



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

The National Park Service received a range of comments during the public meeting, as well as through online submissions via the PEPC system and letters sent to the park, in regard to the proposed Cable Road Multi-Use Path.

Key themes included concerns about impacts on the local community and neighborhood character, the importance of preserving access to and the integrity of nearby historic lighthouses, and the need for compliance with environmental and cultural resource regulations. Many comments focused on transportation and safety, including how the path would be used by different groups, suggestions for alternative beach access methods, and concerns about traffic and speeding. Visual impacts were also raised, with requests to minimize disruption to the landscape through careful design. Some comments addressed the project's role in long-term planning for beach access, while others asked technical questions about project specifics such as alignment and schedule.

In response to these key themes, the park has summarized frequently asked questions about the project.

### **1. What are the community impacts and land use impacts?**

- The goal of the project is to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling along Cable Road.
- The National Park Service will not acquire private property through eminent domain for this project.

### **2. How did the NPS consider the cultural impacts?**

- The National Park Service recognizes the cultural importance of Nauset Light and the Three Sisters Lighthouses, both of which are historic properties located near the proposed Cable Road Multi-Use Path. Access to both sites will be maintained throughout construction and once the project is completed.
- The project is in the early stages of design. The path alignment will not impair access to these cultural sites and will take the surrounding cultural context into account.
- As part of the environmental compliance process, the NPS will complete a review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This includes identifying potential effects on historic properties and consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other interested parties, as required.

### **3. How did the NPS consider the environmental impacts?**

- The National Park Service is currently determining the appropriate environmental compliance pathway for the Cable Road Multi-Use Path project.
- During planning and design, the project team is evaluating potential impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive habitats.



- The design will continue to be refined to avoid or minimize environmental impacts where possible.
- Once the compliance pathway is selected, the NPS will complete the appropriate environmental review and documentation-consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws.

**4. How was safety and transportation considered in this project?**

- The project is being designed to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists along a dedicated multi-use path.
- Currently, Cable Road lacks continuous sidewalks and paved shoulders. This creates safety challenges for the many people who use the road to access the beach, lighthouses, and nearby destinations.
- The proposed path will provide a separated, paved corridor adjacent to the road, improving safety and accessibility for non-motorized users.
- The project is consistent with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance encouraging the installation of sidewalks or paths in areas with frequent pedestrian use, particularly near schools and transit corridors.
- The path is expected to reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists and will support broader transportation and public access goals for the park.
- Nauset Light Beach is staffed by the National Park Service recreational fee attendants on weekends only beginning Memorial Day Weekend. The fee operation moves to 7 days a week beginning the third week of June through Labor Day, where it transitions back to weekends only through mid-September.
- The lot has a total of 147 parking spaces. From July 1 through Labor Day, the parking lot is co-managed with the Town of Eastham, at which time the NPS manages 90 spots. The parking lot fills to capacity almost daily by 10 am. In 2025, NPS recreational fee attendant facilitated 21,139 individual transactions at Nauset Light Beach.

**5. How did the NPS consider visual impacts?**

- The project is being developed to align with the character of the surrounding environment and to be consistent with other trail infrastructure in the park.
- Vegetation removal is expected to be limited to what is necessary within the proposed trail corridor. In some locations, vegetation may be used adjacent to the path to create a visual buffer
- Trail materials and finishes will be selected to match existing features within the park and minimize changes to the visual setting.
- The NPS will continue to assess visual considerations throughout the design process and incorporate measures as needed to reduce visual impacts.

**6. What is the long-term vision and planning related to this area?**

- A 2023 analysis recommended evaluating long-term tram service to Nauset Light Beach as part of the park's transportation pre-planning efforts.

## Cape Cod National Seashore Cable Road Multi-Use Path Project



- Future planning would determine potential tram routes, evaluate parking needs based on visitation patterns and capacity, and assess whether new infrastructure would be needed. This may include relocating parking from Nauset Light Beach to park lands near Nauset Regional High School.

### 7. Technical questions about the project:

- When is construction anticipated?
  - Currently, we are in the planning and preliminary design phases of the project. We estimate that construction would begin in 2026 or 2027. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 8 months.
- What is the total length of each concept?
  - The transportation concept is approximately 1 mile in length. The recreation concept is approximately 1.2 miles.
- Is the June 26, 2025 public presentation available for viewing?
  - A recording of the meeting, including the presentation, is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_QwU7JdrZcU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QwU7JdrZcU)