



# Lewis River Bridge Replacement

A Public Scoping Notice for a Proposed Project to Replace the Lewis River Bridge located within Yellowstone National Park

## The Project Proposal

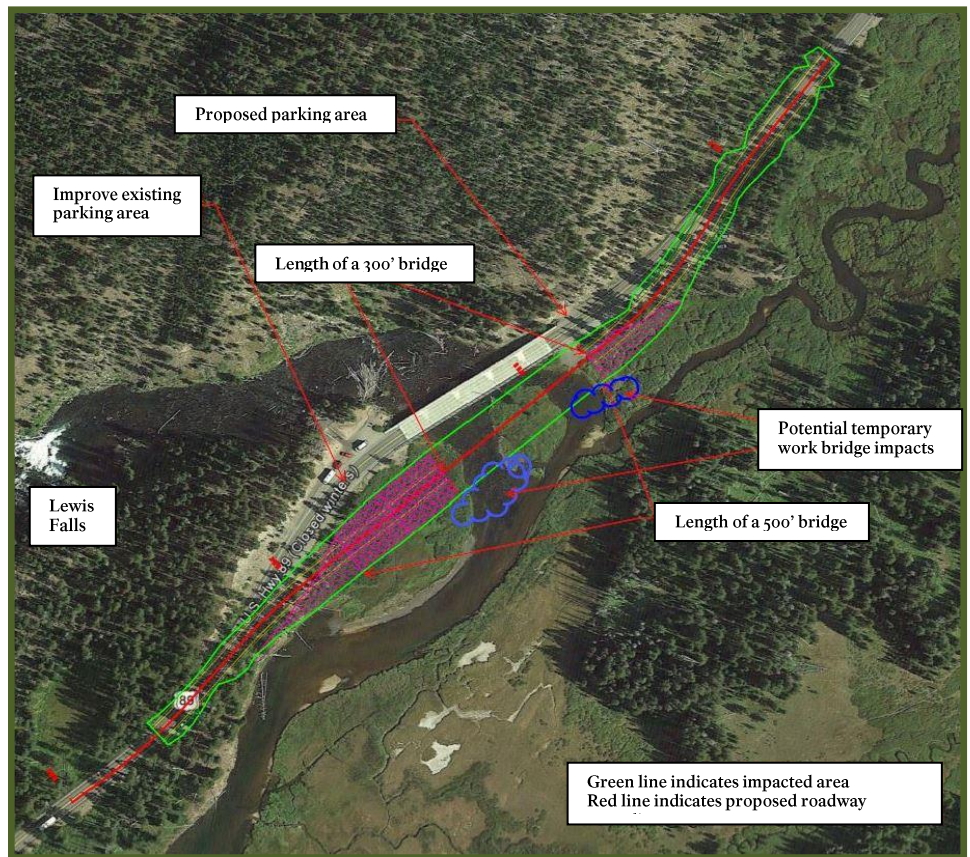
The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to replace the Lewis River Bridge located on the South Entrance Road in Yellowstone National Park. Construction would begin in the spring of 2019 and continue through 2020. A replacement bridge would be approximately 300 to 500-feet in length in order to span the Lewis River. It would replace the existing 273-foot long bridge completed in 1960. In addition to replacing the bridge, the project would reconfigure the adjacent Lewis River Falls parking area to reduce traffic hazards to visitors.

The South Entrance Road would remain open for public travel during construction of the new bridge. The new bridge is proposed to be located directly east of the existing bridge. Traffic flow would remain on the current bridge until a new bridge is completed. At that time the existing bridge would be removed and the area would be rehabilitated to a natural condition.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable laws and regulations.

## Why is this Project Needed?

The purpose of this project is to preserve visitor access from the park's south entrance. The project is needed to address the bridge's deteriorating condition. According to the September 26, 2014 Federal Highway Administration Lewis River Bridge Inspection Report, this steel



**Project Proposal** – The existing bridge is shown in the center of the image. The existing parking area is located to its left where a trail leads to a view of the Lewis River Falls. The falls are visible at the left center of the image.

multi-beam bridge is in poor condition overall and requires extensive rehabilitation. The foremost issue with this steel beam bridge is widespread deterioration of the deck concrete, which has progressed to a point where replacement of the deck is needed. In addition, the abutments and wing walls exhibit widespread cracking and delamination. There is also damage to the railings, problems at the bearing points, moderate accumulation of drift in the river channel, and a lack of object markers at the bridge corners. Further, the bridge structure has been deemed "Scour

Critical", meaning the bridge foundations were determined to be unstable for calculated scour conditions at this bridge site. If measures are not taken to reduce the scour potential of the structure, scour will likely continue to progress and may eventually lead to instability of the structure.

