



## **SAFETY REST AREAS AND OASIS PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to implement Board Policy 4044 concerning the Department providing safety rest areas for the traveling public.

### **Legal Authority**

Idaho Code 40-120(1) - Definition of "safety rest area".

Idaho Code 40-313(3) - Board authorized to acquire and maintain areas adjacent to highways for rest and recreation of the traveling public.

Idaho Code 40-507 - Department authorized to construct and maintain information centers at safety rest areas.

23 Code of Federal Regulations Section 752.5 Landscape and Roadside Development, Safety rest areas

The Division of Highways shall implement a viable Safety Rest Area program. To ensure that safety rest area goals and objectives are met, the following shall be considered.

- Safety Rest Areas shall be located directly on the roadway right-of-way of the State Highway System and provide convenient and safe rest and relief from the fatigue of travel. Each facility shall be constructed and maintained to provide viable service and reliable information to the traveling public, as well as to make a favorable impression about the state of Idaho and the Department. The Safety Rest Area shall provide safe ingress and egress for all classes of vehicles. Safety Rest Area signing shall reflect the intended use or services available.
- Ports-of-Entries shall be located separately from Safety Rest Areas.
- Separate parking areas shall be provided for passenger vehicles and for trucks.
- All vending operations within Safety Rest Areas, except pay or charge public telephones, are the exclusive right of the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) through properly executed cooperative agreements. All Safety Rest Areas shall provide a safe location and designated area for vending machines. The Division of Engineering Services Administrator is responsible for developing and updating the agreement with the ICBVI, including vending machine quantities, types and locations. All maintenance and operations of the vending machines shall be the responsibility the ICBVI.
- Visitor Information Centers located with Gateway Safety Rest Areas should provide traveler information and services. Posting of printed and electronic traveler information shall only be allowed within the Visitor Information Center. The Idaho Department of Commerce (IDC) will manage advertising publications, as well as staffing the Visitor Information Center within the

Gateway Safety Rest Areas through properly executed cooperative agreements.

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The Division of Engineering Services Administrator is responsible for developing and updating the Visitor Information Center agreements with the IDC and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR).

- ITD shall manage advertising in all other rest areas as approved by the District Engineer in coordination with the Division of Engineering Services Administrator. Acceptable commercial advertising shall be limited to the promotion of services and products of special interest to the traveling public (i.e., lodging, travel attractions, restaurants, vehicle services, and emergency road services), or of services and products that promote Idaho's "unique and of interest" attractions. Promotion of services or products not falling within the above-mentioned categories requires prior approval by the Division of Engineering Services Administrator.
- Nonprofit organizations must be authorized to provide free refreshment services to motorists in Safety Rest Areas with a formal agreement. Other volunteer organizations that assist the Department in Safety Rest Area beautification or cleanup shall also require authorization by a formal Department agreement.
- The location and level of service provided at the safety rest area shall be determined by analysis of trip length, travel time, traveler and traffic volume (ADT) and availability of other 24-hour public or private roadside facilities, in accordance with the Safety Rest Area Planning map. Proposed Safety Rest Areas shall consider the need, availability of land, type of facility, adjacent development, and construction costs; and should be designed to meet or exceed projected usage for a 40-year cycle with rehabilitation at 20 years.

Three levels of safety rest area facilities can be considered.

**BASIC PLUS** - Appropriate for low to medium volume state highways. Basic Plus Safety Rest Areas provide basic amenities such as potable water, flush toilets, picnic tables, etc.

**DELUXE** - Appropriate for medium to high volume state or interstate highways. Deluxe Safety Rest Areas provide full service facilities and are operated by the Department. The preferred design includes vestibules where climactic conditions warrant; and at least one family assist restroom to accommodate people with small children and those assisting others with disabilities.

**GATEWAY** - Located near important regions of the state or tourist entrances into the state. Gateway Safety Rest Areas include all the amenities of a Deluxe Safety Rest Area and provide adequate space for a staffed Visitor Information Center.

A resident caretaker who is responsible for daily maintenance activities and protection of the Department's investment at Deluxe and Gateway Safety Rest Areas is strongly encouraged. Operation of Gateway Visitor Information Centers shall be made available to an appropriate tourist-related governmental agency. Visitor Information Centers should provide traveler information and services. Pertinent advertising of visitor information related to services,

facilities and local attractions is allowed ONLY within the Visitor Information Center. The IDC will manage advertising publications, as well as staffing the Gateway Safety Rest Areas; ITD will manage advertising in all other rest areas as approved by the District Engineer in coordination with the Division of Engineering Services.

Joint funding and participation with other governmental agencies, private entities, and public entities for Safety Rest Areas is encouraged. Public and private partnerships may provide opportunities to improve and expand the Safety Rest Area Program. Public and private partnerships should be limited to comply with locations identified by the Oasis Program, Corridor Management Plans, or Safety Rest Area Improvement Program. Partnership agreements may be negotiated and entered into for operation and maintenance of safety rest areas including those that are scheduled for closure.

Each facility shall be reviewed annually by the Highway Operations Section along with District staff to ensure that the desired Department safety rest area goals are being provided. Safety Rest Areas not meeting the desired Department safety rest area goals shall be evaluated for reconstruction, rehabilitation, closure, or transfer to another agency or organization.

Project Development, construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation work shall be scheduled, designed, and constructed through normal roadway design project development procedures and shall be managed by the District. Whenever possible, work should be scheduled during tourist off-season periods. Safety Rest Areas shall be closed while major work is accomplished and shall be properly signed in advance and at the entrance.

The Department shall maintain only Safety Rest Areas that are operated by the Department on Department right-of-way. Immediate corrective maintenance actions shall be planned and scheduled by the respective Districts.

The Division of Highways shall maintain a map showing the location of existing and proposed Safety Rest Areas. Each year, an updated map along with a brief Safety Rest Area status report shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Brian W. Ness  
Director

Date: January 14, 2014