



Rainbow Bridge

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is making plans to build a new bridge over the North Fork of the Payette River in Valley County. The existing bridge, known as the Rainbow Bridge, has served Idaho travelers since 1933.

This project includes environmental and design work for a bridge that will serve Idaho communities, travelers and commerce for many more years. It also includes a decision about the future of the existing bridge.

BACKGROUND

After nearly a century, the current Rainbow Bridge no longer meets current standards for state highway bridges. Despite regular maintenance and major repairs, the structure is reaching the point where ITD will no longer be able to maintain it for highway traffic. Other issues include narrow lane and shoulder widths, tight curves on both sides of the bridge, and limited sight distance for drivers. After a thorough evaluation in 2025, ITD has recommended removing the bridge due to safety risks, future costs, and a lack of options to keep and use the bridge effectively.

PROJECT PROCESS

ITD is working with technical and environmental experts, agencies and community members to develop plans for this project. This project includes:

- Completing environmental studies regarding wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, viewshed and socioeconomic resources, the Clean Water Act and other issues.
- Completing technical studies such as geotechnical and hydraulics work.
- Designing the new bridge and retaining walls.
- Determining the future of the existing bridge.
- Developing design and construction plans for the bridge and roadway.
- Working with local agencies and the public throughout the process.
- Construction could begin as early as 2028, depending on funding.





Rainbow Bridge

PROJECT TIMELINE

2021	Feasibility study
2024	Project begins Community engagement
2025	Community engagement Technical and environmental work Preliminary design begins
2026/2027	Community engagement Intermediate and final design Technical and environmental work
2028	Construction could begin as early as 2028, depending on funding.



COMMUNITY INPUT

ITD will approach decisions about the Rainbow Bridge with a high level of transparency, education and community involvement. The community input process will be a key component of the final recommendation for the new bridge and the existing bridge.

ITD will host a series of community open houses and small-group meetings during this project:

- Community open houses will be scheduled at key points in the design process.
- A Bridge Involvement Group will meet prior to each community open house. Meetings are open to any community members who are willing to invest a higher level of time and engagement.

Additional public outreach will occur prior to construction.



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**



Scan to visit project website

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- itd.idaho.gov/project/rainbow-bridge
- (208) 391-6580
- info@55eagletonewmeadows.org

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.