



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

Draft Agency Coordination Plan

I-15/US-20 Connector

Key Number: 22222

Project Number: A022(222)

August 2022

Idaho Transportation Department



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Project Context	2
1.2	Project Purpose.....	2
1.3	Project Needs.....	2
1.4	Additional Goals.....	2
1.5	Description of the Build Alternatives.....	3
1.5.1	Alternative E3.....	3
1.5.2	Alternative H2	5
1.6	Description of the No Action Alternative.....	6
2	Agency Responsibilities.....	6
2.1	Agency Contacts and Roles	9
2.2	Coordination Points and Responsibilities.....	14
3	Project Schedule.....	20
4	Permitting Timetable	21
5	Public Outreach.....	24
5.1	Outreach Conducted to Date	24
5.2	Continued Outreach.....	24

Figures

Figure 1.	Project Vicinity	2
Figure 2.	Alternative E3.....	3
Figure 3.	Alternative H2	5

Tables

Table 1.	Federal, State, and Local Agency Coordination.....	9
Table 2.	Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions	15
Table 3.	Project Schedule.....	20
Table 4.	Public Outreach Conducted to Date.....	24



1 Introduction

Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate potential improvements to provide safe and reliable travel between and along Interstate 15 (I-15) and United States Highway 20 (US-20), commonly known as the I-15/US-20 Connector, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The requirement to develop a coordination plan is established in Title 23 United States Code (USC) § 139 and in Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 771.123 (b)(2).

In 2020, ITD in cooperation with the City of Idaho Falls, Bonneville County and Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) completed the I-15/US-20 Connector Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study (PEL study) to collaborate on transportation improvements in the study area. The analysis and agency coordination conducted as part of the PEL study informed development of this *Agency Coordination Plan* (Coordination Plan).

This Coordination Plan:

- Provides a brief project background.
- Identifies Lead, Cooperating, and Participating agencies at the federal, state, and local level with corresponding responsibilities.
- Establishes collaboration at key points and milestones throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process.
- Establishes a compliance schedule that identifies the public involvement activities that will also provide opportunities for agency involvement.

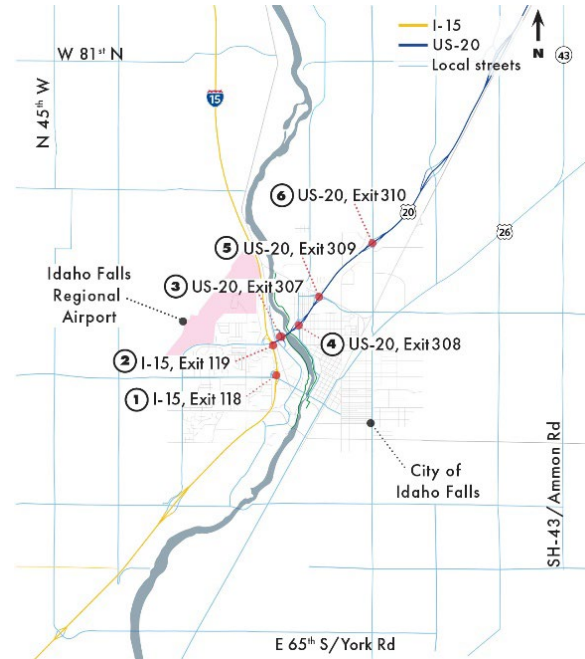
The Coordination Plan will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that may require updating over the course of the EIS process.



1.1 Project Context

The I-15/US-20 Connector project includes segments of both facilities and six interchanges all located in Idaho Falls, Idaho (Figure 1). I-15 in the study area is a four-lane interstate with two grade-separated interchanges. US-20 is a four-lane facility that connects to I-15 at Exit 118 and continues as a co-signed facility for less than a mile to Exit 119. US-20 then continues northeast as a separate four-lane expressway with four additional grade-separated interchanges in the study area. The study area is primarily urban with a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential neighborhoods. Constructed in the 1950s and 60s, the I-15 and US-20 interchanges in Idaho Falls do not provide adequate safety, mobility, and economic opportunity in the City, County, and region given the anticipated future growth. Redesigning the corridor will provide safe and reliable travel for the planning year of 2045.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity



1.2 Project Purpose

The purpose of the I-15/US-20 Connector project is to address safety, congestion, mobility, and travel time reliability for efficient movement of people, goods, and services on I-15 and US-20 in or near Bonneville County and Idaho Falls.

