

I-295 Malcolm X Interchange Project

A Brief History

I-295 Malcolm X Project

St. Elizabeths Campus

In 1855, St. Elizabeths was founded by Congress. It is a National Historic Landmark. The property is divided into two campuses. The federal government owns the West Campus, and it is under the control of the GSA, which is located in the Anacostia community in southeast Washington. The East Campus is still in use as a mental health facility and is owned by the District of Columbia located across Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue from the West Campus. The West Campus is 176 acres and has 61 buildings (constructed between the 1850s and the 1960s) with approximately 1.1 million gross square feet of space. The GSA identified it as the ideal location to be the new home for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



St. Elizabeths West Campus, 2015

Department of Homeland Security

GSA identified a need to build secure federal office space in the National Capital Region (NCR) for the DHS. At first, DHS was housed in about 70 buildings across 40 locations. Being spread across several sites throughout the NCR made it difficult for DHS to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate—especially when responding to major natural disasters and terrorist threats. To perform its mission effectively, the DHS needed to bring together its leadership in one secure location.

Learn more about this project at 295malcolmxproject.com

Did you know?

In 1950, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission first created the plans for The Anacostia Freeway. The route was designated I-295 by The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). It opened on August 7, 1964 when its access point to the Capital Beltway opened. Over the years, I-295 has been reconstructed for additional access points—including new access points to the 11th Street Bridges in 2011/2012.



Anacostia Freeway (DC 295) by SounderBruce licensed under Creative Commons.

When the Anacostia Freeway opened, it was expected to carry approximately 25,000 vehicles per day. According to highway officials, the freeway carries almost 75,000 vehicles per day in Maryland and 95,000 vehicles per day near the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and 11th Street Bridges.



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The Road to a New Home

The Big Move

Given its need for a minimum of 4.5 million gross square feet of secure office space, DHS chose to redevelop the St. Elizabeths West Campus. Based on DHS' housing needs, the redevelopment of the West Campus was the best solution. GSA signed a Record of Decision for the DHS Headquarters Consolidation on December 16, 2008. And the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved the Final Master Plan for the DHS Headquarters Consolidation on January 8, 2009.



Anacostia Freeway (I-295), under construction (August 15, 1963)

The DHS Headquarters at St. Elizabeths West Campus requires transportation improvements to the I-295/Malcolm X Interchange in the form of a separate access roadway that extends from Firth Sterling Avenue to the north and Malcolm X Avenue to the south, parallel to I-295 to reduce traffic and negative impacts on nearby neighborhood roadways. To improve access to community resources, there are plans to introduce a new multi-use pathway for safer walking and biking.

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Chronology

2008

In November, DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths Environmental Impact Statement

2008

In December, GSA issues Record of Decision (ROD) for the DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths

2009

NCPC approves Master Plan for DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths

2012

DHS Headquarters Consolidation at St. Elizabeths; Master Plan Amendment: Federal Use Parcel of the East Campus & Final Environmental Impact Statement

2015

NCPC approves transfer of eight acres of Shepherd Parkway from NPS to GSA.

2018

In spring, construction begins

2022

In summer, expected project completion



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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR