

Jefferson Parkway Advisory Committee (JPAC)
January 18, 2018
Location: Apex Field House (5724 Oak Street, Arvada)
Meeting Summary FINAL

ATTENDANCE

Participants: Bini Abbott, Bill Branyan, Rebecca Kallio, Vera Ladtkow, Britta Nelson, Ian Owens, Bill Ray, Brent Smith, Randy Stafford, Jill-Ellyn Straus, Brett Vernon, Marc Wills.

Facilitation: Heather Bergman, Sam Haas

ACTION ITEMS

Heather Bergman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the list of discussion topics that the group brainstormed to the next meeting, and the group will prioritize them. • Distribute the agenda for the JPPHA Board when she sends the next JPAC agenda. • Circulate the draft meeting summary and the draft group protocols. When these documents are finalized, they will become public documents and posted to the website. • Send out the contact information of JPAC members to the group.
Bill Ray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the next meeting, provide a comprehensive presentation to address many of the topics identified by the group. • Reach out to a project engineer to see if they can walk through some of the more technical aspects of the project. • Post a notice about the commencement of the JPAC with all meeting dates in local newsletters and reports. The entire meeting schedule will be posted on the JPPHA website.
JPAC Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that the rescheduled February meeting date of Tuesday, February 20, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Apex Field House is on the calendar. • Review the draft meeting summary and protocols document and send revisions to Heather Bergman and Sam Haas.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Participants introduced themselves. Members of the Jefferson Parkway Advisory Committee (JPAC) represent a broad spectrum of perspectives and geographic areas, including Candelas, Broomfield, Leyden Rock, Arvada, Ken Caryl, and Interlocken. Some of the selected participants offered law, engineering, or development expertise, and some represent personal interests in the Jefferson Parkway project.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE JEFFERSON PARKWAY

Bill Ray, the Interim Executive Director of the Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority (JPPHA), provided a brief overview of the history and current status of the Parkway.

- Regarding determined policy decisions, the Board is not open to debating whether to build the Jefferson Parkway. By way of brief history, Colorado Department of

Transportation (CDOT) engaged in a process from 2003 to 2008 that narrowed 73 original alternatives to one recommended alternative to connect the end of the Northwest Parkway to the end of C-470. Due to several issues, CDOT was unable to complete this process. In response, the JPPHA was created, and assumed goal of completing the ten-mile alternative alignment. JPPHA adopted the recommended alternative as the basis for its work. As an initial policy decision, the JPPHA Board decided to forego the use federal dollars for the project. Consequentially, JPPHA is not subject to federal rules, regulations, and processes.

- In terms of permitting, the project has gone through various processes to be included in the Denver plan and achieve conformity with regional and state air quality standards. The acquired right of way is consistent with the recommended alternative alignment of the CDOT process.
- More recently, JPPHA has gathered a team of professionals headed by Don Hunt, the recently retired Director of CDOT, to update the financial feasibility analysis. That analysis will be presented to the Board by the end of March. If the Board decides to proceed, the next phase will be to determine the best approach and the available public/private partnerships. The goal is to reach financial closure in August 2019, meaning the funding would be in place to immediately proceed to construction. To find a viable partner, the Board may choose to issue a request for information (RFI) or a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This will allow them to gather a list of qualified teams. Those teams would describe in detail their particular approach to meeting certain standards and guidelines of construction, operations and maintenance prescribed by the JPPHA Board.
- JPPHA's negotiation with the prospective partner will largely be about risk assignment (i.e., what risks they are willing to bear). Because JPPHA would like the private partner to bear the bulk of the liability for design and construction, they have left most of the design decisions at a conceptual level. The project is currently at a two-percent conceptual level because the Board knows that the prospective partners will have different ideas about how the Parkway should be constructed. While the JPAC cannot be prescriptive, they may make recommendations on what they would like to see achieved in the design criteria.
- There is an unresolved issue with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the section of the Parkway that will pass through the runway protection zone.
- Approximately 70 percent of the Parkway will go through public land or Open Space. After construction, those lands will keep their designations. The only parcel of land that is not designated Open Space is the terminus at Highway 93, which is owned by the City of Arvada Utility Department. A reservoir will be built there eventually, but there will not be any private developments built there. The north end of the Parkway is owned by Jefferson County and is under a contract with Verve Development, LLC for airport-related development.
- The Parkway will have several intersections and interchanges. There will be an interchange built at Simms Street, which will be relocated from its current place. Going westbound, there will be an interchange where the Parkway runs parallel to Indiana about a half mile south of the SH 128/Indiana Street intersection. There will also be an interchange at Candelas Boulevard, but there will not be one at 96th

Avenue. There will be interchange on opening day at Highway 72 and eventually at Highway 93.

