

# Canyon View Information Plaza

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park



Grand Canyon National Park, one of the natural wonders of the world, is one of the most highly visited national parks in the United States. Canyon View Information Plaza, a transit/orientation center near Mather Point on the South Rim, profoundly affects how nearly five million annual visitors experience the Grand Canyon. It was a major step in implementing the park's 1995 General Management Plan to improve the quality of visitor experience and to better protect the resources of the park.

Canyon View Information Plaza, which opened on October 26, 2000, is integral to the shift from automobiles to mass transit. This facility will be the primary hub for multi-modal transit to and within the park. Here, visitors will experience their first view of the Grand Canyon at Mather Point, encounter a menu of activities with which to plan their visit to the park, and access transportation to begin their connection with the Grand Canyon. In addition to mass transit connections, in the near future visitors will also have access to the Greenway trail system, allowing them to walk or bicycle to other points in the park.

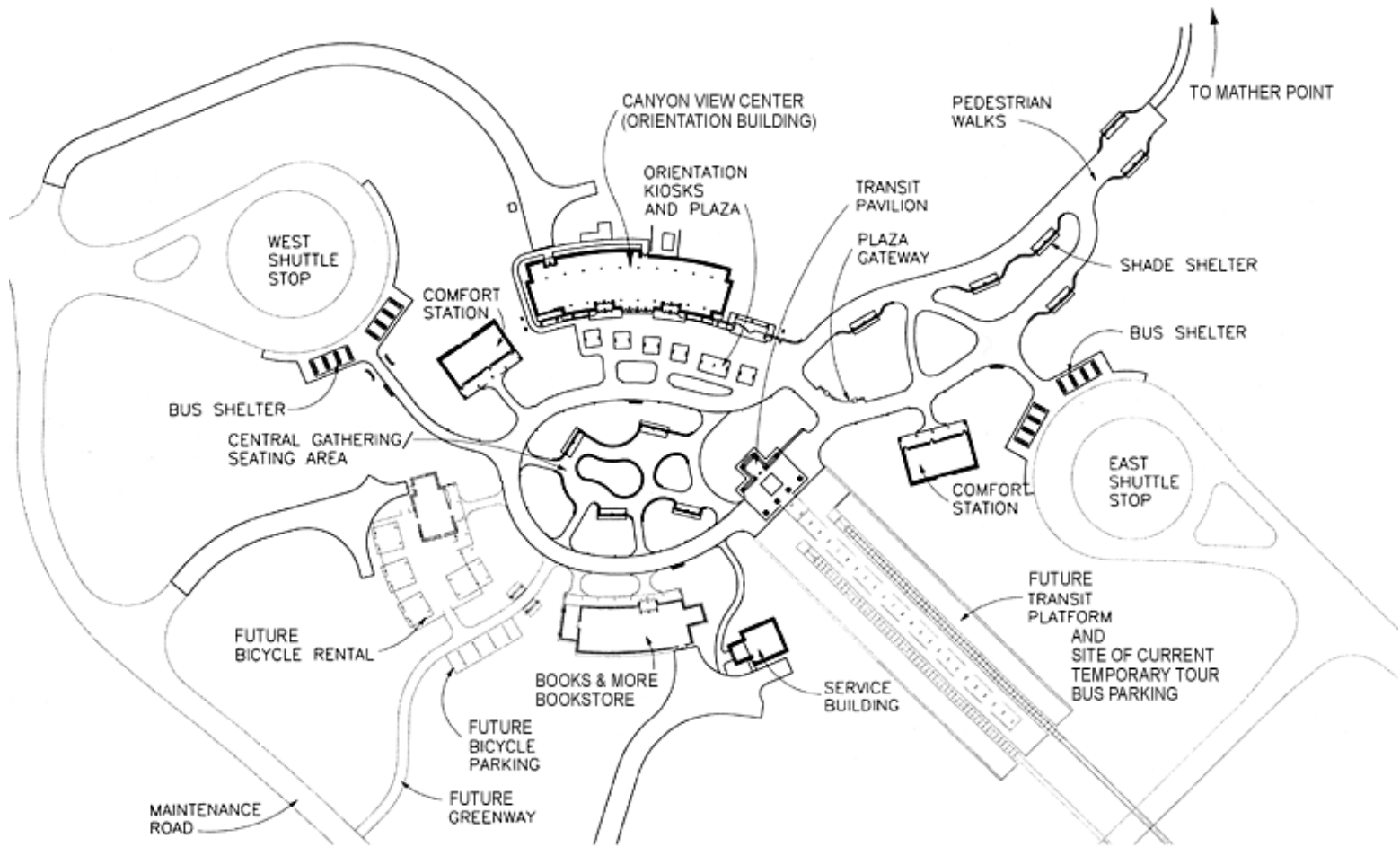
The opening of Canyon View Information Plaza is one of the first steps in many to come. Because the facility opened prior to the completion of the mass transit system, several changes in traffic patterns have occurred to accommodate the visiting public and local community. The National Park Service has installed temporary traffic devices and directional signing that will direct visitors to parking areas within the park. Parking is not available at Canyon View Information Plaza, therefore visitors are asked to park their vehicle and board a shuttle bus to access the facility and begin their connection to the Grand Canyon.



Once the transit system is fully completed, day visitors to the Grand Canyon Village area will park their cars outside of the park at the Grand Canyon Transit Center in Tusayan and board the transit system for the short trip to Canyon View Information Plaza.



