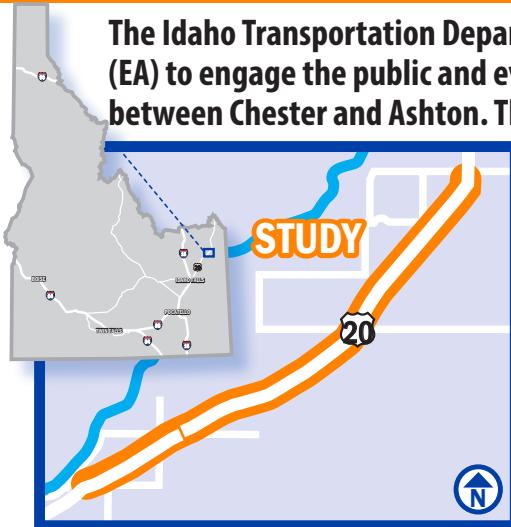


Chester to Ashton Environmental Assessment



IMPORTANT NOTE: This Chester to Ashton Environmental Assessment is not part of the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study happening between Ashton and the SH-87 highway junction.

This environmental assessment is independent of the PEL and following its own process and schedule. While the Ashton to SH-87 PEL public meetings have been postponed, the Chester to Ashton Environmental Assessment is continuing to move ahead.

EA Process and Right-of-Way Schedule*



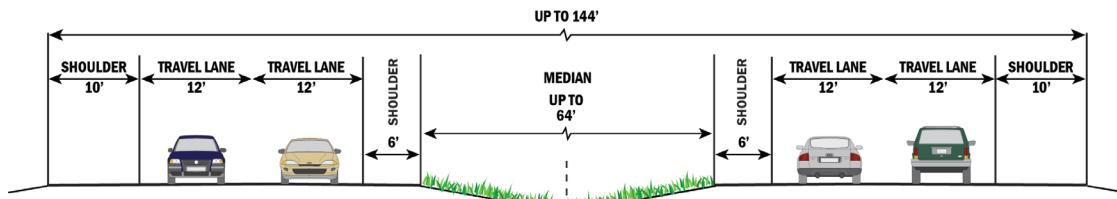


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Chester to Ashton Environmental Assessment

What improvements are being proposed?

The ITD recommended alternative would replace the existing US-20 two-lane roadway with a four-lane divided roadway and interchanges. In addition, several local roadways are included to accommodate changes to access resulting from the proposed project. Locations of these roads and interchanges are currently being evaluated in the EA.



Why is the Federal Highway Administration involved?

Transportation projects receiving federal funding (like the Chester to Ashton EA) must undergo the NEPA process and documentation of the process. FHWA is required by NEPA to examine and avoid potential impacts on the social and natural environment when considering approval of proposed transportation projects. In addition to evaluating the potential environmental effects, FHWA must also consider the public's transportation needs in reaching a decision that is in the best overall public interest.

Environmental reviews involve an interdisciplinary and interagency process. FHWA works cooperatively with other Federal and state agencies during the environmental review process. This coordinated review process includes input from the public, as well as from other agencies, to guarantee that all environmental protections, as well as all other issues are addressed.

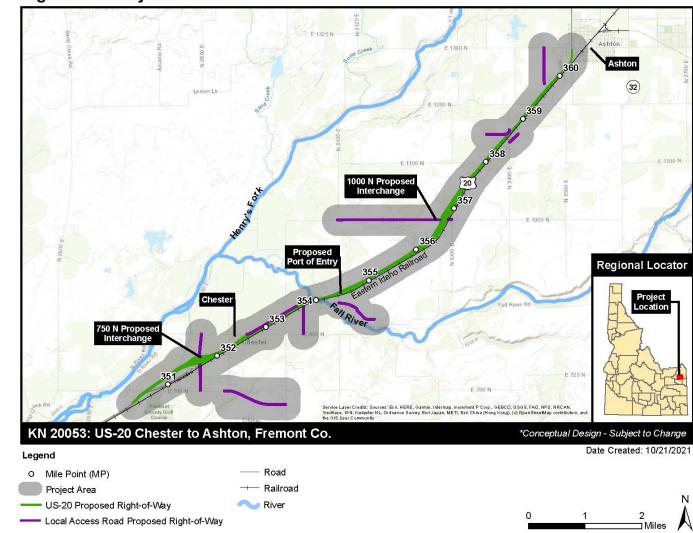
What is the process for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition?

Once the EA and ROW plans are completed for the US-20 Chester to Ashton Project (KN 20053), ITD will acquire the necessary ROW to complete the project. This cannot be done until the EA is completed. It is anticipated that the EAs and ROW plans for the Project will be completed by Fall 2022. Once the ROW plans have been completed, ITD's ROW division will begin meeting with landowners impacted by the Project. The department will stake and appraise those areas and move into property acquisition at that point. All acquisitions and potential relocations will comply with the Uniform Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. More information regarding the ITD Acquisition Process can be found at https://itd.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ROW_Manual.pdf and <https://itd.idaho.gov/row/>.

How can members of the public provide input and participate in the process?

The public is encouraged to provide input throughout all phases of the EA. This includes reviewing information posted on the project website, attending the public meeting in early 2023, and providing comments and feedback to the project team. Comments can be provided anytime through the EA website, and the public meeting will be announced through the project website, email updates, and local media.

Figure 1-1. Project Limits



Project Contact Information

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MAY 2022