

# Garden of the Gods Transportation Study

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**March 12, 2018**



# Project Stakeholders



- Adventures Out West
- City of Colorado Springs
  - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services;
  - Traffic Engineering;
  - Stormwater / Water Resources Engineering;
  - Parking Enterprise
- City of Manitou Springs
- Colorado Springs Fire Dept
- Colorado Springs Police Dept
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Friends of Garden of the Gods
- Garden of the Gods Foundation
- Garden of the Gods Trading Post
- Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center
- Glen Eyrie
- Gray Line Corporation
- Mountain Metropolitan Transit
- Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute
- Trails and Open Space Coalition
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Dept of Transportation, Volpe Center

# Transportation Study Goal



To improve the visitor  
experience while protecting  
Garden of the Gods Park

# Transportation Study Overview



- Park owned and managed by the City of Colorado Springs with support from the Garden of the Gods Foundation
- Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1971
- Significant increase in visitation over the last few years has resulted in vehicular congestion and vehicle queuing in the summer
- The City contracted with U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center to develop preliminary concepts for a shuttle system
- In August 2017 the Friends of the Garden of the Gods surveyed about 350 people regarding their expectation and experience at the Park
- Resulting report released in December 2017

# Transportation Study By the Numbers



- Garden of the Gods
  - Covers 1,335 acres with 8.2 miles of roadways
  - Had 5.8 million visitors in 2017
  - During a peak summer day, up to 8,000 vehicles entered the Park resulting in an average of 20,000 visitors per day
  - 728 available parking spaces
  - 2.5 hours on average visitors spent in the Garden
  - An average of 450 parking spaces short during the summer and up to 600 short during peak times

# Recommendations for Summer 2018



- Pilot shuttle system during summer months using the shortest circulator route
- Increase parking at Rock Ledge Ranch with the most minimal impact to the site
- Construct ADA accessible trail to the north side of Gateway Road
- Establish pilot opportunities for car-free hours or days at the Garden of the Gods
- Develop and implement a strong marketing plan to educate and promote alternatives to driving a private vehicle through the Garden

# Open House Guidelines



- Topics highlighted on boards throughout the space with staff available to answer additional questions
- Opportunities to “vote” on your preferred alternatives
- Provide input from viewpoint of a resident versus that of a tourist
- Comment cards available near the entrance
- Information card with website for additional information:  
[www.ColoradoSprings.gov/GOGTransportationStudy](http://www.ColoradoSprings.gov/GOGTransportationStudy)