JPAC PROTOCOLS

The group discussed and agreed to collaborative group protocols. Below are the key themes and outcomes of their discussion.

What is the Purpose of the Group?

- The JPPHA Board supported the formation of the JPAC because they believe it is important to understand the various perspectives in the community. The Board appreciates that the selected group members reflect a wide range of viewpoints.
- The Board does not expect the group to come to an agreement about what should happen, but they would like to have continued access to the different community voices and hope that the group serves a two-way communication function.

Agreement: The purpose of the JPAC is to learn together, provide feedback to the JPPHA Board, and discuss issues related to the Jefferson Parkway.

What, if Any, Decision-Making Protocols Are Needed?

- When the meeting summaries are written, they should reflect the different perspectives and clearly state that “some group members thought X, and some group members thought Y.”
- The JPPHA Board has made several firm decisions. For example, the Board has decided that the Parkway will be built and federal dollars will not be used. The alignment is also well-defined, as the required right-of-way is associated with the recommended alignment. The Board has also determined that the Parkway will go underneath the railroad. However, the height issues, the noise mitigation, and the trail alignments have not yet been determined.
- While the JPAC may not agree on all issues, it may be possible for the group to reach consensus on some issues. This would likely hold more weight with the Board.
- JPAC members had questions about the authority or influence of the group. The influence of the group may depend on the degree of agreement that is found.
- Consensus-based decision-making is not the same as unanimous decision-making. Reaching consensus is a process during which someone proposes an idea and works with the group to amend the preliminary idea so that the entire group can live with it. If someone cannot get on board with the idea, the group may choose to defer to voting, or the group may agree to simply reflect the different opinions in the final document.
- At any point during the discussion, a member may propose a group agreement. Agreements are then documented in the meeting summaries. The summaries include the different questions and points made by group members. Summaries will be written within a week and then circulated to the group. JPAC members may review and propose changes to the summary. The final summary is then distributed to the Board and posted on the website.

- If, by the end of the nine months, the JPAC decides that there would be value in continuing to meet, they may decide to propose extending the timeframe. The advantage of having a time-bound process is that it encourages the group to focus.
- JPAC members can determine what the group's final work product will be. Final work product options include a (or multiple) written report(s) or a (or multiple) presentation(s) to the Board.

Agreement: On a case-by-case basis, the JPAC will decide how their agreements or lack thereof will be described to the Board.

Who is the Primary Driver of What the Group Discusses?

- The group should decide what is discussed. JPAC members will consider any recommendations by the Board about what they would like to see addressed.
- Group members should be able to ask for guest experts to come to a meeting and speak about topics of interest to the group.

Agreement: The JPAC group members are the primary drivers of the topics that will be discussed and may request or invite experts to come present on specific topics about which they would like to learn more.

Who Can Attend?

- JPAC meetings are open to the public because public dollars are funding the group. The JPAC represents a range of community perspectives so group members may elect to hear from members of the public.
- If the group would like to hear public comments about a specific topic, the group should inform the facilitator before the meeting that they would like to set aside time during that meeting for public comment.
- Some members of the group had questions about whether they can appoint a proxy if they are unable to attend a meeting. Some group members thought that proxies should not be permitted because JPAC members will gain cumulative knowledge about the issues throughout the course of the meetings. Members were individually chosen to be on the JPAC for certain qualities or experience that they possessed. There are several JPAC members were chosen because they represented a specific entity or Board.
- JPPHA recruited JPAC members through a variety of platforms, such as NextDoor, Homeowners Associations, and city websites. A total of 25 people applied and 12 were chosen. The Board identified perspectives that they wanted to have represented on the JPAC and read every application. They wanted people along the spectrum of supportive to unsupportive of the Parkway.

Agreements:

- *Any member of the public can attend, but not participate in JPAC meetings. JPAC members may decide in advance of a meeting if they would like to reserve time for public comment. The group will specify how much time they would like set aside for public comment.*

- *Members of the public will be offered the opportunity to write their thoughts on a comment card.*
- *There will not be proxies allowed, but if someone who represents an organization or neighborhood is unable to attend a JPAC meeting, they may ask that someone else attend the meeting. That person would sit in the public seats to observe and take notes, but would not participate in the meeting.*

How Will Meetings Be Announced?