1.3 Project Needs

Improvements are necessary to address the following needs: unsafe travel conditions caused by substandard weave/merge distances, unacceptable level of service at signalized ramp terminals, and poor pedestrian and bicycle mobility along and across the corridors.

Technical information demonstrating these transportation needs is in Chapter 2.0 of the PEL Study report (<http://i15us20connector.com/#resources>). Note that the project Purpose and Need statements will be refined during the EIS process.

1.4 Additional Goals

Several goals were identified that further aided the definition and evaluation of the alternatives considered. They reflect topics important to the study area stakeholders, ITD and other agencies, and the public. The identified goals are:

- Provide transportation facilities that improve access to local schools, recreation facilities, and commercial areas that support local land use plans while also reducing the negative impacts of the existing infrastructure on those community resources.



- In addition to improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the corridor, seek to provide connections to the surrounding multimodal network.
- Provide improvements that serve all types of travelers, including local commuters, freight, and regional tourism.
- Consider new infrastructure impacts to local roads through coordination with the City of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County.
- In addition to identification and mitigation of any environmental impacts of the proposed improvements, seek to provide additional opportunities for the project to enhance local environmental resources.

1.5 Description of the Build Alternatives

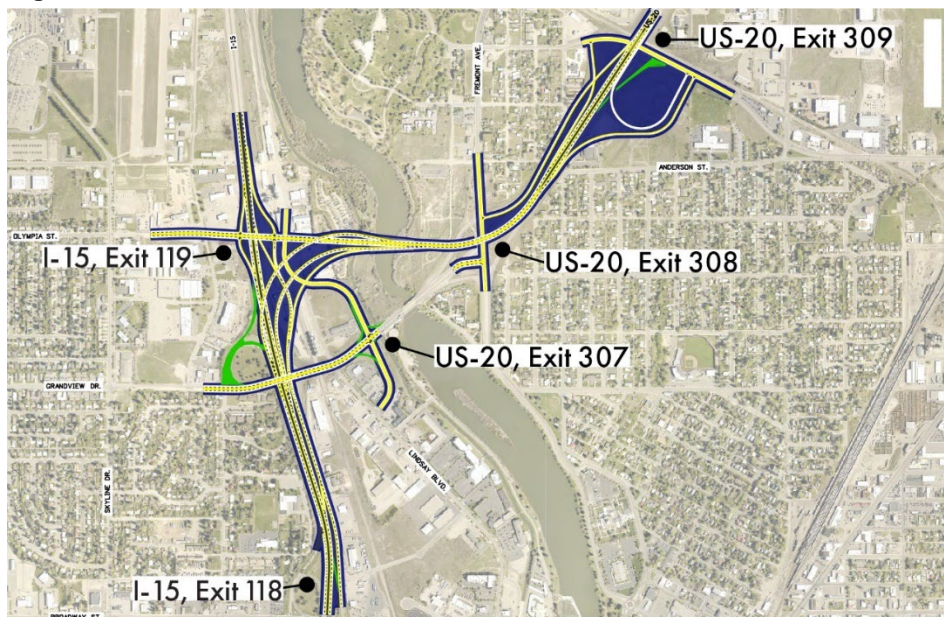
Two build alternatives (E3 and H2) were recommended to be carried forward into NEPA because they provide the best opportunity to meet the Purpose and Need of the project while avoiding and mitigating potential impacts.

1.5.1 Alternative E3

Alternative E3 is shown in Figure 2.

