

US-20, Arco to Idaho Falls

Public Meeting Summary

September 4 – 18, 2025



Public Meeting #1

Idaho Transportation Department

September 2025 | KN: 24394

Prepared by RBCI



Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity

US-20 Arco to Idaho Falls



Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity

Public Meeting Summary

September 4 - 18, 2025

The Idaho Transportation Department hosted an in-person and online meeting in September 2025 to share plans to improve US-20 between Arco and Idaho Falls.

Information included plans for the Project Area (Idaho Falls to Milepost 281), the Future Project (Milepost 281 to the US-26 Junction), and an overview of the Rehabilitation Projects (US-26 Junction to Arco).

Community Participation

Many community members took an interest in the US-20 project.

- **47 people signed in** at the Sept. 4 public meeting.
- **9 comment forms** were submitted at the Sept. 4 public meeting.
- **3 comments** were written on the maps at the Sept. 4 public meeting.
- The online meeting website received **160 views**.
- **10 comment forms** were submitted online.
- **3 comments** were emailed to the project team.
- The project website received **1,605 views** in the weeks surrounding the public meeting.



Members of the community review display boards and speak with project staff.

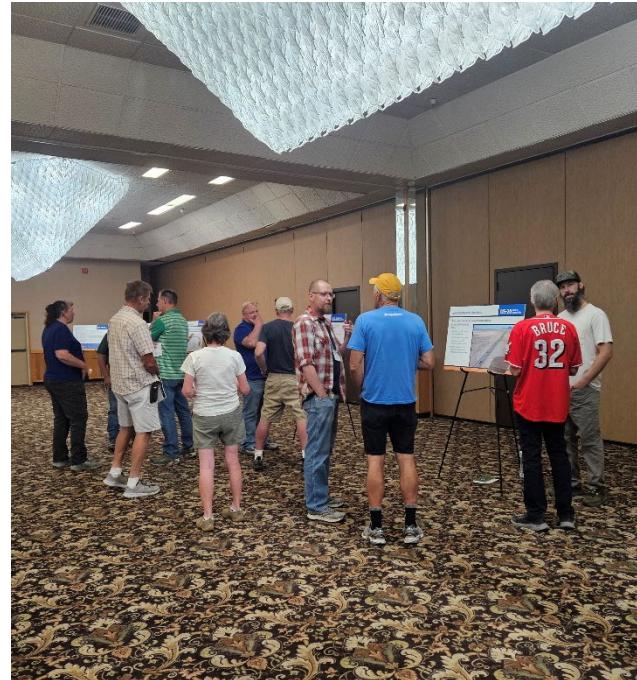
Meeting Format

In-person

Community members were invited to attend an in-person meeting on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025. The open house was held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Snake River Event Center at Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls.

Upon arrival, attendees were greeted at the sign-in table and given project fact sheets and a comment sheet. Display boards were placed around the room and design plans were displayed on roll plot maps at the center of the room for participants to review.

ITD and members of the project team were on hand to discuss the project and answer questions. Community members were encouraged to fill out comment sheets after reviewing the information.



Community members discuss the project.

Welcome! Background Environmental Analysis Roadway Analysis Design Plans Maps C →

Welcome!

The Idaho Transportation Department is making plans to improve US-20 between Idaho Falls and the US-26 Junction, also known as the "Puzzle". The project will develop design plans to reconstruct the aging roadway and determine how passing lanes will be implemented to improve corridor safety.

Background

The existing roadway was originally constructed in 1950. Though several preservation efforts have been completed throughout the years, challenges continue to grow:

- the road base is starting to fail
- routine maintenance treatments are becoming less effective
- traffic volume is contributing to

Future Project **Project Area**



Screenshot of online meeting.

Online

Community members also had the option to participate in the public meeting online. The comment period was open from Sept. 4 to 18.

The online meeting included the same display board information and maps that were presented at the in-person open house. An online comment form was also available for participants to provide their feedback on the design plans.

Notification

ITD used several methods to notify the community about the project and the opportunity to give input.

A postcard was mailed to approximately 7,200 homes and businesses within the US-20, Arco to Idaho Falls project area. The purpose of the postcard was to invite community members to the in-person and online public meetings. The postcard was mailed to a saturation drop of the area and people in the project database including elected officials, local jurisdictions, businesses, property owners, agencies, community organizations and others.



An invitation email was sent to 68 property owners and local jurisdictions to invite them to the public meeting. The email also asked local jurisdictions to share information about the public meeting with their communities. An email was also sent to Idaho National Laboratory with information that could be forwarded on to staff and employees.



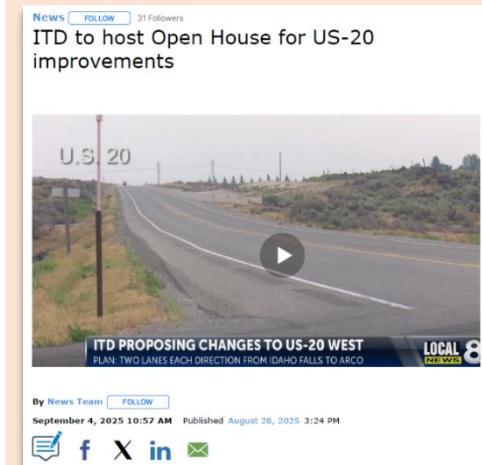
ITD sent a news release to local media outlets on Aug. 28. The information was posted on Townhall Idaho and Channel 8 ran a news story about the meeting on Aug. 28. East Idaho News also published a story on Sept. 2.



A Facebook post was made on Aug. 28 to notify the community about the in-person open house and online meeting. Altogether, the post received 87 likes, comments, shares or reactions.



Front and back of invitation postcard.



News article and video clip published by News Channel 8.

Summary of Comments

ITD received 25 written comments throughout the two-week comment period. Additional comments were captured by staff who spoke to participants during the in-person meeting. Key themes from the comments include:

- **Support and approval** for ITD's plan to improve US-20
- Requests for **improvements to the US-26 Junction** (also known as the "Puzzle")
- Comments about **design considerations**
- Other **various comments and questions**

Support and approval for the project:



- Participants support the planned improvements to US-20 and are excited for the project.
- The project is very needed and will help address current safety issues, like speeding and unsafe passing.

Requests for improvements to the US-26 Junction ("Puzzle"):



- Participants asked if ITD plans to make improvements to the US-26 Junction intersection.
 - Many noted safety concerns with the intersection and number of crashes.
- Some participants made suggestions on how to improve the safety of the intersection, such as adding left turn lanes or an overpass/underpass.

Comments about design considerations:



- Participants had various comments about the design plans. Suggestions included:
 - Considering longer acceleration/deceleration lanes
 - Providing and/or improving access roads
 - Making accommodations for farm equipment
 - Reconsidering the locations of some turnaround areas
 - Accounting for wildlife in the area

Other various comments and questions:



- Some participants requested interim solutions to improve safety, such as lowering the speed limit, more law enforcement, and driver education.
- There was interest from contractors regarding construction and materials.
- Participants also had questions about other ITD projects in the area.