

Director's Board Report November 2017

Thank you Chairman Whitehead.

And good morning members of the Idaho Transportation Board.

The department hosted the 2017 Leadership Summit Rapid Innovation Event in October.

Thirteen teams assembled for one week to develop solutions to actual ITD problems.

They learned to use proven process-improvement tools to address the problems.

And they will be taking these tools back to their workplaces where they can use them to solve problems at the district level.

ITD leadership summits teach leadership skills, and the participants work together to solve some of the most important issues facing the department.

Chief Administrative Officer Char McArthur will provide a full report about the 2017 Leadership Summit in next month's board report.

The Office of Highway Safety kicked off **National Teen Safety Week** last month at a high school football game between Middleton and Skyview.

ITD's Public Information, Education, and Outreach Coordinator Ken Corder discussed safe-driving habits with 200 people during the event, at the invitation of the Middleton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Teen drivers comprise only six percent of all drivers behind the wheel, but are involved in 22% of crashes.

That puts them in a risky category, because motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States.

That is the bad news.

The good news is that parents can help protect their young drivers by talking with them about risky behaviors.

Here is a KTVB news story about Teen Safety Week.

Studies show that teens whose parents set firm rules for driving engage in less risky driving habits and are involved in fewer crashes.

National Teen Driving week promotes dialogues between parents and young drivers about the rules they need to follow to stay safe behind the wheel.

The greatest dangers for teen drivers are alcohol use, inconsistent or no seat belt use, distracted and drowsy driving, speeding, and the number of passengers traveling with them.

Parents who discuss these issues with their children can help them pay more attention to driving and be less likely to get into an accident.

It also helps when young drivers hear about safe-driving practices from their friends and classmates.

The students at Ridgevue High School in Nampa recently produced a video about using seat belts.

As you will probably guess while watching the video, their high school teams are known as the Warhawks.

Please play the video.

Here is short Public Service Announcement from ITD that also addresses seat belt use.

Seat belt use and the safety of all drivers is important to ITD, and so is the safety of our employees.

District 3 recently took steps to increase their safety culture by making employees more aware of the hazards associated with their jobs.

Technical Training Specialist Lori Fox, with the assistance of Eric Copeland and Mike Garz, provided hazard identification and recognition training to all District 3 operations staff.

They taught them how to use a Job Hazard Analysis process to examine incidents and near misses and identify hidden dangers or hazards.

The picture you see on screen may be humorous, but it does show that some job hazards can be eliminated by not repeating actions that may have had poor outcomes.

The goal is to help our employees prevent future incidents by finding out what happened, why it happened, and what can be done differently to keep it from happening again in the future.

The job Hazard Analysis Process gives our employees a tool they can use in every aspect of their lives, both on and off the job.

Our work to improve safety is a statewide effort.

In southeastern Idaho, we are partnering with local officials to resolve a speeding issue on U.S. 89 in downtown Paris.

Mayor Brent Lewis contacted the District 5 Traffic section in September about converting the four-lane section of highway to a three-lane section, with parking and bike lanes, to help reduce speeding through town.

The mayor described how drivers were jockeying for position in the four-lane section, leading to frequent speeding.

Because ITD had just chip-sealed and fog-coated US-89, it was an opportune time to make some safety improvements by changing the striping configuration.

District 5 quickly researched the roadway width and authorized the chip-sealing contractor to make changes to the lane striping and move it up in the project schedule.

The district used a striping method that removes travel lanes and converts the space for other uses such as bike lanes, pedestrian refuge islands, transit, and parking, which you can see in the video.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, before-and-after studies of this type of striping show an average **25% reduction** in travel speeds and a **30% reduction** in the number of vehicles traveling more than five miles per hour over the speed limit.

Removing lanes also reduces the severity of crashes.

In downtown Paris, the pavement was restriped to provide:

- 11-foot travel lanes
- 6-foot bike lanes
- and eight-and-a-half foot parking slots, with 150-foot transitions at the ends.

Mayor Lewis is pleased with the results.

He said, and I quote:

“It looks great, and I’ve heard many positive comments from citizens.

Most of the year-round residents really like it.

Our City Council likes it.

Mayors from other towns have said they view it as a safety improvement.

I have talked to all law enforcement officers and asked for their comments, and what they observe with regard to the change.”