Alternative E3 would relocate the existing I-15/US-20 interchange from Exit 119 at Grandview Drive to a new interchange at I-15 and Olympia Street and realign a portion of US-20. Two new bridges would carry traffic from I-15 to US-20 over Lindsay Boulevard, the Pioneer Canal, the Snake River, and Fremont Avenue before connecting with existing US-20. A reconfigured interchange at the US-20 Exit 309 at Science Center Drive would improve access to local streets. Multimodal improvements would include new bike lanes and shared-use paths, and new or improved sidewalks.

Figure 2. Alternative E3





Specific improvements would include:

- The I-15/US-20 Exit 119 interchange would be relocated north to Olympia Street, removing access to I-15 at Grandview Drive.
- The I-15 Exit 118 interchange would remain the same, except for a new northbound on-ramp, which would connect to a new northbound collector-distributor road leading to the relocated Exit 119 interchange at Olympia Street.
- The existing US-20 Exit 307 interchange would be rebuilt into an at-grade, signalized intersection at Grandview Drive and Lindsay Boulevard.
- The US-20 Exit 308 interchange would be rebuilt as an at-grade, T-intersection at Fremont Avenue where the existing US-20 alignment would terminate.
- The US-20 Exit 309 interchange would be reconfigured with a new eastbound loop on-ramp to connect to Science Center Drive and a new westbound off-ramp to connect to Fremont Avenue.
- Portions of Broadway Street, Grandview Drive, US-20, Lindsay Boulevard, Fremont Avenue, and Science Center Drive would be reconstructed.

Alternative E3 would include new bike lanes and shared-use paths, and new or improved sidewalks as follows:

- Skyline Drive Bike Lanes: New bike lanes on Skyline Drive incorporated with improvements at the Skyline Drive and Olympia Street intersection.
- Saturn Avenue Signed Bike Route: At-grade spot improvement at Saturn Avenue and Grandview Drive with other alternative improvements along Grandview Drive.
- West Snake River Shared Use Path: Facility under improved Grandview Drive and realigned US-20.
- East Snake River Shared Use Path: Removing facility crossing over existing Exit 308 westbound on-ramp, as well as consolidating crossing over existing eastbound off-ramp/proposed Grandview Drive.
- Science Center Drive Shared Use Path: Implemented along with alternative improvements along Science Center Drive and Exit 309.
- Fremont Avenue Bike Lanes: Portion of facility with alternative improvements to Fremont Avenue.
- Grandview Drive, Lindsey Boulevard, Fremont Avenue, and Science Center Boulevard: Improved or new sidewalks.

1.5.2 Alternative H2

Alternative H2 is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Alternative H2



Alternative H2 would relocate the existing I-15/US-20 interchange from Exit 119 at Grandview Drive to a new interchange on I-15 just north of the airport. US-20 would be on a new alignment from the new I-15 interchange east until connecting with the existing US-20 at a new interchange near E 49th N. A new interchange would be constructed on the new alignment at N 5th W. I-15 Exits 118 and 119 would be reconfigured to eliminate existing weaving conflicts. Multimodal improvements would include new bike lanes and shared-use paths, and new or improved sidewalks.

Specific improvements would include:

- The I-15/US-20 Exit 119 interchange would be relocated to north of the Idaho Falls Regional Airport near E 49th N. I-15 would be realigned north of the airport.
- East of the Snake River, US-20 would extend east on a new alignment and connect to N 5th W with a new interchange.
- N 5th E would cross the new US-20 alignment.
- The US-20 Exit 311 and Exit 310 interchanges would be consolidated into a single interchange near E 49th N.
- E 49th N would be extended and realigned to connect through the new interchange to N 5th E.
- The existing I-15 Exits 118 and 119 would be reconfigured to eliminate existing weaving conflicts.
- The existing US-20 Exit 307 would remain as access to Lindsay Boulevard.



- The existing US-20 alignment would remain in its current condition, but would connect to the local street network at the north terminus near E 49th N.

Alternative H2 would include new bike lanes and shared-use paths, and new or improved sidewalks as follows:

- Grandview Drive Shared-Use Path Extension to Snake River: Facility along Grandview Drive where interchange improvements are proposed.
- West Snake River Shared Use Path: Portion of facility crossing realigned US-20.
- East Snake River Shared Use Path: Portion of facility crossing realigned US-20.
- Fremont Avenue Bike Lanes: Portion of facility along N 5th W.
- N 5th W: new sidewalk.

