

U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

JULY 2007

PROJECT UPDATE

T H A N K Y O U for your continued involvement in the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)'s U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow project. Your input has helped ITD determine the alternatives/alignments being considered for U.S. 95 from Thorncreek Road to Moscow. It also has helped determine evaluation criteria and studies to conduct for the project. We appreciate the interest and support.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS

ITD's District 2 has completed drafting the Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project. The DEIS is currently in the internal ITD review process. During the review process, a public hearing will be held to gather testimony.



The U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Project is a study to determine an alignment for nearly 6.5 miles of U.S. 95 in Latah County.

During internal review, questions were raised about the Wildlife Assessment. Bill Ruediger of Wildlife Consulting Resources has been hired to provide an independent assessment and comment on the report findings. The results of this review are expected in the Fall and will be included in the DEIS.

WHAT'S NEXT

You will be notified through this newsletter and local newspapers when the DEIS is available for public review. Copies will be available on CD, at the project Web site and in several locations throughout the community. During the review process, a public hearing will be held to gather testimony.

Public testimony will be incorporated into the Final EIS and sent to the Idaho Transportation Board, which will then submit it to the FHWA. The FHWA can then issue a Record of Decision that includes the final preferred alignment and approves the Final EIS. This will allow ITD to begin final design of the preferred alignment and begin to purchase the right-of-way necessary to construct the roadway.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Gather public input on issues, concerns and range of alternatives/alignments

Narrow alternatives/alignments using public input

Draft EIS that evaluates alternatives/alignments

Conduct ITD and FHWA review of Draft EIS*

Publish Draft EIS for comment

Hold public hearing

Idaho Transportation Board makes recommendation to FHWA

FHWA announces final decision

**ITD currently is completing the internal review of the Draft EIS and expects to send the document to the FHWA in late fall.*

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

During the review process for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, ITD will continue to provide periodic updates. The best way to stay informed:

- **Watch for newsletters.** If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list, please send the name to thorncreekroadtomoscow@itd.idaho.gov.
- **Stop by the project kiosk,** which currently is located at the Latah County Courthouse, 522 S. Adams in Moscow, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- **Visit** www.itd.idaho.gov and choose Get Involved, North-Central Idaho and U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1.
- **E-mail** ITD Project Manager Ken Helm at thorncreekroadtomoscow@itd.idaho.gov
- **Call** Ken Helm at (208) 799-5090.

ITD has discontinued the monthly breakfast meetings for the summer. Watch for a newsletter announcing when they will begin again.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is committed to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related regulations and directives. ITD assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any ITD service, program, or activity. The department also assures that every effort will be made to prevent discrimination through the impacts of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. In addition, the department will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency. Questions? Call (208) 334-4444; TTD (208) 334-4458.

**IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 837
LEWISTON, IDAHO 83501-0837**

