

Acadia Gateway Center Trenton, Maine

Environmental Assessment September 1, 2006

Proposed Action

The Federal Transit Administration in cooperation with the National Park Service, Maine Department of Transportation, Friends of Acadia, Downeast Transportation, Inc., and other partners proposes to construct the Acadia Gateway Center (AGC) in the Town of Trenton, Maine. The proposed Acadia Gateway Center would serve as a welcome center, public transportation center, and bus maintenance facility. The purpose of the project would be to reduce traffic congestion on the Route 3 corridor and in Acadia National Park by attracting visitors and commuters to the Island Explorer Transit System and other transportation alternatives. The Acadia Gateway Center would also enhance the experience of visitors to the Park and allow for the efficient operation of the Island Explorer. This project is proposed to be developed outside the Park's boundary on a site along State Highway 3, approximately two miles north of the Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport, adjacent to Crippens Brook. The project would: 1) provide connections to the Island Explorer and other bus services; 2) provide parking for visitors and commuters; 3) provide administrative, light-maintenance, and storage facilities for Downeast Transportation, Inc. in support of the Island Explorer Bus System; 4) provide an area to sell National Park Service passes that support the Island Explorer Bus System; 5) orient visitors to the Acadia region; and, 6) protect natural and cultural resources.

This Environmental Assessment evaluates the No-Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative, and presents the potential adverse and beneficial impacts that would result from each.

The Federal Transit Administration, in cooperation with MaineDOT, and the National Park Service hopes to make a decision by the fall of 2006 whether or not to construct this facility before the option for Friends of Acadia to purchase the land expires, and has circulated this Environmental Assessment for public review and comment to assist in this decision-making.

Note to Reviewers:

Comments on this document may be submitted in writing or may be made orally at a public hearing to be held:

DATE: *September 7, 2006*
TIME: *7:00 P.M.*
LOCATION: *Trenton Elementary School*
51 School Road
Trenton, ME

Written comments must be received no later than September 30, 2006 and should be addressed to:

Tracy Perez, Director of Planning and Policy Development
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Comments may also be submitted via electronic mail to: Tracy.Perez@maine.gov.