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Terri Urbanowski, Project Manager
Jefferson Memorial Security Barrier Project
National Park Service-Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228-2838

Dear Ms. Urbanowski:

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

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is pleased to provide comments on the *Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Security Barrier Environmental Assessment* (March 2013). The Committee of 100 previously commented on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System in a letter of September 13, 2010.

The planning and improvement of the National Mall, and adjacent areas, is a major interest of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. The Committee of 100 was one of the consulting parties in the Section 106 process related to the National Mall Plan and expects to be involved in the review of the updated National Register Nomination for the National Mall when that draft nomination is released for public review. 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.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System Alternatives

Three alternative designs for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Barrier System were presented at an August 11, 2010 meeting and the same maps and graphics were available on the National Park Service PEPC website at that time. After review of the information that was then available to the public, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City indicated a preference for **Alternative 3**, which we considered 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 felt that this design provided needed protection while being the least obtrusive on views and walkways. However, in the Environmental Assessment now under review, the National Park Service indicates a preference for **Alternative 1**. Barring major reconsideration, we assume that **Alternative 1** will move forward.

Relationship to Future Improvements

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**. For example, improvements to the walkways around the Tidal Basin might have an impact on the design of the security barrier system. In our letter of September 13, 2010, we said that: “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 was later approved). We know 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.

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 as well as reciprocal views across and around the Tidal Basin waterfront. Planning should take into account now the proposed walkway route so that the proposed security measures are sympathetic with the walkway and integrated in this historic landscape

Unfortunately, the *Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Security Barrier Environmental Assessment* does not seem to give any consideration to this important future project (outlined in concept in the 1997 *Extending the Legacy Plan* prepared by the National Capital Planning Commission). The Committee of 100 on the Federal City requests that, as planning and design for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Vehicle Security Barrier moves forward, that special consideration be given to accommodating potential adjacent projects, including the important “Washington Waterfront Walk”.

Sincerely,

Richard Houghton

Richard Houghton, Chairman,
Planning Subcommittee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City

John Fondersmith

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