

**Director's Board Report  
February 2019**

Thank you Chairman Whitehead. And good morning members of the Idaho Transportation Board. The 2019 legislative session is now into its second month, and there has been a lot of interest this year in transportation-related topics.

Governmental Affairs Manager Mollie McCarty will provide you with an update later. Some of the high points of the session so far include ITD's supplemental budget hearing on January 18.

On January 24, we gave a presentation titled "**Transportation in a Rapidly Growing State**" to the House and Senate Transportation Committees.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee addressed our budget items.

Chairman Whitehead was there to show the board's support for the Governor's Fiscal Year 2020 budget Recommendation.

JFAC's budget setting for ITD is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

The second floor of the statehouse has also been busy. On January 31, Governor Little issued an executive order requiring all Idaho agencies to eliminate or significantly simplify two rules for every new rule they propose. I am pleased to report that ITD was way ahead of the game on this.

About 13 months ago, a team of employees from the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Governmental Affairs began a project to consolidate 22 administrative rules for special permits into eight. They rolled up their sleeves, and used Idaho's negotiated rule-making process to accomplish the goal. But they did not stop there.

They also consolidated 17 Annual Commercial Motor Vehicle Permit rules into eight. While working hand-in-hand with the business community and stakeholders to consolidate these rules, the team focused on three areas:

- **Access to the process**
- **Transparency**
- **And improved customer service**

This negotiated rule-making project was well-received by both the House and Senate Transportation Committees. Senator Lori Den Hartog tweeted, and I quote:

**"We just repealed 22 different rules for the Idaho Transportation Department and replaced them with eight streamlined rules regarding special permits.**

**The new rules included the reduction of permit fees due to efficiency gains.**

**These changes were customer driven."**

End Quote.

This project was in line with Governor Little's Executive Order, known as the "**Red Tape Reduction Act.**" ITD's new consolidated rules will go into effect on July 1, 2019, which will coincide with the launch of our new, fully-automated Commercial Motor Vehicle Permitting System.

Governor Little also recently addressed another important topic. The upcoming October 2020 deadline to get a STAR Card, Idaho's Real ID. The Governor said, and I quote:

**"My administration and ITD want every Idahoan to know they have a choice about getting a Star Card.**

**The last thing I want is for a family, or business traveler to be stopped at an airport because they don't have the right identification."**

**By getting the Star Card soon, it will help to avoid long lines at DMV offices that could happen if citizens wait until the last minute."**

End Quote.

To date, 70,000 of Idaho's 1.25 million licensed drivers have obtained a Star Card. To raise awareness of the deadline, the DMV has launched a new multi-faceted campaign with two messages:

- The Star Card is your license to fly, and
- Get it now so you don't get left behind.

We held a media event last week at the Boise airport, and received some great news coverage across the state.

Here is a news story from KIVI.

Here are three separate 25-second STAR Card messages that are now on our website and social media sites, and that will be used throughout the year. We have put them together into one video so you can see all three at once.

Social media is becoming an increasingly important method of communication with the public, and we have a new social-media tool in our quiver that will help us share important construction information, a podcast called **Drive Idaho**.

It is designed to reach a different audience than television, radio, or other traditional media. The focus of the first **Drive Idaho** podcast is the widening of Interstate 84 in Canyon County. Future podcasts will address important events and traffic changes associated with the Nampa-to-Caldwell corridor. The I-84 Corridor team developed the idea of providing podcasts in 2018.

They wanted an additional way for commuters to keep updated on the Interstate 84 project. Communication Manager Vince Trimboli emceed the first podcast, featuring an interview with Amy Schroeder. Let's listen in for a few seconds.

The Interstate 84 Team chose the name “**Drive Idaho**” for the podcasts because it represents what ITD does every day. Rapidly growing traffic volumes are making Interstate 84 projects increasingly important to the citizens of the Treasure Valley. Here is a news story KIVI recently aired about upcoming construction between Nampa and Caldwell.

Another interstate project has also received some recent attention. The Interstate 86 / Interstate 15 intersection project earned the **2018 Engineering Excellence Award** for its Value Planning process.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Idaho, also known as ACEC, gave the first-place award to Stanley Consultants in the “**Studies, Research, and Consulting**” category. The study included Interstate 15, from the Pocatello Creek Interchange to the proposed Northgate Parkway Interchange, and Interstate 86, from the Chubbuck Interchange to the existing Interstate 15 / Interstate 86 Interchange.

The study was conducted by 27 transportation experts representing ITD, contractors, and the Federal Highway Administration. Their goal was to develop a design that would effectively handle the region’s traffic needs, and it was well worth the effort.

The \$230,000 study allowed ITD to shave more than \$20 million off the price of the original concept, and save more than a full year of design time. I think you will agree that investing \$230,000 to save \$20 million is an excellent return on investment. The **2018 Engineering Excellence Award** will be presented at the ACEC luncheon on April 8<sup>th</sup> in Boise.

