



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Assateague Island National Seashore
7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811
(410) 641-1443**



In reply to:

S5831, A7217 (4190)

Dear Interested Party:

The Northeast Region of the National Park Service (NPS) is developing a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to identify future transportation needs and investment strategies for the region's parks and their transportation interface with surrounding communities. The LRTP will also bring the NPS into compliance with Federal legislation requiring Federal Land Management Agencies to conduct long-range transportation planning in a manner consistent with US Department of Transportation planning practices for States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The LRTP will provide the NPS with benchmarks for evaluating transportation projects and essential facts necessary for informing future planning and operational decisions.

The LRTP will have a planning horizon of approximately twenty (20) years. For purposes of this effort, the future planning horizon is assumed to be year 2030.

This plan will:

- Enable management to make informed decisions based upon a long-term transportation vision, mission, goals, objectives, and performance measures.
- Provide a holistic and long-term view of transportation in relation to core operations and other programs and priorities such as deferred maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, and visitor services.
- Enable management to direct funding to the most beneficial and highest priority transportation projects.
- Enable management to synchronize transportation planning with park planning efforts such as General Management Plans, and other regional planning efforts in communities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, and stakeholder agencies outside park boundaries.
- Provide current data on multimodal transportation issues and needs across the region.
- Provide an opportunity for the Northeast Region and individual parks to partner and discuss areas of mutual interest with the public and regional entities.

The National Park Service encourages public participation throughout the planning process. Accordingly you have several opportunities to obtain information or comment on the project: now during initial project scoping, following development of management strategies, following results of data analysis, and again

following release of the draft plan which is estimated to be in the spring of 2009. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkID=415&projectID=22500>

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to Kristie Franzmann at 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225.

Please provide any initial comments you might have on this overall concept or thoughts about certain parks by October 6, 2008. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Long Range Transportation Plan. We look forward to your prompt response and your sustained involvement over the next several months.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Bentley
Superintendent