

National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)

Mid-Winter 2018

Business & Training Meeting, Arlington, Virginia



Guide to Capitol Hill, Washington, DC



Contributed by:

*Trish Gordon McCown, NASAA East Region Vice President
Maryland State Approving Agency, Associate Director*

Preparation for Capitol Hill

Cannon Building Room 334

Helpful tips for planning and maximizing your time on **Capitol Hill**.

- **Share the agenda and NASAA initiatives with your agency's leadership team.**
- **Our main objective is to inform legislative leaders of NASAA's current initiatives and concerns related to our mission of protecting the GI Bill®. The NASAA Annual Report is a great resource to share with appropriate legislators.**

- **Find Your Elected Officials:**

<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

- **U. S. Capitol Center Website - <https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/>**

- **Tips for Contacting Your Officials from Skip Gebhart (Past NASAA Legislative Director, West Virginia SAA Director):**

"... the simpler the letter, the better. I'd just say I'm coming to DC for the annual meeting and want to stop by and meet the staffer assigned to work with veterans and education issues. Often, especially in small House offices, one person handles both but sometimes two different people have those issues. It would not be inappropriate to ask to meet with both in those cases. Remember that they tend to work with smartphones and texts more than paper these days, so tell them in the letter that you will call them to confirm in a few days. When you do, try to get their email and cell numbers if you can.

Once you get there, give them an annual report and your card and let them know you are available if they need help/info with veteran's education questions. Generally they will ask you what issues NASAA is working on, or what concerns you see. Be ready with some responses and tell them you will be glad to find out more for them if they want. That should give you a really good footing for continuing to be in contact and to work with them."

Thanks Skip for your professional guidance!

- **Remember to share your experiences with your legislative committee members.**



Please be mindful that everyone is required to pass through a security check and will be subject to full inspection.

For a complete list of prohibited items:

<https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/prohibited-items>



Transportation Options



<https://www.uber.com/cities/washington-DC/>



<https://www.lyft.com/>

Must sign up for service (less than \$10) – discounts are on their websites

Taxi – Arlington Red Top Cab (703) 522-3333

- 1 – 4 passengers (maximum \$12-15 one way fee - \$1 for each add'l person)
- Requires 30 minutes minimum advance notice

DC Metro Guide: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/trip-planner/>

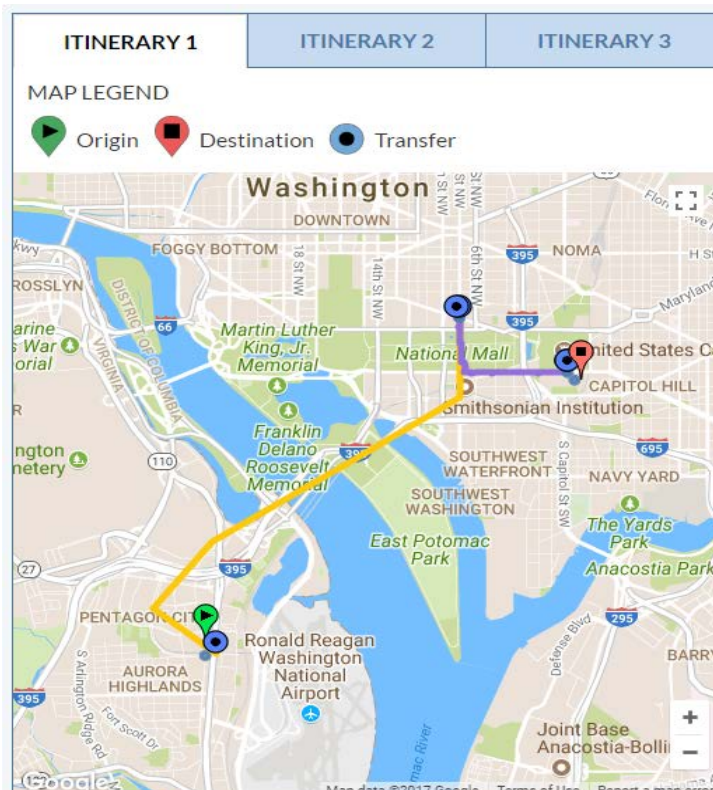
Using Trip Planner:

From Crystal Gateway Marriott to Cannon House Office Building

ITINERARY 1 - 35 MINS

- **\$3.65 SmarTrip Fare**
- **\$1.70 SmarTrip®(Senior/Disabled/Medicare)**

Only Cash & SmarTrip® are accepted on buses



FINAL SUGGESTIONS:

Due to the full agenda and travel time, you may not have time for a full lunch. We will have snacks to take with you, but you cannot take them into the Cannon building.

Make a friend or two, travel together and split the fare!

Please note the following schedule for the day:

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

(Business Attire)

1:00 to 2:30 Lunch and Travel to Cannon Building, Room 334

Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to presentation!!!

2:30 to 3:30 Congressional Staff Presentation - Question and Answer Session

3:30 to 4:30 Congressional Liaison / Break

4:30 to 6:00 Reception