MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

1. **PURPOSE**: The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties) enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to prioritize and collaborate on transportation innovation efforts and related issues of mutual interest.

2. **AUTHORITY**: The DOI enters into this MOU under the authority of the National Park Service Organic Act, as amended and supplemented, Title 54 United States Code (U.S.C.) 100101 et seq. The DOT enters into this MOU under the authority of 23 U.S.C. §§ 201 and 203. This MOU supersedes the MOU between DOI and DOT executed on November 25, 1997, which was substantially focused on transportation planning and transit demonstration projects in National Parks that are now complete.

3. **FINDINGS**: The transportation sector is evolving rapidly with advancements in technology and innovation. The development of these technologies has coincided with new business models that are transforming the transportation industry. These trends present both opportunities and challenges for the National Park Service (NPS) and other DOI bureaus in supporting access and protecting resources entrusted to them. Several national park units have already experienced the introduction of emerging mobility options, such as electric scooters and ride-hailing, with important implications for congestion, visitor experience, equity, safety, and resource protection. Proactively demonstrating and incorporating stand-alone and complementary technologies into park operating environments will help the NPS develop a transportation system that is compatible with its resource protection mission, while also providing enhanced access for car-free trips, interpretation, education, and enjoyment opportunities to visitors. Results stemming from internal national park emerging mobility efforts may also inform innovation efforts on comparable transportation facilities within other DOI lands, other Federal land management agencies, or outside the Federal estate that provide vital access to communities. Similarly, successes and lessons learned with deployment, maintenance, and continued operation in NPS-managed lands will benefit DOT's understanding in the broader transportation network.

4. **GOALS**: The goal of this MOU is to strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between the DOI and the DOT to improve transportation within and access to NPS facilities through the following activities:

- Providing technical assistance to assess, plan, deploy, and evaluate innovative technologies;
- Leveraging inter-departmental expertise across a range of disciplines for technical assistance;
- Analyzing novel and emerging data sets;
- Establishing temporary inter-agency or inter-departmental personnel exchanges;
- Developing information exchanges regarding technological change, funding, and policy;
- Facilitating partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector.

5. **PROJECT INITIATIVES**: The DOI and the DOT intend to work together, where appropriate, on project agreements that align with DOT technology initiatives to develop, test, implement, and evaluate transportation innovations on lands within the National Park System. These project agreements may establish interagency project teams to address park/unit transportation challenges. These project agreements may include, at a minimum, a general description of the work to be performed, the roles and responsibilities of each Department/Agency/office, and the expected end products and services to be delivered.

   Accordingly, the DOI and the DOT will work together to identify potential land units to showcase transportation innovations to serve as a model for the park/unit transportation experience of the future. Demonstration projects may include, but are not limited to the following:

   - **Innovative Technology Pilots**: Establishing pilot demonstration projects for innovative mobility technologies to identify and work to resolve challenges related to operating advanced transportation technologies in an NPS or Federal lands context. Findings from these demonstration projects will support collaboration among the DOI, the DOT, and others on future efforts related to the safe integration of new technologies into the transportation system.

   - **Shared Mobility Integration**: Testing ways to encourage and appropriately manage shared mobility services in order to enable access for those without a private vehicle. These services include ride-hailing, shared electric scooters, and dockless bike share, among others. For example, a demonstration project could pilot ways to designate and manage ride-hailing pick-up/drop-off zones at NPS units and the resulting interaction with field operations and arriving visitor experience. Another example is the development of mobility hubs to better integrate all these services and information sources to improve visitor mobility and experiences.

   - **Electrification of Major Transit Fleets**: Working toward the replacement of legacy NPS transit fleets with battery electric buses or other zero-emission technologies to reduce negative climate impacts. The transit industry is moving rapidly toward adoption of new technologies, which deliver significant operational savings and emissions reductions. For example, NPS-owned large transit fleets in Glacier, Grand

Canyon, and Zion National Parks are reaching the end of their service lives. Zion, while on a trajectory of replacing that fleet with zero emission buses, will require additional support to ensure efficient fleet transition.

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations**: Identifying where en route EV charging stations are lacking between parks and key population centers and work to fill these gaps. Adding charging stations in strategic locations both within and beyond park boundaries will enable visitors who use electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to visit NPS and other Federal Lands sites. EV charging stations will also enable NPS to incorporate EVs into its fleets for operational uses.

- **Advanced Traveler Information Systems**: Implementing strategies using mobile technologies and infrastructure that provide individuals with information to make more informed travel decisions. For example, real-time transit arrival, road status, and parking area availability information could decrease congestion and enhance the visitor experience.

6. **GENERAL PROVISIONS**:

- **FUNDS AND PERSONNEL**: This MOU does not document nor provide for the exchange of funds or personnel between the Parties, nor does it make any commitment of funds or resources.

- **MODIFICATION OF MOU**: This MOU may be modified only by the written agreement of the Parties, duly signed by their authorized representatives. This MOU will be reviewed annually.

- **DISPUTES**: Any disputes relating to this MOU will, subject to any applicable law, Executive Order, directive, or instruction, be resolved by consultation between the Parties.

- **TERMINATION OF UNDERSTANDING**: Either Party, upon 30 days of written notice, may terminate this agreement.

- **TRANSFERABILITY**: This MOU is not transferable except with the written consent of the Parties.

- **ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING**: It is expressly understood and agreed that this MOU embodies the understanding between the Parties regarding the MOU's subject matter. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with or modify existing agreements between the Parties.

- **EFFECTIVE DATE**: This MOU takes effect beginning on the day after the last Party signs.

APPROVED:

FOR THE Department of the Interior:
Deb Haaland
Secretary

Date: November 17, 2021

FOR THE Department of Transportation:
Pete Buttigieg
Secretary

Date: November 17, 2021