This site is also popular for viewing Lewis Falls. The existing parking area on the bridge's south side is often at capacity and has turning and sight distance issues which could lead to potential vehicle-pedestrian conflicts.

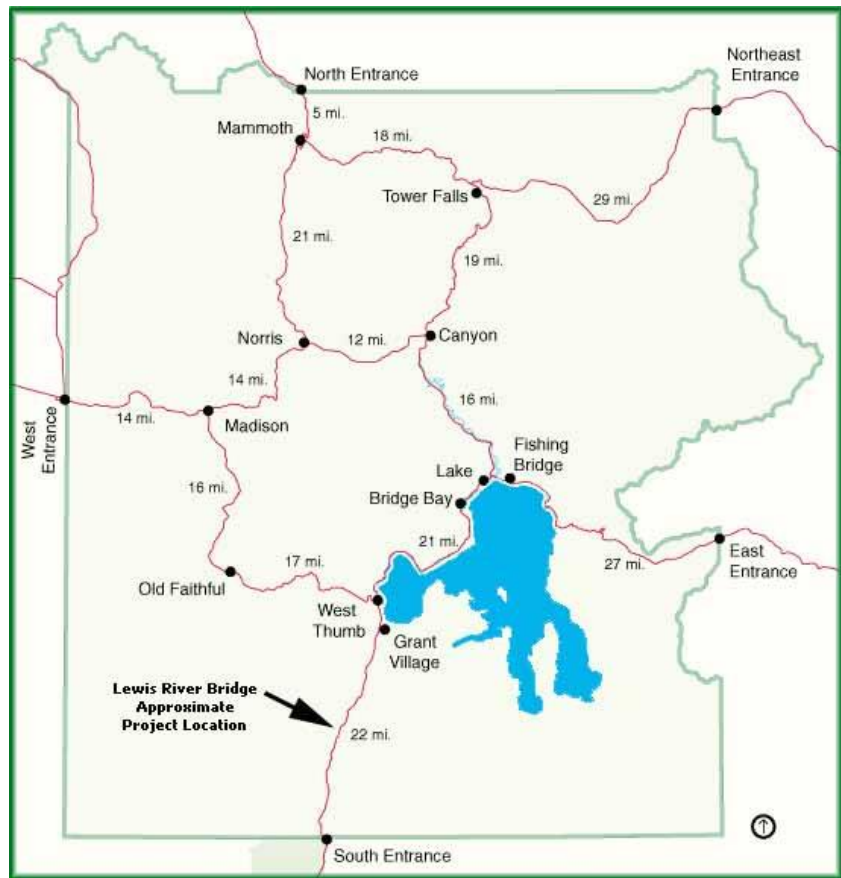
Comments may be submitted online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lrb>

## Project Location and Schedule

The Lewis River Bridge is located 0.65 miles south of Lewis Lake, and 9.8 miles north of the South Entrance within Yellowstone National Park. The bridge spans the Lewis River approximately 650 feet downstream from Lewis Falls.

The EA for this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2018. Once complete, the EA will be placed on the NPS's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website for public review and comment. A decision on the project would occur after this review period, likely in the fall of 2018.

Comments for this scoping phase of the project, and during the comment phase for the EA can both be submitted at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lrb>



**Project Location Map** – The proposed project is located on the South Entrance Road within Yellowstone National Park.

**Existing Lewis River Bridge** – The images above show spalling concrete, exposed reinforcing bars, and general deterioration of the bridge.

## ----- How to Comment -----

The National Park Service invites you to voice your ideas and concerns about this project. Comments may be submitted on-line at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lrb>, hand-delivered during normal business hours to the Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to: Compliance Office Attn: Lewis River Bridge EA, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190. Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above. Comments must be received by midnight MDT, of the date listed on the webpage listed above.