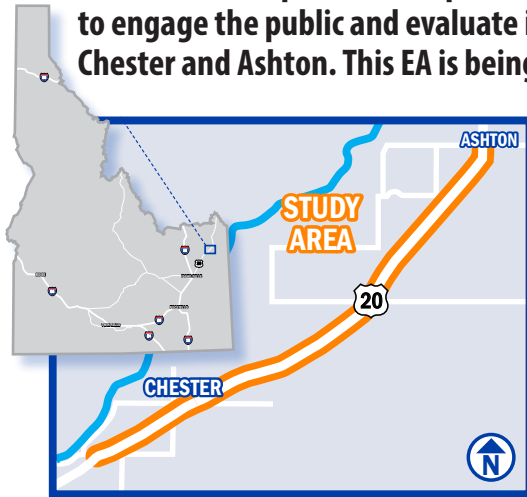


Chester to Ashton Environmental Assessment



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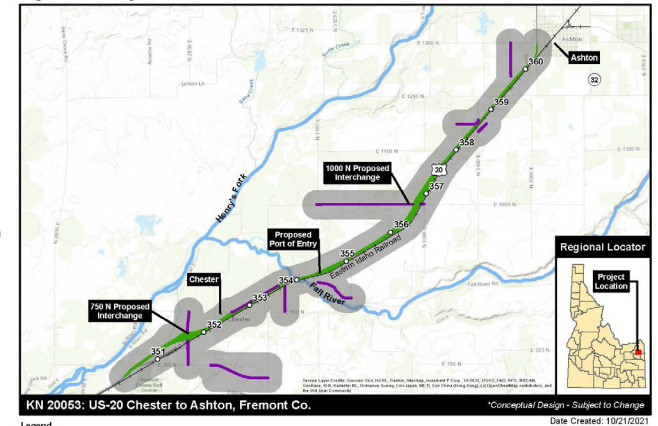
The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to engage the public and evaluate impacts, benefits and costs associated with roadway improvements and reconstruction of US-20 between Chester and Ashton. This EA is being completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



February 2023 News & Updates

When will the EA be completed?

It is anticipated that the draft EA document will be complete and made available for public review in Summer 2023. At that time, a public hearing and formal 30-day public review and comment period will take place. Following the public comment period, FHWA will issue its final decision. Final design will likely be completed in late 2023. ITD is exploring options to accelerate property acquisition and construction, which may begin as early as mid-2024.



What has ITD been doing? Why is the timeline continuing to extend?

ITD has completed a substantial number of environmental surveys and wetland delineations as well as ongoing agency coordination for this EA. Agency coordination and reviews are an important part of the project development process. Much time has gone into this coordination to minimize risk to the project in the future and ensure successful permitting and completion of the project once construction begins. As of today, the draft EA is being reviewed by ITD staff. The study team has spent the last several months addressing ITD's comments and collecting additional information for the draft EA.

Because this project utilizes federal funding, FHWA is a lead agency on this EA and must provide reviews and approvals of all documents and reports. FHWA's review period will take place after ITD completes its review (mid-February), and the study team will address FHWA's comments in the same manner as ITD's comment resolution.

EA Process and Right-of-Way Schedule*



AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING AGENCY SCOPING MEETING
SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office

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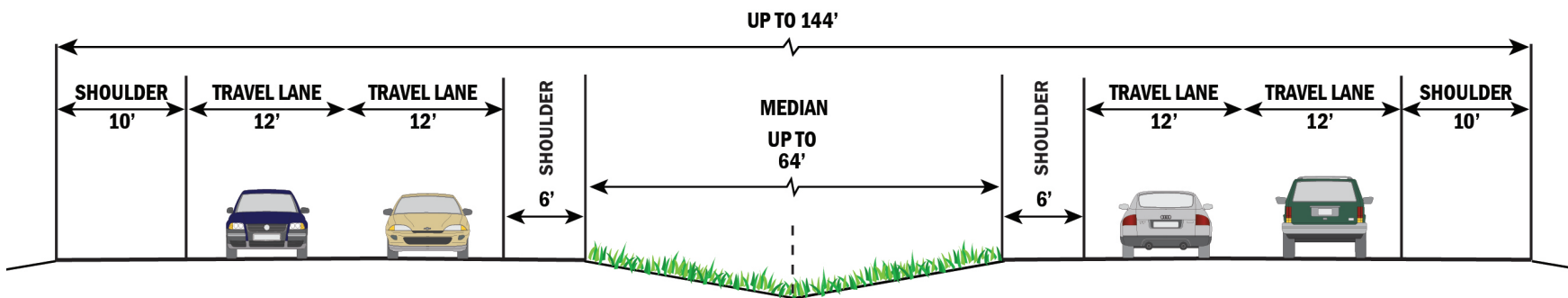
Why is this section of US-20 being evaluated?

The Chester to Ashton segment of US-20 was originally built in 1932. The current roadway does not provide sufficient traffic flow or passing opportunities to accommodate growing traffic volumes. This segment of US-20 has exceeded its service life and requires improvements to the roadway and drainage features. Reconstruction will provide the opportunity to include design elements for reducing crashes.

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.

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.



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 hearing in Summer 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.

Project Contact Information

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FEBRUARY 2023