



SH-44, I-84 TO STAR ROAD

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is studying SH-44 from I-84 to Star Road to evaluate needs and identify transportation improvements to enhance safety, operations and multimodal connectivity to meet current and future travel demands.

SH-44 runs west to east through Middleton and Star, providing a critical transportation connection north of the Boise River between Canyon and Ada counties. Traffic volumes along SH-44 are expected to almost double by 2050, driving renewed urgency to identify corridor improvements that effectively and efficiently accommodate travel.

PEL & NEPA STUDY PHASE

ITD is implementing the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process to identify and screen potential transportation improvements for SH-44 from I-84 to Star Road.

What is a PEL? The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process is a collaborative approach to decision making for transportation projects. It is used to gather data and input from the community and government agencies to define a project's goals and identify solutions before moving into the detailed analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

How does PEL apply to NEPA? Once improvements are selected, the project will transition into NEPA. In fact, the PEL process follows guidelines defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) so that public and agency input, documentation and evaluations may be used as the project advances into NEPA.

PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public and stakeholder engagement is essential to the PEL process. This project is advancing with input from the public and project stakeholders including the Project Development Team (PDT).



Project Development Team

The PDT meets at various project milestones and comprises the following entities:

- ITD
- Canyon County
- City of Middleton
- City of Star
- Highway District No. 4
- Ada County Highway District
- Middleton School District
- Valley Regional Transit
- Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS)



Public Meetings

The first public meetings for the project are planned for January 2024. Additional public meetings will follow, tentatively expected to occur in Spring 2024, Summer 2024 and Winter 2024/2025.



For more information, visit <https://itdprojects.idaho.gov/pages/sh44pel>
Questions? Please contact info@idaho44corridor.com





DRAFT PROJECT PURPOSE, NEEDS & GOALS

Informed by updated data, the draft project purpose, needs and goals were developed in collaboration with local planning experts and city and county officials to reflect the current state of the corridor and its evolving travel patterns.

The public is invited to share their feedback on the project's draft purpose, needs and goals to identify solutions that reflect the community's needs.



PURPOSE

What do we want to achieve with the transportation project?

The purpose of the transportation projects recommended by this study is to improve travel safety and operations along the SH-44 highway corridor and enhance pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity along, adjacent to, and across SH-44 in Canyon and Ada Counties from east of the I-84 interchange through the Star Road intersection.

NEEDS

What are the problems we are trying to solve?

- **Recurring congestion** along the SH-44 corridor
- **Existing and future travel demands** along the SH-44 corridor
- **Safety concerns** for vehicular and multimodal travel along the SH-44 corridor
- **Lack of multimodal connectivity** along, adjacent to, and across the SH-44 corridor

GOALS

What non-transportation goals are important to consider?

- Provide consistency with local and regional transportation and land use plans
- Avoid or minimize environmental impacts
- Complement local community surroundings and context
- Balance local access needs and regional travel flow through access management
- Facilitate project delivery with realistic funding and phasing opportunities