



US-12 AND 21ST STREET IMPROVEMENTS: FAQ

January 2019

During development of the project, ITD fielded many questions. Find frequently asked questions with answers below.

Is this project really necessary?

Traffic volumes at this intersection are greater than any other intersection in Central Idaho, and with models projecting an increase in volumes, is expected to be unable to provide a satisfactory level of service in the near future without improvements.

The current configuration does not efficiently move commerce. Traffic turning left from US-12 to East Main Street must stop and yield to traffic at two unsignalized intersections. Vehicles in this lane routinely back up to the Clearwater Memorial Bridge during the afternoon peak hour.

When larger vehicles like trucks are required to slow down to a stop in the intersection, they exert extreme forces on the pavement that damage it greatly in a short period of time. By adjusting where trucks stop and using a more durable driving surface, after reconstruction the concrete intersection will remain in good condition for an estimated 40 years with routine maintenance.

This intersection services some of the region's largest employers and commercial zones, making it imperative that traffic be able to move efficiently through this intersection in order to support economic opportunity.

How will improvements affect Locomotive Park?

The park, which is state property that has been used by the city as a green space since its inception, will be reduced along its southern border to the highway to create room for changes. Some trees will also be removed. Expect short park closures during the first phase of construction as city stormwater improvements are constructed at night.

Many alternatives for the new intersection were considered, and this one impacts the park the least.

After construction, pedestrians will be able to access the park from 21st Street using a signal-protected crosswalk.

What detour will be in place?

The same detour will be in place for most of construction.

- East of the intersection, drivers may use either 24th Street to go south on 21st Street or 26th Street to go east on US-12. During construction, both streets will be converted to one-way, two-lane streets.
- West of the intersection, drivers may use 18th and Idaho streets to head north on 21st Street.

While detours east of the intersection pass through a residential area, a previously used detour for trucks underneath the bridge is less efficient and more costly due to private ownership.

Through traffic on US-12 will not be detoured but will be reduced to one lane in each direction. A temporary signal will be installed at East Main Street and the highway to allow drivers to directly travel east on US-12 or Main Street.

How is this project funded?

Of the \$7.6 million needed to construct improvements, the majority will come from ITD. The city of Lewiston is providing about \$1 million to extend and upgrade stormwater facilities, which is expected to alleviate runoff issues near the Red Lion Hotel and other areas.

To learn more, visit itdprojects.org.

