

U.S. 2 PRIEST RIVER BRIDGE

ITD PROJECT NUMBER A023(616)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the U.S. 2 Priest River Bridge Project?

The Idaho Transportation Department is planning the replacement of the Priest River Bridge on U.S. Highway 2 just east of the City of Priest River. The project will replace the existing bridge, improve traffic flow, and provide pedestrian access over the river.



The project will include a center turn lane across the bridge to keep left turning traffic from blocking through traffic. Overall, the project will modernize a key piece of infrastructure while supporting the needs of the community.

When will the project be constructed?

The project is currently in the design phase. The necessary surveying for the project was completed at the end of 2024, and additional fieldwork - including geotechnical exploration - was completed in summer of 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029 and will likely be completed over two construction seasons, ending in 2030.

Will river access be maintained during design and construction?

Yes, the Priest River waterway will remain open for recreational use during both design and construction of the new bridge. However, there will be in-water work during construction that will limit passage to a portion of the river channel.

Where can I learn more?

ITD will host at least one public meeting during project development to inform the public about the bridge replacement project and to gather public feedback. Please join us for an open house-style meeting on Thursday, November 6th. If you have questions or concerns, email Stephanie Sampson at stephanie@bigskypublicrelations.com or call the hotline at 406-890-0000, operating during business hours. To learn more about the project, visit: itdprojects.idaho.gov/pages/us2-priest-river-bridge-replacement

Individuals who need special accommodations should contact Civilrights@itd.idaho.gov or 208-334-8884. TTY/TDD users Dial 711 to use the Idaho Relay System. Persons needing an interpreter should contact 208-334-8496.

Why is this bridge being replaced?

Originally constructed in 1962, the bridge foundation is in poor condition and in need of replacement. Additionally, the bridge does not meet current safety standards and is "functionally obsolete" meaning that while it continues to carry traffic, it does not fully meet modern design requirements or the community's growing transportation needs.

What improvements will be made?

The new bridge will feature wider shoulders that offer more room for vehicles and provide a wider pedestrian/bike path over the bridge. The new bridge will also have fewer piers in the waterway allowing for improved water flow and easier boat travel. These improvements will benefit the surrounding aquatic ecosystem and recreational community.

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Scan the QR code for more info

