



## **Frequently Asked Questions on RMNP's Proposal for Expanded Amenity Fee for Transponder Device**

### **Why does RMNP need a transponder system? In the past, my lifetime/annual pass could be used?**

In 2019, the National Park Service modified the format of annual and lifetime passes. The new passes are not compatible with RMNP's existing gate system technology and the fast pass gate has not been operational for the last few years.

Consequently, RMNP is proposing windshield transponders in order to continue providing fast pass lane access.

### **Do most parks have fast pass lanes?**

No. Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the only national parks that has a fast pass lane for park visitors.

### **What is a transponder?**

A transponder is a small, credit card-sized device that attaches to the window of your vehicle. This transponder sends a signal to the park's entrance gate to open the automatic gate arm.

### **How does the transponder work with my annual and lifetime pass?**

When a new transponder is purchased, it is programmed to work with the entrance gates at RMNP.

This transponder is only valid at Rocky Mountain National Park and is programmed to work for the lesser of one year or the remaining valid period of an annual pass. The fast pass gate would be operational outside of any pilot timed entry permit reservation system times.

Visitors using the fast pass lane must also have their valid annual or lifetime pass with them.

### **Where are the fast pass lanes located in RMNP?**

Currently, due to construction projects at the other major entrances, the only gate where the transponder can be used initially will be on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park, at the Beaver Meadows Entrance.

There are plans to install transponder technology at Fall River Entrance on the east side and Grand Lake Entrance on the west side of the park. The Fall River Entrance fast pass lane is expected to open summer 2023. The Grand Lake Entrance fast pass lane is expected to open Spring 2024. Timing of openings is subject to change based on weather and construction timelines.

### **Who can use the fast pass lane?**

The pass lane can be used by valid passholders (lifetime pass holders, annual pass holders, etc.) and inholders, outside of any pilot timed entry permit reservation system times, who have purchased a transponder that works with the gate.

Visitors using the fast pass lane must also have their valid annual or lifetime pass with them. RMNP will spot audit compliance, and visitors found using the fast pass lane without a valid annual or lifetime pass will have their transponders disabled.

### **Can I use the fast pass lane if I have a Timed Entry Permit?**

No. When the park's pilot Timed Entry Permit Reservations are in effect, the fast pass gate is not operational.

### **When will the fast pass lane be operational?**

If Rocky Mountain National Park moves forward with this proposal, the park would anticipate initiating transponder sales late spring of 2023. The fast pass lane would be operational during time frames outside of pilot Timed Entry Permit windows.

### **Can I buy more than one transponder?**

No. Only one transponder may be purchased per valid annual or lifetime pass. However, if a household has multiple pass holders, each pass holder may purchase one transponder.

### **I have two vehicles. Can the transponder be detached and moved between vehicles?**

No. The transponder is affixed to a vehicle's windshield and is not removable or transferrable.

**What is the estimated cost?**

The estimated \$15 expanded amenity fee for the transponder is the cost recovery of the actual equipment, programming, and processing. RMNP will not provide fast pass lane services without recovering these costs.

**How long will the transponder be good for?**

The transponder will be programmed for up to one year from the purchase date of the transponder. For lifetime passholders and inholders, transponders will only be valid for one year.

If a visitor has an existing annual pass with less than one year of validity, a purchased transponder will only be good for the valid life of the existing annual pass.

**Who is eligible to purchase a transponder?**

Annual pass holders, lifetime pass holders, and inholders.

People who purchase day and weekly passes, Commercial Use Authorization holders and their clients, and Special Use permit holders, including commuter permit holders, are ineligible.

**I have a 1-day or 7-day entrance pass. Can I purchase a transponder for my vehicle?**

No, the transponder is only available to valid annual and lifetime pass holders.