

Idaho Transportation Board

Subcommittee on State Highway System Adjustments

September 15, 2020

Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) Subcommittee on State Highway System Adjustments Chairman Jim Kempton called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Chairman Kempton and ITB Member Julie DeLorenzo were present at the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) in Boise, Idaho. Board Members Bob Hoff and Jan Vassar participated via video conference from their respective District Office.

Key principals in attendance at ITD were Chief Engineer (CE) Blake Rindlisbacher, Chief Operations Officer Dan McElhinney, Planning Services Manager (PSM) Ken Kanownik, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Larry Allen, District 3 Engineer (DE) Caleb Lakey, and Executive Assistant to the Board Sue S. Higgins.

Senior Transportation Planner (STP) Robert Beachler, DE2 Doral Hoff, District 2 Planner Ken Helm, DE4 Jesse Barrus, and District 4 Manager Walter Burnside participated via video conference.

March 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Member Hoff made a motion to approve the March 18, 2020 Subcommittee meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unopposed. (Because the Subcommittee consists of three members, seconds are not required for motions.)

Tracking Log for System Adjustments. STP Beachler summarized the status of system adjustments under consideration and recent actions completed.

Member DeLorenzo commented that there are additional routes that are not on the list that have been mentioned for relinquishment, such as business routes and spurs and routes that do not function as state highways. PSM Kanownik concurred and said the tracking log is for routes that have been elevated to the Subcommittee level. He added after the census is updated, staff will perform a system wide evaluation for Functional Classification, National Highway System, and Urban Boundary changes, and some of those potential routes for relinquishing may be identified indirectly and pursued. DAG Allen reiterated that the state cannot relinquish routes to local public agencies unless the local entity agrees to assume jurisdiction of the road.

Road Closure and Maintenance Agreement: US-95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow, District 2. DE2 Hoff presented the road closure and maintenance agreement relinquishing existing US-95 from milepost 335.161 to 339.776 upon ITD's completion of the realignment of US-95 to the North Latah Highway District. Subject to Transportation Board approval, the Department will program a project in the Idaho Transportation Investment Program to improve the route, estimated at \$2.5 million. DE2 Hoff added that a revision is needed to one paragraph in the agreement; however, the agreement has been signed by the Highway District officials.

DAG Allen said the parties could either write the revisions on the agreement and initial the changes or revise the agreement and have the local officials re-sign it. DE2 Hoff indicated that the local officials were receptive to initialing the change on the signed agreement.

Member Vassar made a motion to accept the Road Closure and Maintenance Agreement for US-95, Thorncreek Road to Moscow with the revisions to the agreement noted by the initials of the North Latah Highway District officials and to present the revised agreement to the full Board for its consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

Road Relinquishment and Transfer of Ownership Agreement: SH-75 Spur, District 4. DE4 Barrus presented the referenced agreement relinquishing the SH-75 Spur to Blaine County. Manager Burnside said the agreement includes a payment of \$3,951,100 to the County to rehabilitate the route, update a traffic signal, and for ongoing maintenance. This payment is in lieu of ITD programming and reconstructing the highway.

Some discussion followed on the public hearing requirements. DAG Allen confirmed that ITD is required to hold a public hearing because the route serves a city. Because the route is in a municipality with less than 5,000 population, Blaine County has to agree to assume jurisdiction of the route and must accept the route via a resolution.

Member Hoff made a motion authorizing staff to continue the process to relinquish the SH-75 Spur to Blaine County, including conducting a public hearing and ensuring the County officials accept the route via a resolution and sign the agreement. The motion passed unopposed.

SH-45 Re-route, District 3. DE3 Lakey said the City of Nampa has requested re-routing SH-45. This action is related to the state's relinquishment of I-84 Business in Nampa, which is still underway; although it is a separate transaction. The City has programmed a project in the draft Idaho Transportation Investment Program for the National Environmental Protection Act requirements. DE3 Lakey presented this for the Subcommittee's information at this time due to the programmed project, key #20371.

US-95, Council Alternate Route, District 3. DE3 Lakey said the former US-95 through Council was planned for relinquishment to the City upon the completion of the alternate route and agreements were drafted as such. With the recent discovery that Idaho Code requires a county, not cities, to accept mileage from the state for cities with populations under 5,000, depending on the functionality of the route, accordingly, this route relinquishment needs to be revisited. Because ITD still owns both roads, he would like to change the classification to a minor collector before relinquishing the route to the City as planned. The route functions as a minor collector and Council could accept jurisdiction of the route with that functionality.

CE Rindlisbacher added that the mileage would be added to Council's inventory so it would receive funding from the Highway Distribution Account to maintain it.

The Subcommittee had no objections to pursuing the administrative remedy.

Revisions to Administrative Policy 5061 State Highway System Adjustments. STP Beachler presented revisions to Administrative Policy 5061. Significant changes are being proposed. The process for adjustments is being outlined in the policy, including a financial plan if a transaction includes a monetary component. Based on today's discussion, STP Beachler said the language regarding public hearings will be modified. DAG Allen also recommended changes related to Idaho Code citations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Sue S. Higgins

Respectfully submitted by:
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Idaho Transportation Board