Idaho State Police officer Chris Clausing is a father of four who has patrolled Paris for the past two years, and has seen serious speeding incidents first-hand.

He said, and I quote:

“It has definitely helped from a safety standpoint.

I’ve stopped people for going 60 and 70 miles per hour through town, and ISP deputies have caught someone doing 80 miles per hour before.

The speed limit is 35, transitioning to 25, so that is more than excessive in my opinion.

Speeds have definitely dropped, and the biggest benefit is safety for the kids.

There’s more of a buffer now between them and the highway lanes.

Before, if the kids were playing ball and a ball made it out of the front yard, they were right in the middle of the road, because the highway and sidewalk were right next to each other."

This striping technique has been used with similar success in Victor, Idaho Falls, Rigby, and Malad.

District 5 has been promoting the same type of project on U.S. 91 in downtown Preston for a couple of years.

After many discussions and meetings with the city and the public, the Preston City Council voted for it unanimously in October.

That section of U.S. 91 will be restriped when the highway is seal coated next summer.

Many of the improvements we make at ITD involve safety.

But some are designed to improve customer service.

The Division of Motor Vehicles has developed a new and improved SharePoint site for County Sheriffs and Assessors Offices.

The old SharePoint site had multiple links and forms scattered across four cluttered pages, and was difficult to navigate.

Debbie Reyes, an Auto License Supervisor in Gem County, described the old site by saying, and I quote:

“I was trying to think of a good way to describe using the old county SharePoint website.”

It is like a corn maze.

I know where I am.

I do not know how I got there.

Or how to get back.

But I think I have been here before.

The old SharePoint site was a corn maze.”

I am sure many of us have had to wade through websites like that.

It is time consuming and often irritating.

Focusing on the needs of our customers, DMV employees designed the new SharePoint site to be much easier to use, based on input received they received from our partners in the county offices.

The new site is scheduled to go live next week.

It has a simple main page that provides links to the information that is most important to county DMV employees.

The new site provides online training modules, an easy-to-use navigation ribbon, and a troubleshooting form for counties to send us their comments and suggestions.

It was developed by a team of DMV employees, many of whom are in the auditorium right now.

Would the team please stand while I list their names?

The SharePoint team members are:

- Gustavo Salazar
- Lori Graves
- Leslye Nelson
- Charlie Bussey
- Tiffani Brown
- Challis Phipps
- Scott Snider
- and Scott Thompson.

The Office of Communication produced a new **In Motion Video** about several projects and initiatives across the department.

Let's take a look.

Now I would like to read a letter that was sent to Michael Caliendo at the Federal Highway Administration.

Michael is a Civil Rights Specialist, a Program Management Analyst, and a National On-the-Job

Training Program Manager for the Center for Transportation Workforce Development.

The letter reads, and I quote:

"I am writing this letter to sincerely thank you for the role you've played in obtaining the Idaho Department of Transportation grant to provide certification for heavy equipment operators.

This was a wonderful opportunity for me to expand my operating abilities and learn more about heavy equipment and machinery.

I took a great deal of knowledge from this course as a whole and believe that I am better qualified and more marketable with these certifications.

I have been employed since obtaining my certifications over the summer, and am truly excited for this new career path and the opportunities that may come with it.

On top of providing me with the coursework and certifications, I became a certified crane operator

thanks to the additional funding that was available through this program.

I have received essential work clothing and boots that help me to be well prepared for work every day and the various weather conditions that I work in throughout the year.

I realize that these programs require dedicated individuals who work behind the scenes to secure the funding I was granted.

I appreciate all of your hard work.

My family has greatly benefited from the opportunity you've provided and will continue to benefit for many years to come.

Thank you so much.

Edgar Pichardo

Chief Operations Officer Travis McGrath spoke at the Kickoff event for the training, and says that many of the 24 students were looking to change their lives, and after

graduating from the program, are they are now able to do exactly that.

Russ Rivera in our Office of Civil Rights developed and implemented the program.

He says that moving from making \$13 dollars an hour to \$30 per hour can be a life-changing event for the students.

And that he is, and I quote,

"Very happy with this year's crop of students."

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to introduce Chief Deputy Scott Stokes for his November Report.

Mr. Chairman and members of the board, this concludes my Director's Report for November.