

**EDITOR'S NOTE: A media day will be held Friday, Oct. 29, to explain this project in more detail. ITD staff will be available for interviews and you will have an opportunity to tour the project area. More details are at the end of this news release.**

## IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow study has begun**

LEWISTON — A study to examine the impacts of widening and improving U.S. 95 between Thorncreek Road and Moscow has begun, the Idaho Transportation Department announced.

The public is invited attend one of four open houses to:

- Learn about the project
- Participate in small group discussions
- Provide written comments

The open houses will be held in the Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway in Moscow:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • <b>Wednesday Nov. 3</b> | • <b>Thursday, Nov. 4</b> |
| 1:30 – 3 p.m.             | 1:30 – 3 p.m.             |
| or                        | or                        |
| 5:30 – 8 p.m.             | 5:30 – 8 p.m.             |

At the open houses, participants will have the opportunity to watch a project video, ask questions of project experts and join a facilitated discussion group.

The project area is the 6.5 miles between Thorncreek Road and the recently completed south fork of the Palouse River Bridge. A “no build” option will also be considered as part of this project.

In 1998, ITD proposed a project to widen to four lanes and improve a 21-mile section of U.S. 95 between Top of Lewiston Hill and Moscow. Widening of the first 14.5 miles from Top of Lewiston Hill to Thorncreek Road will be complete in 2005-06.

In September 2003, the U.S. District Court in Boise voided the environmental study for the 6.5-mile segment between Reisenauer Hill and the city of Moscow. Based on the court ruling, ITD is now required to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this last segment. An EIS is the highest level of environmental review.

For more information about this project, please visit the project Web site at [www.itd.idaho.gov/getinvolved/d2/](http://www.itd.idaho.gov/getinvolved/d2/) and click on U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1.

**MEDIA DAY: News outlets will be hosted individually for media day on Friday, Oct. 29. Tours and interviews with project staff will be available. To schedule a time, please email Gwen Smith, ITD Public Involvement Coordinator, at [gwen.smith@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:gwen.smith@itd.idaho.gov).**