COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

December 18, 2019

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.

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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

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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 4\textsuperscript{th} 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

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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:
ltdp_projects.org/idaho55study

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