

Grant Recipient: Northern Rocky Mountain EDD
EDA Grant: ED18DEN3020014
Funding: \$100,000 (\$50,000 EDA, \$50,000 stakeholder match)
Project Term: Sep 2018 to December 2019

EDA GRANT - SCOPE OF WORK SUMMARY

National Park's (YNP) West Yellowstone Gate. The study will produce the strategy and the plans to guide the next step which is a problem-solving implementation phase. The plan is to use the data and strategy gained from this study as the foundation for an upcoming Federal Lands Access Program grant (FLAP).

The grant scope is designed to assist West Yellowstone and YNP officials better understand the current and projected issues related to tourism, infrastructure and transportation management at the West Yellowstone gate; and to provide recommendations for system improvements both within the community and across the broader region. The study will include the following three tasks:

Task I Background Research

1. Review and compile relevant sections of existing documents from the National Park Service, Town of West Yellowstone, Montana Department of Transportation and others.
2. Interview key stakeholders such as business owners, Town of West Yellowstone and National Park Service officials, the West Yellowstone Planning Advisory Board, Town Council, local Chamber of Commerce and others to better understand issues related to traffic congestion and flow, visitor services and public safety.
3. Hold an introductory public meeting to hear traffic flow and safety concerns/issues and opportunities from the perspective of West Yellowstone residents.
4. Hold information gathering meeting with YNP staff and management to hear traffic flow and safety concerns/issues and opportunities

Task II Field Observations and Data Collection

1. Collect traffic data at key points to understand traffic volumes, types, origin/destination, intersection movements, levels of service, etc.
2. Assess the design, location, condition and capacity of streets, sidewalks, parking areas, signage, photo opportunity sites, visitor information areas, etc.

3. Interview visitors to understand what types of facilities and services (restrooms, tourist information, signage, etc.) could enhance visitor experience.

Task III Report and Recommendations

1. Draft a report with text, graphics and maps presenting key findings and results of the previous tasks, projections for future conditions and a discussion of opportunities to address the key issues. The report will include recommendations for improved traffic and information management throughout the community. Recommendations may include items such as signage improvements, routing, wayfinding, parking capacity and management, a truck route, intersection and signalization improvements, restroom and visitor information locations, etc. The report will also include a prioritized implementation plan with a timeline and discussion of funding sources.
2. Submit the draft report to National Park Service, Montana Department of Transportation, West Yellowstone and other key stakeholders for initial internal review. Meet with the officials to discuss the findings and obtain feedback and revise the draft.
3. Publicize and hold a public meeting(s) on the findings and recommendations. Post the report and recommendation on the Town's website and work with the West Yellowstone Star to publicize the meeting. Obtain public feedback and revise as appropriate.