



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 21 2015

A3815

Mr. Pete Conroy
Co-chairman, Freedom Rider Park
McClellan Center Suite 1156
100 Gamecock Avenue
Anniston, Alabama 36205

Dear Mr. Conroy:

Thank you for your letter of October 8, 2015, expressing your support for the creation of a "Freedom Riders Park" that would encompass several sites in and around Anniston, Alabama. We are pleased to provide you the following information.

Earlier this year, the National Park Service began a reconnaissance survey of the sites associated with the May 1961 Civil Rights Freedom Rides. The survey will determine if the sites merit further consideration as a potential unit of the National Park System through a Congressionally-authorized Special Resource Study. A summary report on the survey findings will be prepared and sent to Senator Richard Shelby, the requesting Member of Congress, when the review process is complete.

The current target date for completion is September 2016, but the length of a survey project is dependent on the complexity of the site(s), readily available resource information, and current staff workloads. The NPS Southeast Regional Office is providing the overall direction of the study team assigned to this project. We understand your desire to expedite the schedule. The regional office has committed to do everything it can to try to streamline and shorten the overall project schedule.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts on behalf of the Freedom Riders sites. Please contact Mr. Ben West, Chief, Planning and Compliance, NPS Southeast Region, should you have questions regarding the reconnaissance survey process. Mr. West can be reached via email at Ben_West@nps.gov or at 404-507-5700. A similar letter is being sent to Mr. William Harbour who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director