

2012 Public Lands Transportation Scholar Program

Park and Contact Information

Land Management Site Name

North Moab Recreation Areas

Type of Unit

BLM and NPS (Arches National Park)

Project Title

North Moab Recreation Area Transportation Connections

Project Abstract

This project would review potential linkages between the developing North Moab Recreation Areas Alternative Transportation System and the proposed Arches National Park Pilot Transit System. The scholar would also research the potential for transit opportunities within the adjacent Moab City /Spanish Valley population /lodging area to further build utilization of the above systems with emphasis upon connections to the Lions Park Transit Hub ATS facility and the conventional transit stop for Arches National Park. The scholar would make recommendations about how the developing and potential systems could be further developed / marketed to realize their full value for reducing congestion and dependence upon private vehicle use.

Project Description (250 word limit)

Please describe the need for a Transportation Scholar at your park. Carefully describe the project on which the Transportation Scholar would work.

In 2010, Arches National Park visitation exceeded one million visitors for the first time and has continued to grow. BLM visitation to the Colorado Riverway and Labyrinth Rims / Gemini Bridges areas increased 17% over 2010. Completion of the Moab City to State Route 313 portion of the North Moab Recreation Areas (bike-path-based) ATS in 2012 and the likely initiation of the three year Arches National

Park Pilot Transit (bus-based) Pilot System in 2013 provide an opportunity to further consider strategies to realize system cross-benefits to reduce congestion, re-distribute use, and reduce private vehicle impacts. Areas for scholar study and recommendation include:

- 1) recommendations about how to best integrate the North Moab ATS and the Arches Pilot Transit System to maximize their joint value, e.g., identification of barriers to overall system success and how they might be overcome, e.g., how to inform potential users about transit system benefits,
- 2) recommendations to encourage existing private shuttle and bus owners to provide coordinated scheduled service between Moab and the North Moab Recreation Areas, e.g., establishment of cooperative scheduling by competing companies and standard fares for these short trips,
- 3) review of planned transit-related information and facilities at the adjacent Lions Park Scenic Byway and Lions Park Transit Hub areas to better coordinate project implementation,
- 4) study of transit options from Moab City / Spanish Valley, e.g., development of a connecting bus-based transit system linking Moab City / Spanish Valley, the Lions Park Transit Hub and the Arches National Park Pilot Transit System.

Project Products and Benefits

Describe the potential products the project. Describe how unit resources and/or visitors will benefit from the alternative transportation project.

The scholar would be expected to provide interim presentations and progress reports to agency and community stakeholders. In addition, the scholar would personally present draft project findings to the stakeholders for review and comment. Final written reports describing the studies and recommendations would be produced by the scholar for use by the BLM, NPS, and community stakeholders.

The North Moab ATS project, the Arches Pilot Transit Project, and potential Moab / Spanish Valley project have the potential to reduce the negative impacts of growing visitation to the North Moab Recreation Area and enhance the

experience of the area's visitors and residents. Scholar recommendations about how to best integrate the developing transportation systems for the North Moab Recreation Area have the potential to enhance the benefit of system investment, introduce additional system participants to the advantages of transit systems, produce more positive visitor experiences, and reduce the impacts of large scale visitation upon a treasured public land resource and its host community.

Project Contributions

Describe how the scholar's work will contribute to the units long-term transportation planning.

A National Parks Foundation funded transportation scholar is currently working at Arches National Park on development of the Pilot Transit System in coordination with transportation planning consultants. The requested Public Land Transportation Scholar would continue or coordinate transportation planning work with the Arches scholar to facilitate development and use of transportation systems between the Moab City / Spanish Valley population and lodging center and the North Moab Recreation Areas inclusive of Arches National Park. It is anticipated that the Public Land Scholar will be able to work with and build upon the work of the National Parks Foundation scholar.

Project Partners

Formal partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office and National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group. Upon approval of the project, agency representatives would expand local participation in the study through coordination with stakeholder representatives from Grand County, Moab City, and the Moab Trails Alliance.

Project Requirements

Identify any issues the park would have in meeting the program requirements listed in Section B of the RFP.

None known. The Bureau of Land Management will provide housing and office space for the scholar with access to the office's computers, telephones, and GIS mapping and analysis capability. The Moab Field Office will furnish private bedroom housing (with shared kitchen and bath) for the scholar at the BLM's fire crew quarters near Kens Lake in Spanish Valley 8 miles south of Moab. During the June through September fire season, space depending, it may be necessary to house the scholar at another location that would also be free of cost to the scholar. Formal supervision will be provided by BLM with input for evaluation purposes from NPS and the community stakeholders. It is anticipated that the agencies and community stakeholders would work in a collaborative manner to provide project guidance to the scholar.

