



# THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Jacob Greenberg, Chairman \* Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chair \* Dick Fosbury, Commissioner

February 25, 2020

Idaho Transportation Department – District 4  
Jim Kempton  
Jesse Barrus  
216 South Date Street, Shoshone, ID 83352

Subject: Letter of Intent- Removal of State Highway 75 Spur

Dear Mr. Kempton and Mr. Barrus,

This letter signifies Blaine County's interest in assuming temporary jurisdiction of a portion of State Highway 75 Spur (SH-75 Spur), approximately 19,400 linear feet long. In concert with the cities of Sun Valley and Ketchum, the County has followed the evaluation process recommended by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Policy 5061 and believes this request is in the best interest of all involved parties. The Board assures the ITD that the County has worked closely with the cities to ensure they are committed to maintaining this road as a public right of way to be used by all.


Occasionally, over the past 25 years, ITD District 4 staff have approached the cities about transfer of ownership of this same segment of SH-75 Spur. At those times, the conversation did not move beyond simple discussion. However, over the past ten years or so, the City of Sun Valley has developed along the edges of SH-75 Spur, and growth has continued to densify within the City of Ketchum along this route as well. The growth of residential, commercial and recreational space along this segment of SH-75 Spur has resulted in a positive impact to the local economy, connectivity, and employment.


The County is participating in this process merely to aid in the transfer of ownership and management responsibility from ITD to the Cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley, respectively, and does not intend to assume any jurisdictional authority over this section of road in the Cities. If the transfer is made, the County is committed to accepting the transfer from ITD and immediately transferring the first one third mile from SH75 to the Ketchum city limit to the City of Ketchum, and immediately transferring the next 3.3 miles from the Ketchum city limits to the point the roadway transitions jurisdiction to Blaine County Trail Creek Road to the City of Sun Valley. This County road (Trail Creek Road) is not plowed throughout the winter, so it does not provide continuous connectivity beyond the City of Sun Valley, reinforcing the understanding that the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley are destinations. As such, most users of this segment of SH-75 Spur view it as a local road.

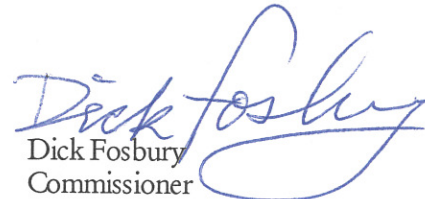
A more detailed analysis is attached in the City's System Action Evaluation Criteria document.

After years of intermittent discussion about this subject, the County is pleased to be able to support the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley to bring about this mutually beneficial opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
Jacob Greenberg  
Chairman

  
Angenie McCleary  
Vice-Chairman

  
Dick Fosbury  
Commissioner

Cc: Neil Bradshaw/Ketchum Mayor  
Peter Hendricks/Sun Valley Mayor