

Planning and Data-Sharing

Between Governments and Public Land Management Agencies



Introduction

Recreational travel to the country's public lands has been increasing for the past several years. This trend is expected to continue in both urban and rural areas in the coming decades, even following COVID-19 impacts. Increasing visitation means increased use of the infrastructure that gets visitors both to and through our national parks, forests, refuges; state parks.

FHWA, State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), local governments, and Public Land Management Agencies (PLMAs) share a common interest in ensuring the public enjoys safe, efficient access to and through public lands. Visitation to and resource management activities on these lands also generate local, regional, and state economic benefits. At the same time, the traveling public is not concerned with the jurisdictional boundaries, and instead wants to get from their origin to their desired outdoor recreation site as quickly and easily as possible. As a result, state DOTs and PLMAs bare the impacts of congestion and crowding, which can adversely affect efficient access, economic activity, natural resources, and safe travel.

Focus

This project uses case studies to examine best practices for PLMA partnerships with state DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), local governments, and interested stakeholders to coordinate data sharing for planning, delivering, and managing transportation systems on and near public lands. The specific goals of this project are to:

1. Identify examples of information coordination between PLMAs and transportation partners that result in process efficiencies, cost savings, and more effective transportation system delivery and/or management. Examples will focus on corridor- or regional-scale collaboration that translate to efficient access, economic activity, natural resources, and safe travel.
2. Develop a suite of tools, resources, and usage guidelines to aid PLMAs and their partners in improving data coordination for better transportation systems



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Scope

The Study's anticipated timeline is two years (September 2020 through June 2022), with TAC, site visit, and conference engagement throughout. The major tasks for this Study are organized around progressive research memoranda culminating in a final report. The major tasks are:



Research Panel

The Study is guided by a Research Panel, composed of practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and interests. Research Panel members come from groups including, but not limited to:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- City planning and/or department of transportation
- County planning
- Economic development agencies or organizations
- Federal-aid Division Office
- National Park Service
- Nonprofit parks advocacy or research
- Private planning or engineering practitioner
- State Department of Transportation
- Regional planning
- State or local parks or other land managers
- United State Forest Service
- University research representation
- US Army Corps of Engineers

For more information on the Study, or Office of Federal Lands Highway, visit the following websites:

- [Project Website](#)
- [Office of Federal Lands Highway](#)

Contacts

To stay up to date on the project, visit this project page regularly and contact the Project Manager, Cole Grisham, for more information.

Project Manager (Volpe Center)

Heather Richardson | Community Planner
US DOT Volpe Center
heather.richardson@dot.gov | 617.494.3668

Project Manager (FHWA)

Cole Grisham, AICP | Transportation Planner
FHWA Western Federal Lands
nicholas.grisham@dot.gov | 360.619.7746