

Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Program

SAFETEA-LU Section 5320 established a new program to fund alternative transportation projects in national parks and public lands. The program is to be implemented by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of the Interior and other Federal land management agencies. The Secretary of Transportation will develop cooperative arrangements with the Secretary of the Interior that provide: 1) technical assistance; 2) interagency and multidisciplinary teams to develop alternative transportation policy, procedures, and coordination; and, 3) procedures and criteria relating to the planning, selection, and funding of qualified projects and the implementation and oversight of selected projects. The Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with and in cooperation with the Secretary of Transportation, will determine the final selection and funding levels of an annual program of qualified projects.

Section 5320 stipulates that the Secretary of Transportation annually submit a report on the allocation of amounts made available to assist qualified projects under this section, and that this information is to be included in the Annual Report on New Starts submitted under Section 5309(k)(1). In December 2005, Congress appropriated \$22 million for the Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands program for FY 2006, consistent with funding levels authorized in SAFETEA-LU. At the time of this publication, the allocation of these funds was not yet determined by the Department of Transportation and the Department of the Interior. It is anticipated that the *FY 2008 Annual Report on New Starts* will include a report on the funds allocated under Section 5320 once projects have been selected.