

#### **COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING**

December 18, 2019





## Welcome!

#### Our goals today:

- Introduce the Idaho 55 environmental evaluation in Canyon County.
- Hear your input on the needs of this corridor.
- Share next steps for this project and how to stay involved.



## **Project description**

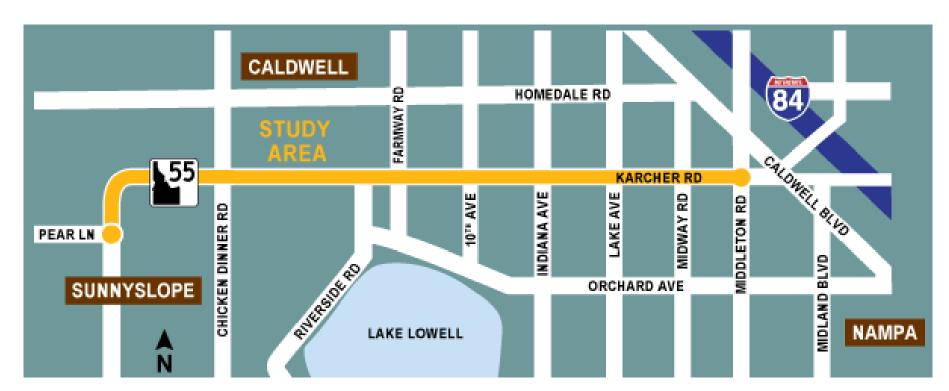
 The Idaho Transportation Department is working toward improving Idaho 55 from Pear Lane to Middleton Road.

 The objective of this evaluation is to create a plan for mobility and safety needs from now until 2045 that qualifies for federal funding.



# Study area

#### **Pear Lane to Middleton Road**





# Background

- Idaho Highway 55 is a primary transportation and freight corridor through Idaho.
- Idaho 55 supports agriculture and tourism industries.
- In many areas, Idaho 55 has not been widened since the 1930s.



## Background

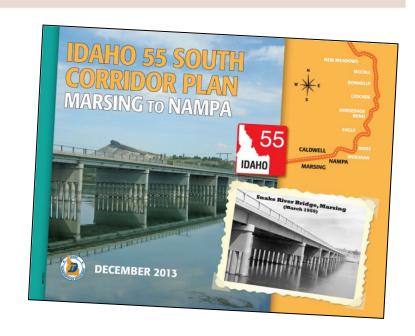
- Rapid growth in Canyon County has resulted in increased traffic volumes on Idaho 55.
- Idaho 55 is 4<sup>th</sup> priority in the Treasure Valley for the State Highway system



## Background

In 2013, ITD completed a multi-year study of the Idaho 55 corridor.

The study resulted in new traffic signals, access improvements and other projects on Idaho 55.



It also identified a need for more extensive improvements between Pear Lane and Middleton Road.



# Process and schedule 2019 – 2021

- Complete a traffic and safety analysis
- Gather public input
- Develop plans for managing access on/off Idaho 55.
- Complete an environmental evaluation.
- Develop concept design.



### **Traffic data**

#### Pear Lane to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Traffic today: 12,245 vehicles/day

Traffic in 2045: 21,400 vehicles/day

#### 10th Avenue to Middleton Road

Traffic today: 24,584 vehicles/day

Traffic in 2045: 41,300 vehicles/day



# **Safety Analysis**

2014-2018 Crash data on Idaho 55 was compared to similar roadways in Idaho.

- Crash numbers 399 crashes in project area
- Crash types
  - Rear end (40%)
  - Angle (43%)
- Higher than average crash rate to similar roadways



### **National Environmental Policy Act**

ITD must follow the NEPA process in order to use federal funding for future projects on this corridor.

#### The process includes:

- Evaluating a reasonable range of alternatives.
- Analyzing social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Considering appropriate mitigation for impacts.
- Working closely with agencies and the public.



## Purpose and need (overview)

**Design standards:** Idaho 55 met design standards in the 1930's.

Access: The number of existing driveways and intersecting roads exceeds state safety standards.

**Capacity:** The existing highway will not accommodate traffic from expected growth, an increase of 63% by 2045. Travel time and congestion are expected to worsen with upcoming development.

**Safety:** Without improvements, safety concerns and crashes are expected to increase.



## What's next

- Complete technical and environmental studies.
- Develop a range of improvements for the corridor
- Gather feedback at a community working group meeting in early spring 2020



## Working group instructions

Today's goal: Identify issues, concerns and needs to consider in this evaluation.

- Please review information at your tables.
- Discuss questions in groups.
- Facilitators will take notes.
- Written comment sheets are available.



# Thank you

# Online comment form: Itdprojects.org/idaho55study

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