



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study

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Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study Begins

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (LIBI/park) is undertaking an Alternative Transportation (AT) Feasibility Study. Alternative Transportation can include busses and non-motorized modes such as pedestrians and bicycles, as well as changeable signs known as Intelligent Transportation Systems. This study will explore what, if any, role AT could play in addressing longstanding crowding and safety issues with the roads & parking in the park - all in an economically sustainable manner.

Background – why this Study?

LIBI is facing transportation challenges. The tour road and parking lots were not laid out or constructed to safely accommodate the number and size of vehicles, particularly oversize vehicles, that the park receives today. The tour road is also narrow and structurally failing. AT has been proposed as a solution to LIBI's transportation challenges in past planning documents, but its feasibility has never been studied. This feasibility study will provide the park with a better understanding of how and whether alternative transportation can help address the park's transportation challenges.

The park consists of two units, the Custer Battlefield and the Reno-

Benteen Battlefield, connected by a Battlefield (tour) Road. On high visitation days, the parking spaces near the visitor center fill up quickly, particularly for oversize vehicles. Drivers must circle the lot searching for spaces, or are directed to drive the tour road first in hopes that a parking space will be available upon their return.

Some visitors leave the park in frustration. Others park their vehicles along the road in potentially unsafe areas that cause damage to the battlefield.



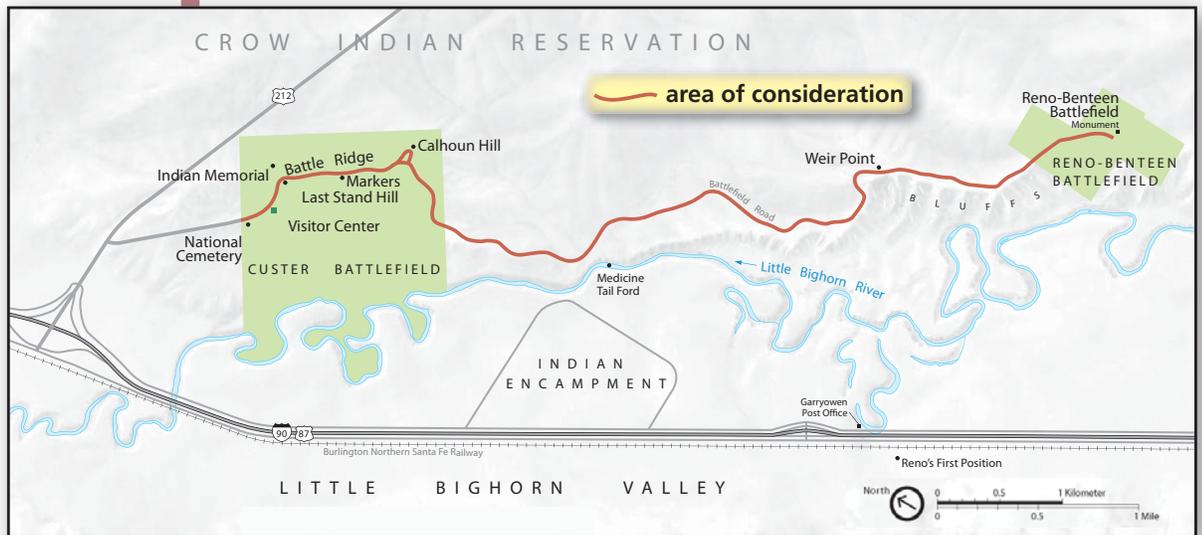
Typical Congestion in Visitor Center Area

If AT is feasible

- Identify type and level of service
- Identify sustainable funding sources

The study will look at service scenarios (demand, routes, vehicles, schedules), necessary infrastructure, operations & maintenance, funding,

partnerships & marketing, general impact to natural and cultural resources and visitor experience and total cost of ownership.



What will the Study do?

This project is a technical study that will analyze if, and what type of, AT is economically feasible at LIBI. The study will look at whether AT is a feasible option considering the park location, characteristics, visitation patterns, capital and operational costs, and possible funding sources.

Project goals include:

- Determine if/how AT can help address LIBI's transportation issues
- Determine if AT is financially feasible at LIBI

The study will include a “no build” option that uses Intelligent Transportation Systems (for example, changeable signs) and/or operations strategies (for example, staff assisted parking). Each option will include a graphic site development concept diagram and a detailed analysis. Costs and pros and cons will be developed for each option. This study is not a NEPA/Section 106 decision document, but rather an economic feasibility study.



Project Schedule & Participation

We are in the beginning stages of this study and we welcome your comments and ideas about what kinds of options should be considered in the study. Please use the comment form as a way to provide us your input as we initiate this study. The newsletter will also be posted on the Park's PEPC website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Comments can be entered directly into this website. Potential options for consideration will be summarized for comment in a second newsletter, estimated in spring of 2012. The study will have final recommendations in June 2012. We look forward to hearing from you.



View of Visitor Center Parking Area from Last Stand Hill