



Memorandum

To: National Park Service
Northeast Region
Boston, Mass.

Date: November 7, 2014

Project No.: 33281.07

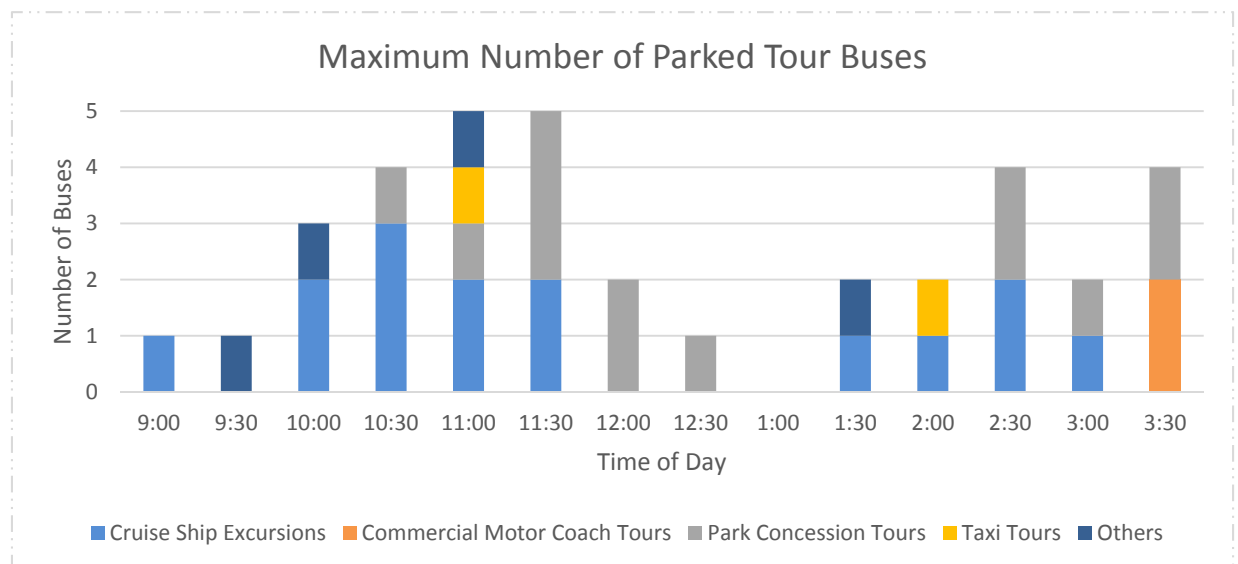
From: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Re: Acadia National Park
Transportation Data Collection
Thunder Hole Bus Activity

Attached are data collected on Thursday, September 25, 2014 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the bus parking area along the Loop Road at Thunder Hole. VHB staff recorded arrival and departure times of all vehicles using the five bus parking spaces. Bus activity included cruise ship excursion buses, commercial motor coach tours, and concession tours (Acadia National Park Tour and Oli's Trolley). In addition, there were some taxi tours, limousine tours, and other local tours that used the bus parking spaces along the road. The observations of bus activity were only of those on the roadway. Island Explorer buses stop inside the Thunder Hole parking lot and were not included in the counts. Nor were any taxi tours that may have parked in the parking lot.

Two cruise ships were in port on September 25th – Royal Caribbean's *Legend of the Seas* (2,076 passengers) and Norwegian Cruise Lines' *Norwegian Dawn* (2,224 passengers). The day's total of 4,300 passengers was the 14th highest daily total during the 2014 cruise ship season. The weather was sunny with temperatures in the mid-60s.

During the day a total of 38 buses and other commercial vehicles used the five bus parking spaces. There were 15 cruise ship excursion buses, 13 concession tour buses, two commercial motor coach tours, two limousine tours, three taxi tours and three other local tours. Cruise ship excursion buses typically dwell at Thunder Hole for 20-30 minutes, while Acadia National Park Tours and Oli's Trolley dwells for approximately 20 minutes. As depicted below, all of the bus parking spaces were occupied between the hours of 11:00 am to noon.