- The group may choose to either proactively notify the public about upcoming meetings or provide passive notification (i.e., posting it on a website). The group would like to avoid disruptive participation from members of the public.
- It may be helpful for JPPHA staff to send out an announcement with all upcoming meetings in the newsletter that is sent to residents of unincorporated Jefferson County. Ian Owens will send Bill Ray the name of this newsletter.

Agreement: JPPHA will post a notice about the commencement of the JPAC with all meeting dates in local newsletters and reports. The entire meeting schedule will be posted on the JPPHA website. The agenda will be posted a week before each meeting, and the meeting summaries will be posted once they have been finalized.

What Are the Group's Preferences and Expectations About Members Talking to JPPHA Board Members, Council Members, Other Decision Makers, and/or the Media Outside of JPAC Meetings?

- Members of the JPAC may decide whether they should individually be able to talk to the press and decision makers. Members of the press may attend the meetings and approach group members.
- Some members of the JPAC thought that they should not speak to the press outside of meetings, and some members would like the choice to speak to whomever they would like.
- If a member talks to the press, they should qualify that they are only speaking for themselves and that they do not reflect the opinion of the entire JPAC. If a member of the group has spoken to the press or a decision maker, they should inform the rest of the JPAC. If a member would prefer not to speak to the press, they may refer the press to Bill Ray.

Agreements:

- *Members of the JPAC may speak to decision makers and the press at their discretion. They are strongly encouraged to use caution and to qualify that they only represent themselves.*
- *Members will notify the group when they have spoken to a decision maker (elected official or Board member) or member of the press.*
- *If a JPAC member is contacted by the press and prefers not to speak to them, they are encouraged to refer that person to Bill Ray.*
- *Members of the JPAC may circulate final meeting summaries.*

- *Heather Bergman, the facilitator, may present to the Board about the work of the group and will notify and discuss the presentation with the group beforehand.*
- *Heather Bergman will never speak to a member of the press.*

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND/OR QUESTIONS

The group identified potential topics for discussion. Below are the topics the group identified.

- The group would like to discuss potential mitigation of light, sound, air quality, erosion/drainage, visual components, and the impact on the surrounding community.
- The group would like a detailed overview of the current status and plans of the Parkway. This would be a presentation by Bill Ray. Among other issues, they would like for him to talk about the number of people that will likely use the toll road, the connections, and the existing land uses.
- The group would like to discuss landscaping.
- The group would like to discuss options for multi-modal paths, both for bikers and pedestrians.
- The group would like an overview of potential non-Parkway improvements (i.e., the requests that JPPHA may be able to make of the partner for the opportunity to build the Parkway). Examples of potential improvements include sidewalks, drainage, etc.
- The group would like to discuss enhancements (e.g., lighting, landscapes, bridges, public art/murals, etc.).
- The group would like to consider the potential risk to public health of disturbing the soil along Indiana Street.
- The group would like to learn more about the mass transit aspect of the project.
- The group would like more information about safety (i.e., how people cross at the intersections and wildlife crossings).
- The group would like to discuss the existing trails (i.e., Rocky Mountain Greenway trails) and the potential pedestrian crossing locations. The group emphasized the importance of ensuring that there are several crossing points along the Parkway. They would like to see a pedestrian bridge at Leyden Rock.
- The group would like to discuss what should be recommended to be allowed or precluded in the corridor.
- The group would like to learn more about how to build the intersections to accommodate the expected growth, specifically issues related to ease of access.
- The group would like more information about the future of Indiana Street traffic. Specifically, they would like to ensure that people who refuse to pay the toll do not continue to re-route themselves through Indiana Street.

JPPHA BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 18

- During the meeting, the Board set Administrative Officers. David Jones is the Chair, and Libby Szabo is the Vice Chairman.
- The Board adopted a change order for the scope of work for HDR.

NEXT STEPS

- At the next meeting, Bill Ray will provide a comprehensive presentation to address many of the topics identified by the group. The group will then decide what they would like to discuss at the third meeting.
- The next meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 20, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Apex Field House.
- Bill Ray will reach out to a project engineer to see if they can present some of the more technical aspects of the project.
- JPPHA staff will post a notice about the commencement of the JPAC with all meeting dates in local newsletters and reports. The entire meeting schedule will be posted on the JPPHA website.
- Heather Bergman will bring the list of brainstormed topics, and the group will prioritize them.
- Heather Bergman will distribute the agenda for the JPPHA Board when she sends the next JPAC agenda.
- Heather Bergman will circulate the draft meeting summary and the draft group protocols. When these documents are finalized, they will become public documents and posted to the website.
- The names of JPAC members will be publicly available, but contact information will not be posted. Heather Bergman will send out the contact information of JPAC members to the group.