

# Board Report

## October 2018

Thank you Chairman Whitehead.

And good morning members of the Idaho Transportation Board.

On Tuesday of last week, the Governors Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Testing and Deployment Committee held its third meeting.

Committee members worked on finalizing their first report to the Governor, as required by Executive Order.

Yesterday, the committee unanimously approved that report, and I will submit it to the Governor on or before the due date of November 1.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said this is the most quickly developed and most comprehensive report they have seen from any state.

The report contains several recommendations, including:

- **That legislation be developed to allow autonomous vehicle testing and deployment in Idaho.**
- **That Idaho should develop a business-friendly environment that encourages industry partners to develop and test the technology in Idaho.**
- **And that regulatory and policy decisions should be coordinated across state lines to improve regional harmonization.**

Autonomous and connected vehicles are coming to Idaho, and the Governor's committee and ITD are working to make sure the state will be ready.

And that the testing and deployment phase will be smooth and safe.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, also known as AASHTO, holds an annual competition to identify the best transportation projects in the country.

These AASHTO awards are the highest honors in the nation for state transportation departments.

This year, I am pleased to report that two of ITD's projects rose above all the others in the country, and earned AASHTO Presidents Awards.

The new Big Wood River Bridge near Sun Valley earned the **2018 President's Environmental Award** by incorporating artistic design, innovative engineering, and highly effective environmental features.

Please play the video.

A project that combined 17 separate bridge-replacement projects into one contract earned the **President's award for Planning**.

It also saved Idaho taxpayers \$4.7 million in design and construction costs, and about 17 years of time.

Both of these awards are the result of excellent collaboration with our partners.

And using innovation to find better ways to serve our citizens, and the traveling public.

Since 2010, ITD has earned 13 AASHTO President's Awards.

These prestigious national awards are the direct result of changing ITD's culture into one that puts the needs of our citizens above the needs of our department.

They are our customers, and by listening closely to their needs, we are able to design and develop great projects that are recognized by our peers as the best transportation projects in the entire country.

ITD has developed a nationally recognized culture of excellence.

And we are sharing our methods with others who also want to improve their operations.

For example, last week we held a day-and-a-half DMV County Leadership conference in Boise.

This event was specifically designed for supervisors in the county sheriff and assessor offices across the state.

More than 100 leaders from the counties attended the conference, where they were able to meet and work with about 50 of the top experts in ITD's Division of Motor Vehicles.

The purpose was to improve communication and collaboration.

And to provide an opportunity for the county sheriff and assessor offices to share best practices.

One of attendees wrote, and I quote:

**"The conference was fabulous.**

**I think a lot has been accomplished in bridging the gap between ITD and the counties.**

**I have only heard good comments from all who I have spoken with.**

**I truly hope you continue them."**

End quote.

The conference evaluation shows that **Ninety-six percent** of the attendees believed the conference topics were relevant, and would be used in their jobs.

And **98 percent** want to participate in a similar conference next year.

The DMV County Leadership conference was last week.

This week, on Tuesday and Wednesday, we held two more leadership events.

On Tuesday, we hosted **ITD's 2018 Leaders Workshop**, for all supervisors and managers in the department.

The workshop addressed the 2018 culture survey results, the accomplishments we have made in the last nine years, and how we are going to improve and build on what we are doing right.

The primary message was "**FOCUS and SIMPLIFY.**"

Every ITD supervisor and manager in attendance now understands the culture survey results. . .

Knows the impacts of their decisions on employees. . .

And, while at the workshop, they each developed a written action plan for their individual area to move forward with the department.

On the following day, we hosted the 2018 Leadership Summit, with 22 innovation teams from across the department.

The purpose of the summit was to show employees how to use teamwork to solve problems.

Leadership events like these are one of the ways ITD is working to achieve our strategic goals.

And continuing to lead the nation in transportation excellence and innovation.

These events lead to real results. . .

