

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission

Marcel Acosta is the Executive Director for the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal government's central planning agency for the District of Columbia and the surrounding region. Mr. Acosta is a leader in the planning profession with more than 25 years of experience in urban and transportation planning. He provides the 12-member Commission with policy recommendations affecting the planning and development interests of the federal government in the National Capital Region and guides the work of more than 40 planning professionals.

Mr. Acosta joined NCPC in 2001 as the Deputy Executive Director and was named Executive Director in 2008. During his tenure at NCPC, he has guided the first update in 20 years to the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*; provided oversight to the review of numerous federal and local design projects; and shepherded the agency's special planning initiatives including CapitalSpace and NCPC's groundbreaking and award-winning *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan*, *Monumental Core Framework Plan*, and *SW Ecodistrict Initiative*.

His technical expertise covers many urban planning disciplines including strategic planning, central area planning, economic development, physical planning, and research. His professional endeavors have garnered him numerous awards including Outstanding Planning Awards from the American Planning Association and Citations for Excellence in Urban Design from the American Institute of Architects.

In 2010, Mr. Acosta was appointed as a principal member to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors, representing the federal government. He currently chairs the WMATA Board's Finance and Administration committee.

Prior to joining NCPC, Mr. Acosta served the city of Chicago as the Senior Vice President of Planning and Development for the Chicago Transit Authority—the nation's second largest transit operator. As CTA's chief planner, he developed new capital programs and oversaw successful initiatives that increased ridership and reduced operating costs for the city's bus and rail systems. Previously he held the position of Deputy Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, overseeing downtown planning, policy research and citywide physical planning. Mr. Acosta received a Loeb Fellowship from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 2001 and holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison