



CHAIR

GEORGE R. CLARK, ESQ.

September 13, 2010

VICE-CHAIR

NANCY MACWOOD

Terri Urbanowski, Project Manager
Jefferson Memorial Security Barrier Project
National Park Service-DSC

SECRETARY

RICHARD HOUGHTON

12795 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228-2838

TREASURER

FRANCIS M. CLARKE, III

Dear Ms. Urbanowski:

**Re: Comments of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City
on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System**

TRUSTEES

W. KENT COOPER, FAIA

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The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is pleased to provide comments on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System. These are initial comments based on the information provided to date. Richard Westbrook, Chairman of the Planning Subcommittee of the Committee of 100, and I attended the initial public meeting on this project on December 2, 2009. Richard Westbrook also attended the public meeting on August 11, 2010 and we have reviewed the information provided at that meeting and available on the National Park Service PEPC Website.

The planning and improvement of the National Mall is a major interest of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. The Committee of 100 is one of the consulting parties in the Section 106 process related to the National Mall Plan and has been participating in the public process of preparing that Plan. The Committee has submitted comments on the National Mall Plan as the plan has progressed through the planning process over the past several years. The Committee of 100 has also submitted comments on a number of development and improvement projects that the National Park Service and others have proposed for the National Mall over the past several years.

CHAIR EMERITUS

LAURA M. RICHARDS, ESQ.

Comments on the Alternative Vehicle Barrier System

Three alternative designs for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System were presented at the August 11, 2010 meeting and the same maps and graphics are available on the National Park Service PEPC website. After review of the information that is now available to the public, we believe

Alternative 3 to be the most desirable in achieving protection of the Jefferson Memorial while minimizing the impacts on the surrounding landscape around the Memorial. Alternative 3 has the barrier wall in a generally circular pattern to the southwest, south and east of the Jefferson Memorial. We feel this design provides needed protection while being the least obtrusive on views and walkways. As the refinement of the design continues, more detailed information will be available to the consulting parties. We look forward to receiving more detailed information and the opportunity to further evaluate the alternatives. We understand that more detailed information will be available later in 2010, extending into early 2011.

The Committee of 100 is especially concerned with **how the proposed vehicle barrier system will relate to other future improvements around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial**. The information that has been presented shows the three proposed vehicle barrier systems in the existing context, with no indication of other future improvements that are indicated in the Final National Mall Plan which is now almost at the approval stage. We know, of course that National Park Service staff and consultants are aware of these other proposals and we believe that future text and graphics should indicate these other plans and their relationships.

For example, improvements to the walkways around the Tidal Basin might have an impact on the design of the security barrier system. We are especially concerned with how the location and design of the “Washington Waterfront Walk (WWW)” in this area will relate to the security barrier system and to the Jefferson Memorial. The WWW is the proposed 11-mile path for pedestrians and bicyclists extending from the Georgetown Waterfront along the Potomac and Anacostia River waterfronts to the National Arboretum. The route of this pathway in the area of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is especially critical because of the existing alignment of roads and bridges in this area. The Committee of 100 requests that the location of such future improvements be made clear in future information about the Thomas Jefferson Vehicle Barrier Security System.

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City looks forward to seeing more detailed information in the next stage of design of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier Security System.

Sincerely,

John Fondersmith

John Fondersmith, AICP
Representing the Committee of 100 on the Federal City
in the National Mall Planning Process

Richard B. Westbrook

Richard B. Westbrook, Chairman,
Planning Subcommittee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City