



US-95 BONNERS FERRY RECONSTRUCTION: PROJECT HISTORY

June 2018

Plans to improve the safety of the highway evolved with input from the public, beginning with the first public meeting in February 2015.

Comments from the public meeting suggested that the preferred design for the highway would include wider shoulders, grassy buffer areas and sidewalks on two sides. As the project developed, it became clear that the new design would significantly impact local businesses when acquiring the new right of way, and ITD held a public hearing in August 2015.

In 2016, money became available for safety projects in the vicinity of the US-Canada border, allowing ITD to act on previous comments that identified a need to repair the South Hill and to distance the merging point from the crosswalk.

After the scope of the project expanded to include the South Hill, it was split into two stages. Stage 1 addressed Alderson Lane to the Kootenai River Bridge, and Stage 2 addressed Alderson Lane to Labrosse Hill Street.

Because the construction of Stage 1 of the project would require its removal, ITD worked with the city throughout the design process to reevaluate the purpose of the signal at Alderson Lane. In 2017, ITD conducted traffic counts in February, August and November to measure the highway's use. Engineering analyses based on these counts showed that even during its peak use the signal was not justified by the low volume of users. The city is also developing a Transportation Master Plan to determine better ways for local cross-town travel.

In order to collect public comment on the removal of the signal at Alderson Lane, ITD created a website for Stage 1 of the project and collected comments for two weeks in October 2017. After analyzing the comments, ITD engineers realized that there was still some confusion about the details of Stage 1 and held an open house in December 2017.

Reconstruction during Stage 1 began in May 2018, and for the first few months of construction, ITD held weekly open houses in town. Due to low attendance at these meetings, these meetings were eventually cancelled for the season.

As construction of Stage 1 and design of Stage 2 both progress, more information can be found at itdprojects.org.

