



Pear Lane to Middleton Road Canyon County



COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

December 18, 2019



Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity

itdprojects.org/idaho55study



Welcome!

Our goals today:

- Introduce the Idaho 55 environmental evaluation in Canyon County.
- Hear your input on the needs of this corridor.
- Share next steps for this project and how to stay involved.



Project description

- The Idaho Transportation Department is working toward improving Idaho 55 from Pear Lane to Middleton Road.
- The objective of this evaluation is to create a plan for **mobility and safety needs** from now until 2045 that qualifies for federal funding.



Study area

Pear Lane to Middleton Road





Background

- Idaho Highway 55 is a primary transportation and freight corridor through Idaho.
- Idaho 55 supports agriculture and tourism industries.
- In many areas, Idaho 55 has not been widened since the 1930s.



Background

- Rapid growth in Canyon County has resulted in increased traffic volumes on Idaho 55.
- Idaho 55 is 4th priority in the Treasure Valley for the State Highway system



Background

In 2013, ITD completed a multi-year study of the Idaho 55 corridor.

The study resulted in new traffic signals, access improvements and other projects on Idaho 55.



It also identified a need for more extensive improvements between Pear Lane and Middleton Road.



Process and schedule 2019 – 2021

- Complete a **traffic and safety analysis**
- Gather **public input**
- Develop **plans for managing access on/off Idaho 55.**
- Complete an **environmental evaluation.**
- Develop **concept design.**



Traffic data

Pear Lane to 10th Avenue

Traffic today: 12,245 vehicles/day

Traffic in 2045: 21,400 vehicles/day

10th Avenue to Middleton Road

Traffic today: 24,584 vehicles/day

Traffic in 2045: 41,300 vehicles/day



Safety Analysis

2014-2018 Crash data on Idaho 55 was compared to similar roadways in Idaho.

- **Crash numbers – 399 crashes in project area**
- **Crash types**
 - **Rear end (40%)**
 - **Angle (43%)**
- **Higher than average crash rate to similar roadways**



National Environmental Policy Act

ITD must follow the NEPA process in order to use federal funding for future projects on this corridor.

The process includes:

- Evaluating a reasonable range of alternatives.
- Analyzing social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Considering appropriate mitigation for impacts.
- Working closely with agencies and the public.



Purpose and need (overview)

Design standards: Idaho 55 met design standards in the 1930's.

Access: The number of existing driveways and intersecting roads exceeds state safety standards.

Capacity: The existing highway will not accommodate traffic from expected growth, an increase of 63% by 2045. Travel time and congestion are expected to worsen with upcoming development.

Safety: Without improvements, safety concerns and crashes are expected to increase.



What's next

- Complete technical and environmental studies.
- Develop a range of improvements for the corridor
- Gather feedback at a community working group meeting in early spring 2020



Working group instructions

Today's goal: Identify issues, concerns and needs to consider in this evaluation.

- Please review information at your tables.
- Discuss questions in groups.
- Facilitators will take notes.
- Written comment sheets are available.



Thank you

Online comment form:
itdprojects.org/idaho55study

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