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**CONTACT:** Judy Scott Feldman, Ph.D.

National Mall Coalition

[www.nationalmallcoalition.org](http://www.nationalmallcoalition.org)

[jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org](mailto:jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org)

301-335-8490

**Washingtonian Magazine Hails National Mall Underground as  
“One of Six Transportation Projects That Could Change Washington”**

April 2015 -- Washington, DC – The April issue of the *Washingtonian Magazine*, which is dedicated to what Washington will look like in coming decades, named the [National Mall Underground](#) one of six top transportation projects.

The Underground is a multi-purpose tour bus and car parking garage that during heavy rain events would do double duty as a stormwater reservoir. It would be centrally located beneath the Mall grass in front of the Smithsonian Castle. The project has been proposed by local Washington businessman and philanthropist Albert H. Small, the nonprofit National Mall Coalition, and renowned architect Arthur Cotton Moore FAIA.

The *Washingtonian* praised the Underground as an innovative multi-purpose solution to numerous serious and unresolved problems that have plagued Washington for decades:

*A panacea for parking shortages, bus traffic, fossil-fuel burning, and flooding tucked beneath the Mall? That’s what a proposed parking garage—buried under the grassy expanse between the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian “Castle”—purports to be. The multilevel space could accommodate 900 cars and 200 buses, in addition to a central visitor center and public restrooms. A 34-million-gallon overflow reservoir would prevent a repeat of the flooding that swamped Federal Triangle in 2006. And, rain or shine, more than 1,000 geothermal walls beneath the garage would harvest energy to heat and cool nearby museums and government buildings. It might sound too good to be true, but acclaimed Washington architect Arthur Cotton Moore is spearheading the initiative, lending significant credibility to it.”*

The Underground would relieve some of the terrible congestion and air pollution caused by motor coaches roaming city streets and idling in front of monuments and museums. During heavy storms, vehicles would be removed from the lower stories to allow floodwater to collect until it can be pumped out once the rains subside. A Visitors Center on the upper level would provide much needed food, restrooms, and shelter for Mall visitors.

*The National Mall Coalition is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an organized voice for the public on National Mall matters; advocating comprehensive, visionary planning for the National Mall in the 3rd century; and working in collaboration with government, nonprofits, and the business sector to implement forward-looking improvements that will ensure the vitality, beauty, and continued active role of this national treasure in the capital and in American life.*

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