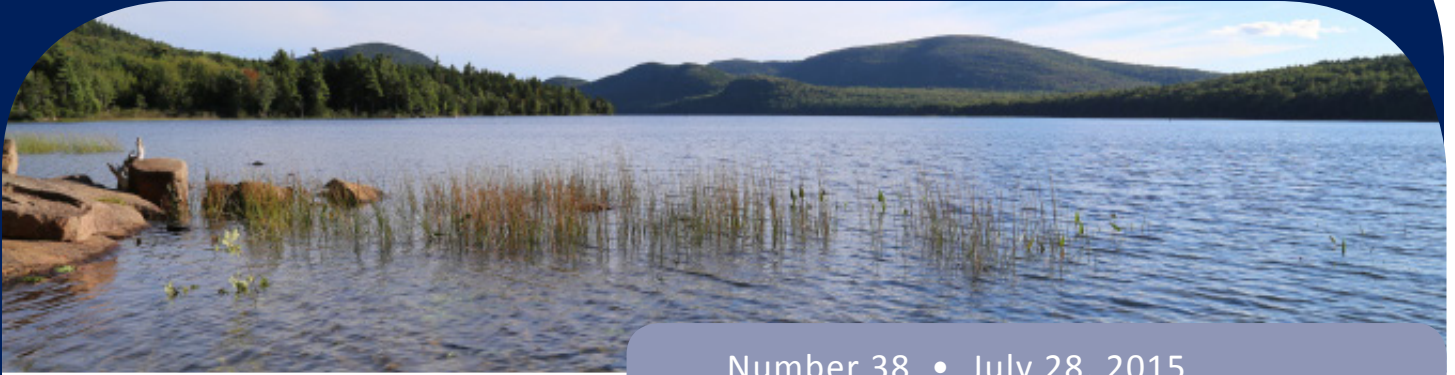


# FRIENDS OF ACADIA Advocacy Alert



Number 38 • July 28, 2015

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NEEDS YOUR INPUT FOR A TRANSPORTATION PLAN to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, and provide high quality visitor experiences in Acadia National Park. Public meetings will be held July 29 and 30 at Schoodic and on Mount Desert Island. Please attend and share your ideas or submit your comments online.

## **In a nutshell...**

Acadia National Park is undertaking a transportation planning initiative to “determine how best to provide safe and efficient transportation and a variety of high quality experiences to visitors within Acadia while ensuring the protection of park resources and values. The plan will comprehensively examine several management options to improve safety on park roads and reduce crowding and congestion at key visitor destinations and travel corridors.”

The National Park Service will hold the following public meetings to solicit public input regarding the park’s transportation issues and ideas for reducing congestion and improving safety and the visitor experience:

Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., MDI High School Library, Bar Harbor

Thursday, July 30, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Peninsula School gymnasium, Prospect Harbor

Can’t make these meetings? No worries. You can still provide written comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=203&projectID=58482&documentID=65965>, hand-deliver them to park headquarters on Route 233 in Bar Harbor, or mail them to Acadia National Park, Attn: Transportation Plan, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.

## **Background**

This is a great opportunity for Friends of Acadia members to share their experiences in the park and to suggest ANY AND ALL ideas for reducing traffic congestion in Acadia. At this phase of public input, you will be asked to share your thoughts on four questions:

1. What parts of your Acadia experience do you value most?



2. What transportation-related issues most interfere with your enjoyment of the park?
3. What elements of the existing transportation system do you find most helpful?
4. What transportation-related improvements would you suggest the park implement and why?

No idea for transportation-related improvements is too small or too large. Some examples:

- Suggest ways to encourage car-free travel in Acadia. Should more car-free mornings be held (e.g. once a month) to enable visitors to enjoy the Park Loop Road without automobiles and buses? Should more trails be built from local communities so visitors can walk to the park? Should cars be replaced by mandatory bus service along the Park Loop Road on Mount Desert Island and at Schoodic during the busiest months of the year?
- Suggest alternative ways to get to Cadillac. Should there be a public bus shuttle that goes to the mountain? Should the National Park Service establish longer-term solutions, such as a railway or tram service to the summit?
- Suggest ways to separate potentially conflicting uses of the park to reduce safety concerns. Should parking be eliminated in the right hand lane of the Park Loop Road, and instead establish this as a bicycle lane? Should bicycles be prohibited from the Cadillac Mountain Road during the busiest hours? Should the road between Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain be made one-way?
- Encourage construction of the Acadia Gateway Center to provide day visitors with a location to park and ride the bus. Are other additional parking areas needed?
- Encourage the National Park Service to adopt pricing mechanisms and technology to encourage visitation in the quieter hours and off season and to maximize the ease with which visitors can acquire park passes.

### **Action You Can Take**

Please attend one of the upcoming public meetings, or provide written comments via the website for the transportation plan:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=203&projectID=58482&documentID=65965>

For more information on the Acadia National Park Transportation Plan, its timeline, and goals, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan>.

This Advocacy Alert was sent to citizens who have expressed interest in joining the Acadia Advocacy Network. If you would like to be removed from the Network, email [stephanie@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:stephanie@friendsofacadia.org) with the word, “unsubscribe” in the subject line. Thank you very much for your support of Friends of Acadia and for weighing in on issues of importance to Acadia National Park.