

# NEWS RELEASE

## Springdale and Zion National Park President's Day Weekend Expectations

*High Visitation Expected, Shift Travel Dates if Possible.*

**Springdale, UT, February 9, 2018:** Thousands of Zion National Park visitors are expected over the President's Day Weekend beginning February 16, 2018. The Town of Springdale, Zion National Park and Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) are asking those with flexible plans to consider visiting the park at a less crowded time. "Limited parking and roadway congestion are always issues in Zion Canyon during holiday weekends, and President's Day weekend is no exception" said Springdale Mayor Stanley J. Smith. "If visitors are coming to Zion for the holiday, we want them to understand the situation before they arrive" Smith added.

Exacerbating the already narrow State Route 9 through Zion Canyon is UDOT's reconstruction project which includes one-way traffic, flagging and traffic stoppages leading into and out of the South Entrance of Zion National Park. Although the project is being done over the lowest park visitation time period, to accomplish the extensive reconstruction of SR-9 work will be ongoing through mid-April. Recent high-visitation weekends during the construction project have generated traffic stoppages of 90 minutes or longer as a mass of automobiles enter Springdale enroute to the park.

Springdale, Zion National Park and UDOT are working together to manage conditions and set expectations for park visitors this President's Day weekend. UDOT Project Manager Chris Hall said "If you can't shift your travel to lower volume dates, plan ahead and know that traffic is expected to back up at several locations in the town and when entering and exiting the park." Parking is extremely

limited. Visitors choosing to walk from Springdale may need to walk up to three miles to reach the pedestrian entrance to Zion National Park located in Zion Canyon Village.

To facilitate visitor access, Zion National Park will resume weekend only, in-park shuttle service on Saturday, February 17 and has opened additional parking for early arrivals. Some additional overflow parking is available in Springdale. "We are incorporating additional traffic and vehicle parking options to maintain a safe and enjoyable visitor experience at Zion Park, said Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh, "with the delays and scarcity of parking we ask for everyone's patience and attention to safety whether a driver, passenger or pedestrian."

Shuttle buses will depart the park's Zion Canyon Visitor Center at 7:00 a.m. heading up-canyon to designated trail head stops with the last bus of the evening returning from the Temple of Sinawava (Stop 9) at 6:45 p.m. back to the Visitor Center. This same schedule will operate on Sunday, February 18, and then again on the weekends of February 24 and 25 and March 3 and 4.

The town shuttle will not be running those weekends. Full season daily shuttle services in the park and in Springdale, pending road construction, will begin March 10, 2018 and run through late fall.

UDOT is fully reconstructing State Route 9 through the Town of Springdale, improving utilities and drainage, and adding wider sidewalks and bicycle lanes. The project is being constructed during the lowest park visitation timeframe to reduce impacts to traffic and businesses, and is on schedule to be completed in mid-April, 2018.

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*The Town of Springdale is the gateway community to Zion National Park. Located in Southern Utah, Springdale is an exceptional and breathtaking place, offering unique community events, superb dining, outstanding art galleries, and year-round recreational activities.*

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