



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 129  
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129



July 19, 2007

D18 (GRCA 8211)

Subject: South Entrance Road Improvements at Grand Canyon National Park

Reference: Review of Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is an Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AEF) for the South Entrance Road Improvements project. Grand Canyon National Park proposes to improve the South Entrance Road (Highway 64) between the community of Tusayan and the entrance station, located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Proposed actions include constructing up to two additional northbound lanes and an independent bypass lane.

The EA/AEF evaluates a No Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative that proposes to improve the South Entrance Road (Highway 64) between the community of Tusayan and the entrance station, located on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of these improvements is to provide an effective system that would address the crowding and safety issues that can occur during the high visitor use season, as well as to improve the experience of those entering the park through the South Entrance. Although some improvements have recently been implemented at the South Entrance to address these issues, the additional improvements are planned to further improve conditions at the entrance station.

The park is working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to address the proposed work in the ADOT easement, south of the park boundary. The preferred alternative includes 1) constructing up to two additional northbound lanes, approximately 1 mile long; 2) restriping the road from the park boundary to the entrance station; and 3) constructing a ½ mile long independent bypass lane.

The proposed road improvements in the preferred alternative have been considered in the larger planning effort for the upcoming South Rim Visitor Transportation Plan Environmental Assessment (Transportation Plan) expected to be released in fall 2007. This project was separated from the larger plan to address visitor experience and safety concerns and to expedite implementation. Although this project would precede the finalization of the Transportation Plan, it would ensure compatibility. Other transportation issues in the park will be addressed in the South Rim Visitor Transportation Plan which is currently in progress and expected to be released in fall 2007.

The initiation of this planning effort was included in a May 2007 public scoping letter soliciting issues and concerns on a preliminary project proposal. Responses to these scoping efforts were used during the preparation of the enclosed EA/AEF. The National Park Service encourages your review and comment on the EA/AEF which is available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> by clicking on the project name, and then scrolling to “Open for Public Comments.” If you wish to submit comments on the EA/AEF we encourage you to do so online at the same web address. Comments may also be mailed to Steve Martin, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: South Entrance Road Improvements, P.O. Box 129 (1 Village Loop for express mail), Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. Comments will be accepted July 19 through August 20, 2007.

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please call Rachel Stanton, Project Planning Leader at (928) 774-9612 or Vicky Stinson, Project Manager at (928) 774-3026.

Sincerely,

Steve Martin  
Superintendent

Enclosure