

Comment Form Transcription October 28, 2008—New Meadows Open House

Comments are transcribed verbatim. A blank line (___) indicates that the comment was not legible.

#	1. What highway improvements are needed on U.S. 95? (Please be specific with improvements and locations.)	2. What is the most important improvement needed?	3. Other Comments (have we missed anything?)
1	<p><i>(Comment submitted before the meeting)</i> I would like to respond to the U.S. 95 and Idaho 55 Corridor Studies in writing since I will be out of town on October 28th. My husband and I live in Circle C subdivision about ten miles north of New Meadows. There are several roads into the subdivision; one on Smokey Boulder, which is a country road and one at M.P. 170 (Round Valley Road), which is a private road. Each of these roads requires individuals to turn left off U.S. 95 and every homeowner has stories of close encounters with high speed traffic. Some of the encounters have had the potential to be life threatening.</p> <p>I will be the first to say that each, Smokey Boulder and Round Valley Road, has visibility challenges for all traffic. Even though most homeowners routinely pump brakes and have turn signals on well in advance of turning; very often rear approaching traffic do not decelerate safely or come to a complete stop behind turning vehicle. It is concerning when smaller vehicles try to take the gravel on your right without stopping, but it is truly frightening when you see a logging truck or semi-truck fail to brake appropriately.</p> <p>My request is to consider turn-out lanes on U.S. 95 for areas in New Meadows where traffic intensity has increased, especially at M.P. 170 (Round Valley) and Smokey Boulder Roads.</p> <p>Thanks for your time on this issue and thanks for the opportunity to respond.</p>		
2	All three canyon roads out of New Meadows	For now improve bad corners and bridge don't wait 20 years	
3	Smokey Boulder south 4 miles, realignment and widening Fort Hall Hill, Y to East Fork Bridge.		
4	Female speaking—need turn lanes and signal at 95/55, need wider shoulders, commuter buses Council to McCall?		
5	The corridor from Weiser River Bridge to Tamarack after taken the tree off the right of way—need guard rails on the river side—	Pavement is coming up at Smokey Boulder—Water under road need to be addressed—get	

	some slopes are really bad. Fort Hall Hill needs—passing lanes on both side’s longer. Line of site needs addressed. (Snow plow people do a great job in Adams County)	the water out—culvert—french drains something—real bad when it starts freezing	
6	<p><i>(Comment submitted before meeting)</i> Residents of New Meadows work in various areas of the state, so the highway system is very important to their ability to work and live in this area. By observing the rutting of the highways, allowable truck weights appear to be too heavy or design standards and construction of the highways are inadequate. Highway #95 through New Meadows is rutting and breaking up and needs reconstructed to standards that will carry the load.</p> <p>Freight movement through New Meadows is extensive. Trucks move goods to northern & southern Idaho and destinations beyond. Highway #95 is a major conduit for freight from Mexico to Canada. Widening the highway and placing more turnouts would add to highway safety and facilitate less delays when following large heavy loads. By observing the rutting of the highways, allowable truck weights appear to be too heavy or design standards and construction of the highways are inadequate. Highway #95 through New Meadows is rutting and breaking up and needs reconstructed to standards that will carry the load. Proper drainage would help stabilize the roadbed. Sidewalks along Highway #95 would accommodate pedestrian traffic and decorative lighting would provide adequate street lighting and make the community more attractive to the residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>The streets of New Meadows are gravel and they have a tendency to heave and form soft sections in the spring. The City is under a DEQ consent order for dust particulate problems and was able to apply a dust abatement application vehicle that should be delivered in 2009. Reconstruction and paving of the city streets would improved the community’s livability and make it more attractive to others passing through or who are looking to relocate to this area.</p> <p>Much of the statewide tourism passes through our community on Highway #95 and Highway #55. If an investment similar to that put into northern Highway #95 was put into improving southern Highway #95, a plethora of problems could be solved. The rutting of the highways could be addressed with construction design standards that are adequate for the traffic weights that travel the highway.</p> <p>Goose Creek Canyon (Hwy #55) is inadequate for the traffic that uses it constantly. There are frequent accidents that cause injury and delay. This highway needs widened and straightened to increase its safety for the traveling public. The intersection of Hwy #95 and hwy#55 is inadequate and will likely result in someone being killed in the near future. A better design to accommodate auto and pedestrian traffic is needed.</p>		
7	Post comment sheets on Web site!		
8	From smokey boulder rd at the head of the	The little salmon canyon	