. . . As you will see in the following video about ITD Innovations, showing the best of the best for 2018.

Next month, the second group of WASHTO Emerging Leaders will begin their training.

And the WASHTO Board of Directors has budgeted more than \$100,000 to move the program forward, because of its importance to the organization, and the results it has achieved.

ITD will be instrumental in developing and facilitating the second group of WASHTO emerging leaders, just as they were with the first group.

The American Road and Transportation Builders Association has asked us to talk to them in November about WASHTO's Emerging Leaders Program.

They are thinking about developing a similar program for the nation's transportation design and construction industry.

And they want to learn about how the WASHTO program was developed, how it was implemented, and how it became so successful.

ITD has its own leadership training program, which is focused internally.

But some of our most important programs are focused externally.

To help us work with our partners in industry, and in the schools to improve safety on roads, sidewalks, and bike lanes.

Ginny Sullivan and Carla Majernic of Adventure Cycling sent a letter to Janet Zarate and Joe Schacher in District 2 that I would like to share with you.

They wrote, and I quote:

**"I am writing on behalf of Adventure Cycling Association to extend our sincerest thank you for partnering with Three Rivers Rafting during construction on Highway 12.**

**Your consideration for cyclists safety and their service shuttling is truly appreciated by our organization, and by the many cyclists riding our bicycle routes.**

**Adventure Cycling's Lewis and Clark Bicycle Route, a 3,500 mile route between Illinois and Oregon.**

**And the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, a 4,200 mile route between Yorktown, Virginia, and Astoria, Oregon, follows Highway 12 through the Lochsa Valley.**

**When we learned of the construction, we knew it would impact cyclists' safety and comfort during their cross-country trips.**

**We reached out to Joe and asked for ITD to consider providing shuttle service for cyclists.**

**We highly commend you for taking this request seriously and finding a great partner to work with.**

**We wanted you to know that this effort has inspired us!**

**We deal with construction projects on our routes every year, and every season.**

**Recently, a major construction project in Arizona on our Southern Tier Route affected almost 25 miles.**

**Cyclists share a narrow travel lane with vehicles traveling much faster through the construction zone.**

**The Arizona department of transportation construction manager decided not to offer a shuttle service.**

**Upon learning of your unique partnership with River Rafting, I reached back out to him to demonstrate that there are ways to creatively and cost effectively make roads safe for all users during construction projects.**

**He immediately thanked me for sharing your story – which we took as a sign that he too was inspired by your idea.**

**Thank you again for supporting cyclists on the TransAm and Lewis and Clark Trail and all cyclists going through the construction zone this summer.**

**You’ve made a big impact and we wanted to thank you for your innovation and follow through.”**

End Quote.

Two people named Kathy and Terry Martin sent me a letter titled “An Outstanding Employee.”

The letter says, and I quote:

**“On Thursday morning, September 6th, my elderly relatives visiting from Missouri, and my husband and I, were involved in a serious car accident at the corner of Bennett Road and Highway 45.**

**An ITD employee, Camilo Serrano, immediately stopped and proceeded to help.**

**I cannot praise him highly enough for his professionalism, and even more importantly his kindness to all five of us who were in the car.**

**Not only did he handle his duties directing traffic, but he made sure we were all unhurt. . .**

**Put my 98 year old aunt in his air conditioned truck. . .**

**Checked on her repeatedly. . .**

**And acted as an incredibly reassuring presence to five very rattled people who emerged relatively unhurt from a totaled, upside down, SUV.**

**The Canyon County Sheriff's officer on the scene said Mr. Serrano was an enormous help directing traffic.**

**I want to commend the Idaho Department of Transportation for having such an outstanding employee on their team.**

**We'll never forget his kindness, and will pay it forward every chance we get.**

**Please convey our thanks once again to Mr. Serrano.**

**With deepest gratitude.”**

End Quote.

Mr. Chairman and members of the board.

This concludes my October Director's Report.