



Final Planning Update

Long Range Transportation Plan for Forest Highways in South Dakota

December 2011

We Need Your Input!

This plan will affect how Forest Highway projects are chosen in your state.

See page 2.

Iron Mountain Road, Photo by Belissarius

Draft Forest Highway Long Range Transportation Plan Released

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), and the Central Federal Land Highways Division (CFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration announce the release of the Draft South Dakota Forest Highway Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This plan establishes a planning process and evaluation framework to select Forest Highway (FH) projects based on goals and objectives set forth by the abovementioned agencies, collectively called the Tri-Agency.

This LRTP establishes a formalized project selection process. This process documents a defensible framework for transportation decision-making for the South Dakota FH network and serves as a guide to ensure that transportation spending supports the mission and goals of the Tri-Agency. The result of project selection is a list of prioritized projects that is brought before the Tri-Agency partners for informed discussion and funding approval for inclusion in the FH Program and advancement into project development.

The LRTP is intended to be a living document that will require some changes over time. Future updates of this plan could include any significant changes to the goals and objectives of the FH Program, project selection process, or any other items that may affect how projects are selected for funding under the FH Program.

You can download and view the Draft South Dakota FH LRTP online at www.cflhd.gov/LRTP.

Vision

The vision of the FH Program in South Dakota is to advance the FH network in an efficient manner that facilitates responsible care for the land, while providing access for users to experience the National Forests.

Mission

The mission of the FH Program in South Dakota is to work in partnership with CFLHD, SDDOT, USFS, and local communities to provide a safe and efficient FH network within the state.

Goals and Objectives

There are four goals of the FH Program in South Dakota: access and mobility, safety and condition, funding and economic development, and natural and cultural resource protection. Each goal has specific objectives that are intended to support and enhance the purpose of that goal. The goals and objectives are listed with a description of the purpose of each objective.

Access and Mobility: Provide sustainable access to and within the national forests for use and enjoyment of the land and its resources.

Objective 1: Provide and maintain recreational, commercial, administrative, and other access to NFS lands by funding improvements for transportation facilities.

Objective 2: Provide a reliable transportation network connecting the NFS lands with local communities and major highway systems.

Objective 3: Consider mode choice opportunities to improve mobility and access to and through the national forests.

Safety and Condition: Ensure a safe and reliable transportation network to and within the national forests.

Objective 1: Identify risks to traveler safety and take measures to reduce them.

Objective 2: Restore or improve the condition of the transportation facilities in order to accommodate the intended road use.

Objective 3: Reduce long-term maintenance costs and consider the ability of the cooperator to maintain the FH.

Funding and Economic Development: Use innovative partnerships to fund FH projects and to support economic development opportunities at the local, regional, and national level.

Objective 1: Create partnerships with other agencies or programs to provide additional funding to extend the benefits of the FH Program.

Objective 2: Support economic development in terms of tourism and use of natural resources in support of Forest Plans and Travel Management Plans.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection: Maintain leadership in protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural environment.

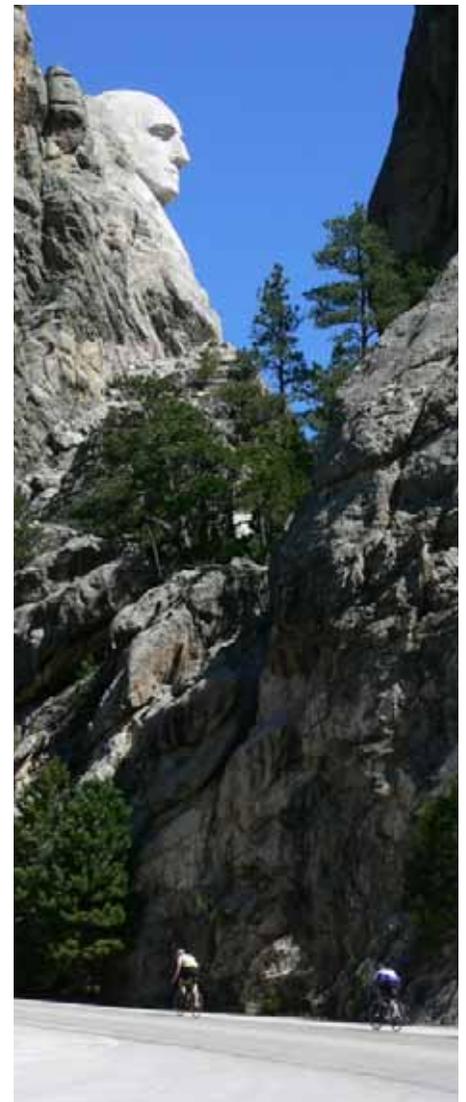
Objective 1: Use transportation facilities as a tool to improve the health of NFS lands.

Objective 2: Reduce the impacts of transportation facilities to natural and cultural resources.

We Need Your Input!

The South Dakota Tri-Agency would like to hear your comments on the Draft South Dakota LRTP. Please provide us with your comments, questions, and thoughts via email at the following address: cfl.sdlrtp@dot.gov

You may download and view the plan document at www.cflhd.gov/LRTP.



Norbeck Byway Photo by Stephen Keegan