

**U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow Project
At-a-Glance
Summary of Public Scoping Meeting Comments**

Thank you for participating

Thanks for attending the Idaho Transportation Department's recent U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow public open houses and/or for submitting comments regarding the study. The meetings on Nov. 3 and 4, 2004 were successful – nearly 500 people attended. This newsletter includes a summary of what ITD heard from these meetings.

We encourage your continued involvement in this project. Your input is going to help make this project a success.

What we heard

ITD received 298 comments about this project at the November meetings, in the mail and by email. Here's a brief summary of what was heard:

The most important issues that should be considered when choosing which alignment is best include:

- **Safety**
 - Road should be straight with few curves
 - Limit access
 - Take weather into account (fog, snow, ice)
 - School buses use this road
- **Property owners**
 - Don't divide fields
 - Protect farmers' income
 - Don't displace homes
- **Environmental**
 - Wildlife
 - Farmland
 - Paradise Ridge
 - Historical sites
 - Wetlands
 - Aquifer
 - Archaeological sites
 - Palouse Prairie
 - Native plants
- **Cost**
 - Construction
 - Maintenance
 - Fuel costs if longer route is chosen
- **Build it quickly**
 - During construction, minimize impact to motorists as much as possible

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Public Meeting Summary*

- **Growth and future projects**
 - Make sure this project is coordinated with Moscow City, North Latah Highway District and Washington State Dept. of Transportation projects
 - Take projections for growth into account
 - Be aware of future development that could follow new road, reduce potential for sprawl
- **Aesthetics**
 - Make it attractive and compatible with the surroundings
- **Traffic flow**
 - Should benefit the entire state, not just Moscow

The following environmental issues are important and should be considered in the environmental analysis:

- Weather, including fog, snow, ice and wind
- Wildlife movement and migration; nesting areas
- Pollution, including noise, light, visual, emissions and runoff
- Hydrology, including wells, wetlands, springs, water table
- Historical, cultural and archaeological sites
- Prime farmland
- Palouse Prairie
- Rare plants, including prairie grass
- Erosion

Those who submitted comments suggested a variety of alignments and/or characteristics for a roadway, including:

- Straight, flat and low elevation
- West of current U.S. 95
 - Combine U.S. 95 and Moscow-Pullman Highway
 - Use Jacksha Road
- East of current U.S. 95
 - West of Paradise Ridge;
 - On Paradise Ridge, but not as high
 - Use previous 10a alignment
- Build near existing roadway
- Widen existing roadway and remove sharp curves
- No build
 - Add shoulders and passing lanes to existing
 - Lower speed limit
- No western alignment
- Avoid Paradise Ridge