomination form and DC Inventory of Historic Sites form for Control Point Virginia Tower through the DC SHPO to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board for the 30-day review by the MOA signatories and consulting parties, and general public.
- Prepare the final NRHP nomination form and DC Inventory of Historic Sites form and submit to DC SHPO.

K. Rehabilitation of Control Point Virginia Tower

- Submit the revised Rehabilitation Plan for Control Point Virginia Tower through the DC SHPO to the DC Historic Preservation Review Board for the 30-day review by the MOA signatories and consulting parties, and general public.
- Prepare the final Rehabilitation Plan for Control Point Virginia Tower and submit to DC SHPO.

MOA Stipulation II - Archaeological Stipulations

A. Virginia Avenue Paving Site (51SE062)

- Prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the Virginia Avenue Paving site and submit to DC SHPO for preliminary review.
- Submit the Determination of Eligibility for the Virginia Avenue Paving site to the MOA Signatories and consulting parties for the 30-day review.
- Monitor the removal of the remainder of the *in situ* paving stones within the limits of disturbance under the existing driveway beneath the 11th Street Bridges and coordinate with DDOT to transport the paving stones to the DDOT maintenance yard for storage.
- Continue to monitor all utility excavations near the intersections of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th Streets SE with Virginia Avenue SE and document evidence of historic pavers.

B. Unanticipated Archaeological Discoveries

- Continue to document unanticipated archaeological discoveries and assess historic artifacts as needed.