

Mitigation Planning Process

In November 2021, with the [concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer](#), CDOT sent a [written invitation](#) to a number of area civic, veterans and governmental entities asking them to join a Mitigation Working Group to develop a plan for the preservation, monitoring and perpetual maintenance of the pillars. The Working Group is headed by Boulder Rotary Club, and among the additional organizations that have become involved with its work are (in alphabetical order):

- Boulder American Legion Post #10
- Boulder Chamber of Commerce
- Historic Boulder
- Indian Peaks Chapter, NSDAR
- Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
- Lafayette Historic Preservation Board
- Lafayette Historical Society
- Museum of Boulder
- VFW Mile High Post (Lafayette)
- YMCA of Northern Colorado

In addition, staff members from the County of Boulder, the City of Lafayette, and the Carnegie Library for Local History have provided support for the Working Group's investigations.

The Working Group's initial effort was to hold public informational sessions in [Lafayette](#) and [Boulder](#) to provide more information and details concerning the history and current status of the pillars.

At the same time, the Working Group has been analyzing the potential alternatives for mitigating the adverse impacts on and preserving the pillars. As part of that work, restoration specialists inspected the pillars and began developing technical alternatives for their restoration and preservation.



The professional specialists have indicated that if the pillars are to remain in their current location, work must be done to repair and restore the masonry and other portions of the structures. If the pillars are relocated, given its age and relative fragility, the south pillar must be disassembled and the salvageable stones categorized. After those stones are transported to the new location, the salvaged stones along with needed replacement stones would be reassembled in the original design.

Though further investigation is needed, it may be possible to move the north pillar, which was rebuilt in 1983, by dividing the tower portion of the monument into three sections, moving each section to the new location, and reassembling the pillar. If it is determined after further investigation that this technique is not feasible, then the north pillar must be disassembled and moved in the same fashion as the south pillar.

Until a final decision has been made, an exact cost estimate has not yet been developed. However, it is anticipated that the total cost of any relocation will be several hundred thousand dollars.

On April 12, an in-person and virtual public forum was held with representatives of CDOT and Boulder County to discuss [various alternatives](#) that had been proposed, and solicit public input regarding the pillars' future. Based on the public input, the Working Group is investigating the desirability and feasibility of a handful of these alternatives. In a few weeks, the Working Group will present these findings and schedule another forum to gather additional public input.

The Working Group's goal over the next several months is to develop a plan for the future of the pillars that incorporates the best thinking in the community, and represents a consensus among community members. All residents of Boulder County, and any others interested in preserving the pillars, are invited to participate.