



Intermountain Region (IMR)

LRTP Update #4 – January 2013



The Baseline Conditions report identifies key findings for the IMR as a whole, twelve focus parks, and the five major goal areas of the IMR's Long Range Transportation Plan:

- Asset Management
- Mobility, Access, & Connectivity
- Visitor Experience
- Resource Protection
- Sustainable Operations



**For more information**

Quarterly project updates are posted on our website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/imrlrtp>

Check back often and let us know your thoughts on the project.

NPS Contact:

Linda MacIntyre  
Project Manager  
303.969.2483  
[Linda\\_MacIntyre@nps.gov](mailto:Linda_MacIntyre@nps.gov)

## Baseline Conditions

The Intermountain Region Long Range Transportation Plan has achieved another milestone by completing the Baseline Conditions Technical Report. The report includes a thorough analysis of existing conditions across all modes. As part of the planning process, the planning team consulted with partners throughout the region, who helped to identify issues to address in the plan. As a result of the analysis and consultations, the report identifies key findings and challenges in each of five strategic goal areas - for the region and for each of 12 focus parks.

It also distills these key findings to a short list of inter-related issues to resolve over the long term. The following Key Findings include those of high interest and high importance as the IMR plans for the future of transportation.

### Key Findings

#### Deferred Maintenance Activities Are Costly

Recent investments, aimed at paring down the maintenance backlog, have improved overall ratings. Maintaining the existing system at preferred performance levels will continue to be a fiscal drain, causing investment trade-offs in other mission-critical areas.

#### Congestion Overwhelms Some Parks

Total visitation is growing steadily in large IMR parks; however, overall regional visitation growth is much more moderate. Congestion management efforts have met with mixed success and are limited by funding and insufficient resources to construct additional capacity.

#### Parking Problems Near Top of List

Few parks are able to add parking capacity due to resource impacts and cost limitations. The condition of parking areas has also fallen below performance goals. Many parks struggle with the impacts of large vehicles, unauthorized parking, and motorists circling congested parking lots.

#### Changes in Visitation Patterns

Visitation patterns have changed and visitors often expect park amenities to include on-the-go electronic information, more RV provisions like wider roads and hookups, more convenient parking, and updated visitor centers where families can experience the park on an accelerated schedule.

#### Improve Total Cost of Ownership and Capital Investment Planning

Long-term costs to maintain and operate transportation facilities and services may rival or exceed the initial capital investment. This plan will fully incorporate the total cost of ownership so as to accurately estimate future financial requirements.

### Next Steps

The next steps in the planning process will see the development of financial projections and transportation needs, followed by a preferred scenario that meets those needs in a fiscally responsible way. Final plan development will occur during Summer 2013, with completion in the Fall.