

Idaho Transportation Board Subcommittee on

State Highway System Adjustments

September 12, 2018

Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) Subcommittee on State Highway System Adjustments Chairman Dwight Horsch called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. ITB Vice Chairman Jim Coleman and Member Lee Gagner were present at the Idaho Transportation Department District 6 Office in Rigby, Idaho. Also in attendance were Chief Operations Officer (COO) Travis McGrath, Division of Engineering Services Administrator (DESA) Blake Rindlisbacher, District 6 Engineer (DE) Jason Minzghor, District 6 Planner Mark Layton, and, Executive Assistant to the Board Sue S. Higgins.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Larry Allen and Planner Maranda O'Bray participated via video conference from ITD Headquarters in Boise, Idaho. Local Highway Technical Assistance Council Administrator Jeff Miles joined the meeting in progress at Headquarters.

Changes to the Agenda. DE Minzghor said he was approached by City of Rexburg officials today regarding SH-33. He requested a discussion on that route.

Member Coleman made a motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on SH-33 in Rexburg. Member Gagner seconded the motion and it passed unopposed.

July 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Member Coleman made a motion to approve the July 9, 2018 Subcommittee meeting minutes as submitted. Member Gagner seconded the motion and it passed unopposed.

Relinquishment of SH-48. Planner Layton said some discussions have occurred with Jefferson County on the potential relinquishment of SH-48. The Idaho Transportation Improvement Program includes three SH-48 projects: turn lanes at two intersections, a sealcoat, and a widening project. There was some discussion on ITD relinquishing the route after the improvements have been made or to give the County the money programmed for the projects in lieu of the Department constructing the projects.

DE Minzghor elaborated on the funding options. The projects are currently programmed with federal funds. If the County prefers the projects vs. the cash, ITD would administer the projects. If the County chooses the cash option, he recommends using state funds.

DE Minzghor said he was unsure of the process for relinquishing routes, so requested guidance from the Subcommittee before pursuing this. COO McGrath noted the draft agreement said ITD would relinquish the route to the County but that the board would maintain discretion on the highway's control and maintenance. DAG Allen said the draft agreement needs to be refined.

In response to Member Coleman's question, Planner Layton said the highway right of way was acquired through fee ownership.

Discussion followed on the functionality of the highway. Although it connects I-15 to US-26, staff believes it functions as a local road, partly because of access issues. It functions as a collector road for the County. There are also six schools along the route from Rigby east.

Member Coleman made a motion to direct staff to negotiate the relinquishment of SH-48 with Jefferson County. Member Gagner seconded the motion.

COO McGrath asked for clarification on the negotiations. Member Coleman recommended starting with relinquishing the route as is, but with the understanding that the Department is willing to improve the route, using funding as part of the negotiation tactics. Member Gagner added that there may be other options that can be considered.

In reviewing the draft FY19-25 Idaho Transportation Improvement Program, DESA Rindlisbacher said he identified about \$9 million in improvements scheduled for SH-48 with most of the expenditures planned in 2023. He said an adjustment to the Program may be required, depending on the outcome of the negotiations. He also mentioned that when the US-20, Lorenzo Interchange was constructed several years ago, they thought that improvement would draw traffic from Menan to Lorenzo. SH-48 starts at I-15 in Roberts, but the state highway curves south at Menan and a county road continues east to Lorenzo. He asked if the District has traffic counts from Roberts to Lorenzo. Planner Layton said he does not have traffic counts for the county road portion. DE Minzghor added that staff can get that information.

Member Coleman made a motion to amend the motion to include reviewing the route from Menan to Lorenzo to determine if it functions as a state highway and if so, to consider re-routing SH-48 to connect I-15 with US-20 instead of US-26. Member Gagner seconded the motion and it passed unopposed.

The motion directing staff to negotiate the relinquishment of SH-48 and/or investigate the feasibility of re-routing the highway to connect with US-20 instead of US-26 passed unopposed.

SH-33, Rexburg. DE Minzghor said that the Rexburg City Engineer brought up the issue of SH-33 Business today. The city is requesting shifting the route to the west at an intersection at the north end of town and then reconnecting the route with SH-33 Business to accommodate development in the area.

DESA Rindlisbacher added that there is extensive history with the SH-33 Business route. It is problematic to relinquish because it traverses through the Cities of Sugar City and Rexburg and Madison County, so all three local public agencies have to agree to any transaction.

DE Minzghor said he will continue discussions with the City of Rexburg and will contact the City of Sugar City and Madison County.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Sue S. Higgins
Respectfully submitted by:
SUE S. HIGGINS
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Idaho Transportation Board