Today the principal structures around the plaza area include an orientation center, a bookstore, two shuttle bus shelters serving shuttle lines to other South Rim destinations, two restrooms, a system of freestanding outdoor shelters and outdoor orientation exhibit kiosks, and a transit pavilion. Still to be constructed are a bike rental and storage facility, outdoor interpretive exhibits, and a transit platform.



The intent was to create a facility that synthesized site, buildings, and exhibits in a harmonious fashion with strong connections between indoor and outdoor spaces and with emphasis on the natural environment. A key objective was to facilitate the movement and distribution of up to 4,200 visitors per hour in a pleasant and efficient manner. Canyon View Information Plaza, located less than 1,000 feet from the canyon rim, is connected to the rim by a pathway. Multiple buildings are provided in a village setting, allowing them to better fit the sloping topography, distribute the numbers of visitors, and conform with the architectural character guidelines for the park.

At Canyon View Information Plaza visitors are offered a menu of recreational options through a series of large, colorful, attractively-designed, outdoor orientation exhibit kiosks. Topics covered include a schedule of ranger guided activities, orientation on riding shuttle buses to various view-points, day hikes along the Rim Trail or into the canyon, bicycling information, current weather and park information, and an explanation of commercial trips and tours. Information is duplicated indoors in Canyon View Center (the main orientation building) to accommodate visitors on bad weather days. Canyon View Center also contains additional park and Colorado Plateau information. Interpretive rangers rove throughout the site to provide visitor information and assistance.



## CANYON VIEW INFORMATION PLAZA FUNDING

Funding sources for Canyon View Information Plaza are varied. Infrastructure, the orientation building, outdoor exhibit kiosks, orientation display panels, restrooms, pathways, and the plaza were constructed using funds from the Recreation Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program. Roads and the transit pavilion were paid for by Federal Lands Highway Program funds. Funding for the bookstore was provided by the Grand Canyon Association. The bike rental building and outdoor equipment storage will be paid for by concessioner investment or franchise fees paid to the National Park Service.

### Funding sources for completed portions of Canyon View Information Plaza:

• Government Sources	
Fee Demo Program	\$18 million
Federal Lands Highway Program	\$5.5 million
• Grand Canyon Association	\$1.75 million
Total	\$25.28 million



*This sign, found on many recently completed projects throughout the park including CVIP, shows Fee Demo funded projects.*

## CANYON VIEW INFORMATION PLAZA MILESTONES

September 1997	Final approval received for Canyon View Information Plaza as a Recreation Fee Demonstration Project.
March 1999	Contract awarded for construction of primary facilities at Canyon View Information Plaza.
April 23, 1999	Groundbreaking Ceremony for Canyon View Information Plaza.
December 2, 1999	Opening Ceremony for Market Plaza Road (this road marked completion of the first phase of Canyon View Information Plaza).
October 26, 2000	Opening Ceremony for Canyon View Information Plaza and the park shuttle system starts year-round service to Canyon View Information Plaza.

## CANYON VIEW INFORMATION PLAZA PHASES

- Phase I** This phase constructed the primary access roads to the site including the east and west transit loops, the new business district road, and a portion of the utility work. This project was awarded to Fann Contracting of Prescott, Arizona in October 1998 and administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The majority of this project was funded through the Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP). Fee Demo funds were used to pay for the utility portion of the contract. Work was completed in November 1999.
- Phase II** This phase completed the basic utility work for the site started by the FHWA contract. The work included the construction of lines for reclaimed water, power, fiber-optic telephone, and cable TV as well as other related equipment such as pumps and storage tanks. This contract was awarded to D. L. Norton General Contracting, Inc. of Scottsdale, AZ in January 1999. The contractor was allowed 450 days from issuance of the Notice to Proceed to complete the work. Work was completed in October 2000.
- Phase III** This phase constructed the orientation building, two restrooms, six open-air orientation/information kiosks, bus shelters for the east and west transit loops, shade shelters, a central pedestrian plaza, the transit pavilion, a small service building, and utility infrastructure as needed. The contract was awarded to D.L. Norton Contracting, Inc. of Scottsdale, AZ in March 1999. Funding came from the FLHP program to pay for construction of the transit pavilion. A Ground Breaking ceremony was held on April 23, 1999. Work was completed in October 2000. (The transit platform will be built by the transit concessioner.)
- Phase IV** This phase provided the visitor orientation display panels for the orientation building and exterior kiosks as well as signs and other informational displays. A contract for the fabrication of the panels was awarded to Design Craftsmen of Midland, Michigan in December 1999. Work was completed in October 2000.
- Phase V** This phase includes construction of the Grand Canyon Association's bookstore located in the Canyon View Information Plaza complex directly opposite the orientation building. The Grand Canyon Association provided the funding. Initial site work was started Fall of 1999, work on the building began Spring of 2000, work was completed in October 2000.
- Phase VI** This phase will construct the bike rental facility for the Canyon View Information Plaza complex. Wheelchairs and strollers will also be available. The start date for this project is dependent upon when the bike rental concessions contract is awarded. Construction funding will be provided either by concessioner investment or franchise fees paid to the National Park Service.
- Phase VII** This phase will provide outdoor interpretive exhibits to introduce the educational themes of Grand Canyon that will be further explored at the Heritage Education Campus. The schedule is dependent upon funding.
- Phase VIII** This phase will realign the intersection of the South Entrance Road and Desert View Drive and remove the parking lot at Mather Point and the roadway between Mather Point and Yavapai Point. The FLHP program should pay for the majority of this work. The schedule is dependent upon completion of the mass transit system.