



## The Glacier Point Road Rehabilitation Project



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### What are the goals of this project?

This project aims to correct multiple severe safety issues, pave the road to improve the road surface, provide a safe and consistent minimum road width, better manage visitor parking, and restore impacted areas on the ten miles between the Badger Pass Ski Area intersection and Glacier Point.

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### Would the Glacier Point Road need to close?

Construction would take place from spring through fall in 2021 and 2022, unless unforeseen weather extends the project. The park anticipates a full road closure from spring through fall 2021 and a partial closure (30-minute delays) in 2022. If the road is not closed completely the first year, it could take an extra year to complete the project, with significant extra cost. Keeping the road open would also jeopardize visitor and worker safety, as the public would traverse narrow roads with steep drop-offs and other hazards. Contractors would complete the large safety repairs the first year, some of which require five-foot deep excavations across the road for thousands of linear feet. The park closely considered other alternatives to avoid a complete closure the first year. The park will not make a final determination on construction phasing until civic engagement and environmental compliance processes are concluded.

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### What about special programs and other activities?

The park would suspend Glacier Point interpretive programs and special uses at such as the symphony and Starry Sky Programs in 2021. All programs would resume in 2022. Selected maintenance activities would continue both years, such as generator maintenance for emergency communication towers. The park would complete water system repairs at Bridalveil Creek Campground in 2021 while the road and campground are closed.

## What specific repairs would take place?

In addition to pulverizing and paving the entire road from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, intensive road repair would take place in the following key areas:

- **Repair curves on the road leading down to Glacier Point.** This road segment contains steep and narrow hairpin curves that drop 600 feet in elevation in about 1.6 miles. Large vehicles cross the double-yellow centerline to navigate the curves. The design would repair the short radius curves on the outside of bends.
- **Address Safety Hazards at the Clark Range Overlook.** The park proposes to improve the pullout to meet minimum safety standards by replacing the existing dry-laid sloped wall with a near-vertical masonry wall using the stone from the existing wall augmented by additional granite rock/boulders.
- **Repair Slumped Areas West of Summit Meadow.** The park would remove poor subgrade soils causing ongoing settlement of the roadway to a depth of about 5 feet to stabilize the pavement foundation.
- **Pave Overflow Parking Area at Sentinel Dome.** Off-pavement parking is damaging fragile resources in this high-elevation habitat. The park would pave a 275-foot by 75-foot parking area (currently used as informal parking) about 350 feet west of the existing Sentinel Dome trailhead. This parking area would accommodate the same number of vehicles that are parking off-road, and the park would add barriers to these non-sanctioned areas. The park would construct new accessible vault toilets.
- **Formalize the McGurk Meadow Trailhead Parking Area.** Vehicles back directly into the travel lane to exit the trailhead parking area. Designers propose repairing the existing pullout to accommodate 90 degree pull-in parking that would serve visitors travelling either direction along the road.
- **Repave the Glacier Point parking area (78,544 SF).** Add two new concrete staircases connecting the upper and lower parking bays and one additional oversize vehicle space.

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## Will hiking trails be open during construction?

Hiking trails such as the Four-Mile Trail, Pohono Trail, and Panorama Trail would remain open both years, though hikers must stay outside of work zones. Trailheads on the Glacier Point Road would close in 2021 and hikers must access trails from connecting trails and trailheads outside the Glacier Point Road corridor.

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## **Can I bike on the road during construction?**

Biking would not be allowed on the Glacier Point Road during construction to protect the safety of bikers and workers.

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## **How can I comment and participate?**

Public participation is essential for the success of this and all other park projects. Here are some ways to learn more about the Glacier Point Road Rehabilitation project and/or comment:

- **Attend the Public Open House at the Oakhurst Community Center in Oakhurst, CA on August 28<sup>th</sup>:** You will have an opportunity to learn more and speak directly to park staff. The meeting will take place from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Park staff will give presentations from 4:30 to 5:00 pm followed by an open house from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.
  - **Attend the Glacier Point Road webinar on September 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 12:00pm.** You will have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions via the website. Details on how to access the webinar will be available under the “meeting notices” link at <https://parkplanning.nps.glacierpointroadrehab>.
  - **Submit comments by September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) link at** <https://parkplanning.nps.glacierpointroadrehab>.
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