

WELCOME

TARGHEE PASS - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 15, 2016



HISTORY

Over the past few years, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has engaged in a safety corridor planning effort for U.S. 20 from Chester to the Montana State Line. This study has included years of work gathering data on wildlife connectivity, sensitive species analysis, data sharing amongst agencies, traffic collision analysis, cultural studies and preliminary traffic engineering analysis.

ITD has been working closely with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), wildlife specialists and the Henry's Fork Legacy Project throughout this process.

TARGHEE PASS STUDY BOUNDARIES

The Targhee Pass Environmental Assessment (EA) will evaluate the reconstruction of U.S. 20, between the junction with Idaho 87 and the Montana state line.

LEAD AGENCY

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead agency on this study and will be signing the final study document. This study will be completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



PROJECT PURPOSE

- Life cycle restoration of U.S. 20 between mileposts 402.5 and 406.3
- Safety and traffic flow improvements.

PROJECT NEEDS

- Pavement surface and other roadway elements will not meet expected life cycle; deteriorations are beyond routine repair.
- Features such as shoulder widths do not meet current design safety standards.
- Increased traffic and future volumes cause congestion and safety problems.
- Animal collisions are identified in accident records as a safety problem and are a concern of the local community.
- In winter, specific areas have safety issues with blowing/drifted snow or excessive icing.



ITD is developing a range of alternatives to meet the project needs, with the goal is to have a small number of refined alternatives (3-4) for the next public meeting in Spring 2017. Each alternative will involve a combination of design elements that may include:

- Variations in shoulder widths
- Various ways of improving the “big curve”
 - Reduced curve radius
 - Increased sight distance
- Number of lanes
 - Potential three-lane design
 - Would involve adding an eastbound climbing lane
- Lane Alignment
 - Following existing centerline vs. shifting to one side or the other



For each alternative, we will be looking at ability to:

- Accommodate design speed
- Address safety (high crash rate locations)
- Address drainage, areas that frequently ice, or areas with drifting snow
- Address access issues (key intersections, including trail crossings)
- Address geotechnical concerns (slope stability)
- Avoid protected resources (wetlands, cultural)

WILDLIFE MIGRATION/CONNECTIVITY:

Wildlife collisions are a known issue, examined in the corridor planning effort and corridor wildlife studies. The study team will be analyzing wildlife effects of alternatives in the study, then looking at appropriate and practical mitigation for alternatives.



STUDY PROCESS & SCHEDULE

The study team will first gather input from residents, local officials, regulatory agencies and all interested parties to understand the issues facing Targhee Pass and surrounding areas. We will then work with stakeholders through an open process to complete a thorough environmental study that considers and evaluates a range of potential solutions.

OCT-NOV 2016	DEC 2016 ★ JAN 2017	JAN-FEB 2017	MARCH 2017	APR-MAY 2017	JUNE 2017
<i>Study Initiation</i>	<i>Public Meeting #1</i>	<i>Incorporate Comments</i>	<i>Public Meeting #2</i>	<i>Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)</i>	<i>EA Notice of Availability</i>
<i>Stakeholder Assessment</i>	<i>Public Scoping/ Comment Period (12/15-1/15)</i>	<i>Refine Alternatives</i>	<i>(Review scoping and refined alternatives)</i>		<i>Public Meeting #3</i>

★ Current placement in study schedule



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

For more information:
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Email comments to: *targheepass@langdongroupinc.com*

Comments specific to the scoping phase of the study should be submitted by
January 16, 2017.

