

U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW

DECEMBER 2004

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 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
- Growth and future projects
 - Make sure this project is coordinated with Moscow City, North Latah Highway District and Washington State Department of Transportation projects
 - Take projections for growth into account
 - Be aware of future development that could follow a 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 and water table
- Historical, cultural and archaeological sites
- Prime farmland
- Palouse Prairie
- Rare plants, including prairie grass
- Erosion

A variety of alignments and/or roadway characteristics were suggested:

- 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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE U.S. 95 THORNCREEK ROAD TO MOSCOW PROJECT.
YOUR INPUT IS GOING TO HELP MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS.**

PROJECT UPDATES

One of ITD's goals for this project is to provide the community with numerous opportunities to receive project updates. There are a few ways you can receive information:

MONTHLY BREAKFAST MEETING

Beginning **Dec. 14**, ITD will host a monthly breakfast meeting at the **Mark IV Restaurant, 414 N. Main St., Moscow from 7 to 8 a.m.**

Project staff will provide a brief update about the project and answer questions.

These meetings will be held regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at this time and location.

Coffee and light refreshment will be provided. You are welcome to order breakfast at your own expense.

INFORMATION KIOSK

A kiosk with project information from the recent open houses is located in the Eastside Marketplace off the Troy Highway. The kiosk will be staffed periodically, please check the project Web site for details.

WHAT'S NEXT

In January, you will be invited to a public workshop. We will show you the range of alignments that are being considered and ask for your input. The alignments being considered have been developed based on public input received at the November meetings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Web site: The Web site contains project information and will be updated as technical information and the dates of the next public participation opportunities become available. The address is:

<http://www.itd.idaho.gov/getinvolved/d2/>

Click on U.S. 95 Thorncreek Road to Moscow, Stage 1

Phone and email: ITD Project Manager Ken Helm can be reached at 799-5090 or send an email to:

thorncreekroadtomoscow@itd.idaho.gov

You can also send email to Rosemary Curtin, the project's public involvement consultant, at **rbc@cableone.net**.

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