The Office of Communication has produced a new In Motion Video covering several topics. Let’s take a look.

Jim Hinen in the Division of Aeronautics recently helped the department achieve a significant milestone. His “**Near-Miss Safety Reporting Program**” became the 1,000th ITD innovation implemented since we began the Innovate ITD effort in 2014. Jim wanted to create a simple way for an employee to submit a safety report to make the workplace safer for everyone.

Although he developed the **Near Miss Safety Reporting** innovation for the Division of Aeronautics, he has adapted it to work with any potential safety issue in the department. A near-miss is a potential hazard or incident that has not yet resulted in personal injury or property damage. Near-misses can be caused by unsafe conditions, improper use of equipment, use of faulty equipment, or not following proper procedures.

The Near Miss Reporting innovation is listed as a Times 7 candidate. Meaning it can be implemented in districts across the state, and supports the department's strategic safety goals. Safety is at the core of almost everything we do at ITD. So is helping improve our local communities. And those improvements come in many forms.

Here is a news report from KMVT in Twin Falls about grant applications for ramps that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I recently received a letter from Greg Fredericksen. He is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration **Regional Administrator** for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Administrator Fredericksen was writing to let us know that ITD’s 2018 Highway Safety Program Performance Plan has been reviewed and accepted. He closed his letter by saying, and I quote:

**“I am pleased to see an increase in Idaho's observed seat belt use rate, up to 85.4% in 2018, from 81.2% in 2017.**

**This is very encouraging, and we appreciate the Office of Highway Safety's efforts to promote proper seat belt and child restraint use.**

**Finally, I appreciate the continued hard work and dedication of you, your staff in the OHS, and your partners across the state to making all roads safer in Idaho.”**

End quote.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, ITD employees gathered in the headquarters lobby to celebrate the department's new memorial to fallen workers. You may have noticed it when you came through the lobby this morning. The memorial wall is there to help us remember our past, and pay tribute to the ITD employees who died in the line of duty, or were otherwise on the job with the department at the time of their passing.

There are 33 names on the list. Several key individuals and groups were involved in creating the memorial, including the ITD Safety Team, the Division of Aeronautics, the Office of Communication, and Building Services.

Neal Murphy spearheaded the entire effort. And in several cases he had to use his own money to get this done. The headquarters lobby was selected as the best location for the memorial, but it is for employees statewide. And copies of the booklet will be sent to each district so they can be displayed there.

Each of the 34 disks on the wall represents a person we lost on the job, and our goal is to never have to put another disk on the wall.

Here is a brief video of the ceremony dedicating the wall, featuring Chief Deputy Scott Stokes.

We have also created a memorial wall near the entrance to DMV to honor all military veterans working for the Idaho Transportation Department, and thank them for their service. Last week we had a major snow event that covered nearly every area of the state. Here is a news story from KTVB showing one of their reporters taking a ride in an ITD snowplow.

Our plow drivers do an amazing job of keeping Idahoans safe on our highways, but we must also be aware of our safety at home. Which is why I have included a safety share in this month's board report.

Before I finish my February Board Report, we have one final item to address. The State Controller's Office would like to present certificates of appreciation to some ITD employees for their assistance with Project Luma. Luma is a project to acquire and implement an **Enterprise Resource Planning System** that all state agencies can use to unify:

- Budget planning
- Financial management

- Procurement
- Payroll, and
- Human capital management.

The goal is to improve productivity.

And reduce costs by eliminating redundant systems, workarounds, and complexity.

Project Luma will also modernize business processes, increase transparency, improve decision-making, and increase data security. We are honored to have three people from the State Controllers Office here today for the presentation.

Brandon Woolf, Idaho State Controller.

Joshua Whitworth, Chief Deputy Controller.

And Steven Detton, Deputy Controller and Manager of Project Luma.

Mr. Woolf was appointed to fill the remainder of his predecessor's term in 2012. As State Controller, Brandon is responsible for accounting for all state expenditures by providing accounting services to state agencies, processing payroll for approximately 25-thousand state employees, and operating the state's largest data center.

Mr. Whitworth started working in the State Controller's office in 2013, and now serves as the Chief Deputy Controller for the State Controller. Joshua manages the office's constitutional duties of statewide payroll and statewide accounting as well as its computer service center and other administrative functions.

Mr. Detton has served in the Coast Guard for over 22 years as a ship driver, helicopter pilot, financial manager, and project manager. Steve's last assignment was serving as a project manager in the Coast Guard's financial modernization project to acquire a new enterprise financial system.

I believe the State Controller would like to make a few comments. Brandon, would you please step up to the podium.

I would now like to introduce Chief Deputy Scott Stokes for his portion of the Director's Report.

I would now like to introduce Chief Operations Officer Travis McGrath for his portion of the Director's report.

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