Not all of the cruise ship excursion buses make a stop at Thunder Hole. Eleven cruise ship excursion buses were observed to pass by the Thunder Hole bus parking; although they did all slow and sometimes even stop in the road briefly. There was bus parking available when those buses passed by so it appears that their particular excursion itineraries did not include a stop at Thunder Hole.

Occasional congestion on the Loop Road was observed when buses or trolleys were unloading passengers, and when the passengers cross the street to Thunder Hole. Often multiple tours were boarding or alighting at the same time. Tour guides would hold up through traffic while the passengers crossed the road. In addition, buses were occasionally observed having to parallel park (back into) into the bus parking spaces. When this occurred, the tour guide or other bus drivers would provide assistance and hold the through traffic.

THUNDER HOLE BUS ACTIVITY
THURSDAY, 9/25/2014

Coach Line	Arrival	Departure	Duration of Stay	Bus Type
CYR	9:15	Did not Park		CSE
CYR	9:16	Did not Park		CSE
Stage Coach	9:17	9:41	0:24	CSE
Limo	9:41	10:06	0:25	Others
Discovery Bicycle Tours	10:05	10:48	0:43	Others
CYR	10:15	10:33	0:18	CSE
Northeast	10:29	10:48	0:19	CSE
Northeast	10:36	10:52	0:16	CSE
CYR	10:40	10:56	0:16	CSE
CYR	10:47	Did not Park		CSE
Acadia National Park Tour	10:48	11:12	0:24	PCT
Custom Coach	10:48	11:13	0:25	CSE
Northeast	10:51	Did not Park		CSE
Northeast	10:53	Did not Park		CSE
Unmarked Van	10:58	11:08	0:10	Others
Unmarked Van	11:02	11:36	0:34	Others
ZCAB	11:09	11:11	0:02	Others
Northeast	11:12	11:44	0:32	CSE
CYR	11:13	11:44	0:31	CSE
Oli's Trolley	11:20	11:39	0:19	PCT
ZCAB	11:26	11:44	0:18	Others
Acadia National Park Tour	11:41	12:04	0:23	PCT
Oli's Trolley	11:43	12:03	0:20	PCT
Acadia National Park Tour	11:48	12:09	0:21	PCT
Northeast	11:53	12:19	0:26	CSE
CYR	11:57	12:18	0:21	CSE
CYR	12:11	Did not Park		CSE
Oli's Trolley	12:25	12:39	0:14	PCT
Acadia National Park Tour	12:28	12:52	0:24	PCT
Northeast	12:33	Did not Park		CSE
CYR	12:40	Did not Park		CSE
Oli's Trolley	12:40	13:03	0:23	PCT
Northeast	12:55	Did not Park		CSE
CYR	13:13	Did not Park		CSE
Stage Coach	13:40	14:02	0:22	CSE
Limo	13:53	14:15	0:22	Others
Stage Coach	14:07	14:32	0:25	CSE
ZCAB	14:14	14:25	0:11	Others
Northeast	14:37	14:58	0:21	CSE
Acadia National Park Tour	14:42	14:57	0:15	PCT
Oli's Trolley	14:55	15:14	0:19	PCT
Northeast	14:59	15:20	0:21	CSE
CYR	15:03	Did not Park		CSE
CYR	15:15	15:34	0:19	CSE
Oli's Trolley	15:19	15:38	0:19	PCT
Oli's Trolley	15:38	15:58	0:20	PCT
Christian Tours	15:50	-		CMCT
Acadia National Park Tour	15:56	-		PCT
Klein	15:58	-		CMCT

CSE = Cruise Ship Excursions

CMCT = Commercial Motor Coach Tours

Others = Limousine Tours / Local Tours / Taxi Tours

PCT = Park Concession Tours