

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1.A.2 (ZION)

April 25, 2022

Dear Park Constituent,

Visitor use within and surrounding Zion National Park (ZION) has grown steadily for many years. Recently, the demand for public access within the Zion Region has increased exponentially, stressing existing infrastructure on public lands, trail systems, and the environmental resources therein. As a means to provide solutions to the needs associated with increasing visitation, the National Park Service (NPS) at ZION is proposing to redesign the South Entrance area of Zion Canyon.

The focus of the Zion Canyon South Entrance Redesign proposal would realign the roadway accessed from the South Entrance Fee Station to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and reconstruct the South Campground. The road realignment would integrate the use of roundabouts and provide reconfigured parking for shuttles, tours buses, as well as passenger and recreational vehicles. Vehicle and pedestrian bridges would be installed, and trails would be rerouted to facilitate a more strategic flow of pedestrians and cyclists. This proposal is anticipated to improve roadway circulation by separating vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic to reduce user group conflicts; create pedestrian connections and intuitive wayfinding; refurbish existing buildings; and modernize utility infrastructure while improving compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Currently, the NPS is actively working to collect baseline data necessary to perform the appropriate analyses to better understand the potential for effects. While these efforts are ongoing, the NPS aims to provide ample opportunity to facilitate the exchange of information and foster an open dialogue around the potential for any perceived adverse effects. More information and an opportunity to comment will be made available on the NPS Planning, Environment, & Public Comment (<u>PEPC</u>) website at <u>https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ZIONSEntryRedesign</u> in May 2022. We also welcome your attendance and input at our upcoming virtual meeting to discuss this proposal in more detail.

Sincerely,

ry S. Bradybangh

Jeff Bradybaugh Superintendent

United States Department of the Interior

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