

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Acadia National Park, Maine



Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Public Workshop – Summer 2015



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Presentation Overview

- Project background
- Island Explorer Bus System
- Transportation-related issues
- Purpose of the plan
- Environmental impact statement
- Objectives of the plan
- Planning steps and timeline
- Workshop format and stations

Project Background

- Average annual visits: 2.4 million
- Transportation issues are diverse and complex
- Need for transportation plan



Island Explorer Bus System

- Established 1999
- 8 routes serving MDI and Schoodic Peninsula
- 2014 ridership: 503,000
- Acadia Gateway Center – Maintenance & Operations



Transportation-Related Issues

Safety

- Narrow roads shared by:
 - buses
 - RVs
 - cars
 - bikes
- Lack of bicycle lanes
- Emergency response delays



Transportation-Related Issues

Visitor Experience and Enjoyment

- Crowding
- Visual obstructions and noise
- Safety concerns



Transportation-Related Issues

Natural and Cultural Resources

- Increased air and noise pollution
- Displacement/alteration of habitats
- Erosion
- Pollution of adjacent waters
- Vehicles colliding with historic features

Transportation-Related Issues

Preservation of Historic Roads and Features

- Narrow, winding historic roads
- Low historic bridges
- Coping stones near edge of road

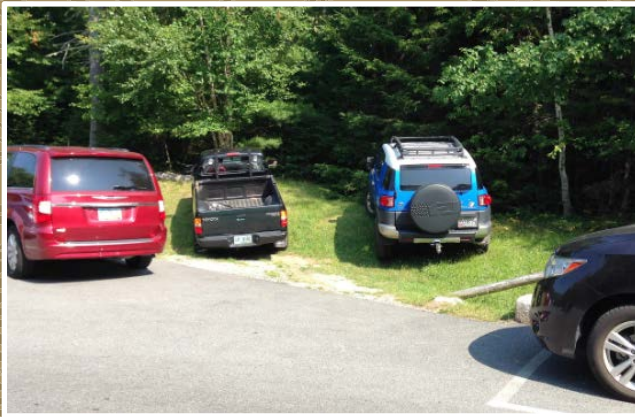


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Transportation-Related Issues

Existing Infrastructure Limitations

- Busy summer months reach limits of infrastructure:
 - Island Explorer bus system reaches capacity
 - Parking lots fill up quickly
 - Parking overflows to roadsides



Transportation-Related Issues

Impacts of Related Development

- Schoodic Woods campground/bike paths/hiking trails
- Park headquarters
- Hulls Cove visitor center
- Acadia Gateway Center
- Bar Harbor ferry terminal



Purpose of the Plan

- Provide safe and efficient transportation
- Offer a variety of high-quality experiences to visitors
- Ensure the protection of park resources and values



Environmental Impact Statement

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment
- NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process



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Objectives of the Plan

- Desired conditions for resources and visitor experiences
- Address parking and roadway capacities
- Improve safety and reduce conflicts among visitors
- Improve transportation infrastructure
- Consider role of Acadia Gateway Center, Hulls Cove Visitor Center, and other development
- Coordinate with park partners and stakeholders

Planning Steps and Timeline

| Milestone | Completion Date | Public Input |
|--|------------------|--|
| Public Scoping | Summer 2015 | Review the newsletter, attend the open house, and provide your comments |
| Develop a Range of Alternatives | Spring 2016 | Review the preliminary alternatives newsletter, attend the open house, and provide your comments |
| Prepare Draft Transportation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement | Summer 2017 | Review the plan, attend an open house, and provide your comments |
| Prepare Final Transportation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement | Winter 2017/2018 | Stay up to date on the planning process at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan |
| Prepare Record of Decision | Spring 2018 | Stay up to date on the planning process at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan |

Workshop Format and Stations

- Open house format
- Stations:
 - What parts of your Acadia experience do you value most?
 - What transportation-related issues most interfere with your enjoyment of the park?
 - What elements of the existing transportation system do you find helpful?
 - What transportation-related improvements would you suggest the park to implement and why?

Thank you for participating!

- Website:
parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan
- Comment cards