	Little Salmon Canyon to hazard cr. is in a state that it is dangerous to even drive. Pot holes you can loose a tire in, and too narrow to hardly meet and pass a large truck. There is no shoulder at all. The intersection in New Meadows is a real accident location. There needs to be a traffic light installed and the use enforced.	widened to hazard cr. The light installed at the New Meadows intersection.	
9	Smoky Boulder Rd to Hazard Creek needs to be widened and straightened with wider shoulders and passing lanes. From New Meadows to Council is the same narrow and cracked and needs improved on. Intersection 55-95 needs to be improved.	Passing lanes and wider shoulders.	There has been to many studies which have wasted more money than it would have taken to fix the roads in the first place.
10	M.P. 171 to M.P. 175 Hwy 95-Rough narrow and windy peace of road Intersection of Hwy 95 & Hwy new meadows ID ½ mile north of Riggins Id, corner is way to narrow and a very tight corner “bulls eye corner” Lift length restriction from Council to Riggins Lift length restriction from McCall to New Meadows Hwy 55	Lift length restriction on Hwy 95 from Council to Riggins for semi trucks and allow more truck traffic on this highway resulting in more road tax for Idaho roads. State of Idaho is loosing thousands of dollars due to trucks going out of state to deliver in northern Idaho, Washington, and Montana. This problem is also plaguing local business and infistructure.	
11	The junction of Highway 55 and Highway 95 is in desperate need of improvement. I believe the canyons located from Council to New Meadows, and New Meadows to Riggins are in desperate need of repaving, widening, and turnout, slow vehicle lanes. The junction of Highway 95 and Zim’s Road has had at <u>least</u> 4 fatalities in the last twelve years. Length restrictions on Highway 95 would produce	1 st Lifting length restriction to create more funds for... (2 nd) Hwy 95 and 55 intersection (3 rd) Repaving canyons, etc. (4 th) Zim’s and Hwy 95 junction	

	more funds from the trucking industry.		
12		Immediate attention to a 4 way stop at 95 and 55: Reduced speeds further out of New Meadows from all directions McCall→NM: Council →N.M: Riggins→N.M	
13		By Pass around Council from North Corner beyond school	
14	Intersection of US 95 and State 55	Better signs and flashing lights 4 way all way stop.	None
15	Intersection of #95 and #55 Road base and drainage #95 through New Meadows road base, drainage, pavement of New Meadows Streets	All need done	
16	Pull-outs are needed between McCall and Cascade especially on bus routes for schools. A turn lane is needed between McCall and Lakefork. Ruts in road need to be fixed.	The ruts need to be fixed. I feel that when the road is icy they contribute to a lot of slide-offs. Also when filled with water they are a hazard to oncoming traffic.	
17	North of New Meadows—south bound at 45 th Parallel Dr—need a right turn/deceleration lane. Trying to slow down for this turn is extremely dangerous with truck traffic travelling 65+ mph behind you. More passing lanes where feasible (or at a minimum, slow vehicle pullouts). Resurfacing and possible widening in Little Salmon River Canyon. The current surface condition is extremely dangerous for motorcycles.	Keep a smooth surface on entire length. This includes ridding ruts from heavy truck traffic as under rainy/wet conditions these promote hydroplaning due to water accumulation since the water doesn't run off (loss of crown in road).	Although we believe there are segments that could benefit from <u>some</u> easing of the curves, we are against wholesale straightening to create a “super highway.” This would severely ruin the character of the corridor and would increase speed at which people travel (whether posted speed limit is changes or not). We are avid motorcycle travelers who like/need curves in roads to enjoy our travels. <u>Don't</u> bypass the town of New Meadows as this would “kill” the town. Americans as a society need to stop being in such a hurry to get from point A to point B, and learn to travel at a speed

			appropriate for the road. The road is not the "killer highway;" the killers are the non-responsible, hurried drivers.
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