



National
Bike Summit®

Bicycle Friendly National Parks

2008 National Bike Summit

March 5, 2008 - Washington D.C.

Bicycle Friendly National Parks - 1

- **The 100-year Vision for National Parks: Creating Bicycle Friendly Parks**
Meridian C
9:30 am – 10:45 am

National Parks represent the best places in America where millions travel to experience nature, learn about cultural resources and celebrate historic places. Many bring their bicycles. But when people look for safe areas to ride or want to explore their parks on roads, paths, and dirt trails, they have very few options. As the National Park Service organizes for its centennial in 2016, what is our vision for bicycling? How can we be part of the recreation and transportation mix? This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges of creating bicycle-friendly National Parks and other Federal Land Programs.



BFP: Panel #1

MODERATOR:

Jeff Olson, *Alta Planning & Design*

PANELISTS:

Jenn Dice, *Government Affairs Director, IMBA*

Terry Eastin, *Executive Director, Mississippi River Trail Inc.*

Susan Law, *Alternative Transportation Systems Planner, FHWA*

Jason Martz, *National Mall Bike Program, National Park Service*



What, So What, Now What?

- **What:** These are Parks, not Parking Lots!
- **So What:** Good bike projects are still fighting an uphill battle
- **Now What?** The National BFP Program

What's Wrong with this Picture?

- Lack of Priority
- Changes in Leadership
- Negative NEPA Process
- Resistance to Change
- Limited Resources
- Fixation on Transit
- Backlog of Needs...





Edward Abbey, 1968

"There is no compelling reason, for example, why tourists need to drive their automobiles to the very brink of the Grand Canyon's south rim. They could walk that last mile. Better yet, the Park Service should build an enormous parking lot about ten miles south of Grand Canyon Village and another east of Desert View. At those points, as at Yosemite, our people could emerge from their steaming shells of steel and glass and climb upon horses or bicycles for the final leg of the journey. On the rim, as at present, the hotels and restaurants will remain to serve the physical needs of the park visitors. Trips along the rim would also be made on foot, on horseback, or - utilizing the paved road which already exists - on bicycles. For those willing to go all the way from one parking lot to the other, a distance of some sixty or seventy miles, we might provide bus service back to their cars, a service which would at the same time effect a convenient exchange of bicycles and/or horses between the two terminals."

"Desert Solitaire" 1968 , page 62.

We Can do Better...



Bicycle Friendly National Parks - 2

● Creating Bicycle Friendly National Parks and Public Lands

Legislative Roundtable

Meridian C

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

The ISTEA revolution that brought bicycling into the State transportation programs has somehow skipped over many of our federal lands bicycle projects, and there is a growing concern that qualified non-motorized transportation systems are not being fairly considered for funding under both the National Parks transportation programs and the 2016 Centennial Initiative. This roundtable discussion will identify what legislative actions should be taken over the course of the next two years to involve bicycling more in federal lands transportation programs and lay out opportunities to include bicycle projects in our country's broader NPS Centennial vision.

BFP: Panel #2

● MODERATOR:

Tim Young, *Executive Director, Jackson Hole Friends of Pathways*

PANELISTS:

Karen Taylor Goodrich, National Park Service

Laura Loomis, *Senior Director of Government Affairs, NPCA*

Jackie Schmitz, *Legislative Assistant, House T&I Committee*

Rich Dolesh, *Senior Policy Associate, NRPA*



Now What:

- Next TEA Policy Changes
- High Priority Projects
- Centennial Program
- Clarify "Special Regulations" Process
- NPS Bike Coordinator
- Bike Sharing Program
- Car-Free Days



Now What:

- RTCA funding
- LCI Training
- Public Bike Tours / Interpretation
- New Bike Program Guide
- Strengthen ATPPL and PRP funding
- NPS Mode Share Goals



Now What:

- Data Collection program
- Intermodal Connections
- Wayfinding and Maps
- Nat'l Forum on Children and Nature
- Strategic Plan for Multi-modal Parks
- NPS Centennial Commission
- "Complete Streets" policy in parks
- Renew LWCF, UPAR programs



Now What:

- National "Partnership for Play"
- LCI program for Mountain Bikes
- National MTB Patrol units
- President's Commission on Americans Outdoors
- Federal Lands Highway Program \$\$\$
- NPS White Paper on Reauthorization \$15m/yr
- FHWA Report – share success stories



Now What:

- Free entry for people walking/bicycling
- Launch effort at Bike Summit 09
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Thank You!

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