1.6 Description of the No Action Alternative

This alternative assumes the 2045 travel demand forecast volumes travel on the existing transportation network with no changes to the I-15 or US-20 access or interchange configurations. It includes the following locally programmed improvement projects that are expected to be completed whether the I-15/US-20 Connector project is completed or not:

- Widen the Old Butte Road from Broadway Street to Panchari Drive connection to five lanes.
- Widen 600 feet of 5th West/River Road from where the existing five-lane section ends to University Boulevard to five lanes.
- Widen Hitt Road from Sunnyside Road to 49th South to five lanes.
- Widen 65th South from Yellowstone Highway to Hitt Road to five lanes.
- Widen Holmes Avenue from Sunnyside Road to 65th South to five lanes.
- Widen 1st Street from Ammon Road to 45th East to five lanes.
- Widen St. Leon Road from Lincoln Road to US-20 to five lanes.
- Widen 25th East from Lincoln Road to US-26 to five lanes.
- US 26 extension.

2 Agency Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for the agencies involved in the I-15/US-20 Connector EIS process are contained in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 (2020) NEPA Implementing Procedures Regulations ([eCFR :: 40 CFR Chapter V Subchapter A -- National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations](#)) and 23 CFR Part 771 Environmental Impact and Related Procedures ([eCFR :: 23 CFR Part 771 -- Environmental Impact and Related Procedures](#)). The agencies will also adhere to guidance contained in 23 U.S.C. § 139 Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-Making (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title23/html/USCODE-2011-title23-chap1-sec139.htm>).



Over the course of the project, FHWA (the Lead Agency) will coordinate with ITD (Joint Lead Agency/Project Sponsor), and Participating and Cooperating Agencies for data collection, document review, and other information. Definitions for the agencies are included below and can be found in the referenced CFR and Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) documents.

- **Lead Agency** – the agency or agencies preparing or having taken primary responsibility for preparing the EIS (40 CFR § 1508.1).
- **Joint Lead Agency** – federal, state, tribal, or local agencies, including at least one federal agency, may act as joint lead agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment (40 CFR § 1506.2). Based on Section 139, ITD, the project sponsor, shall be a joint NEPA lead agency. 23 U.S.C. 139(c)(3).
- **Cooperating Agency** – any federal agency (and a state, tribal, or local agency with agreement of the lead agency) other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment (40 CFR § 1508.1). FHWA's regulations (23 CFR § 771.111[d]) require that those federal agencies with jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) be invited to be Cooperating Agencies for a NEPA document. In addition, upon request of the lead agency, any other Federal agency with special expertise with respect to any environmental issue may also be a cooperating agency. A state, tribal, or local agency of similar qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.
- **Participating Agency** – means a federal, state, tribal, or local agency participating in an environmental review or authorization of an action (40 CFR § 1508.1). Any agency that is invited by the lead agency to participate in the environmental review process for a project shall be designated as a participating agency, unless the invited agency informs the lead agency in writing that they have no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project; has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and does not intend to submit comments on the project. Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU created a new category of involvement in the environmental review process for NEPA documents, known as Participating Agencies. These are federal and non-federal governmental agencies that may have an interest in the project because of their jurisdictional authority, special expertise and/or statewide interest in the project.

For purposes of the Coordination Plan, the Lead Agency (or Joint Lead Agency) has the responsibility to:

- Develop and implement the Coordination Plan.
- Identify and involve Cooperating and Participating Agencies, and Tribal governments.
- Provide opportunities for the public and agency involvement in confirm the Purpose and Need Statement presented in the PEL.



- Provide opportunities for the public and agency involvement in confirming that the range of alternatives being adopted from the PEL.
- Collaborate with agencies in determining methodologies and the extent of analysis to evaluate alternatives.
- Provide oversight in managing the process and resolving issues.

The Cooperating and Participating Agencies for this project have roles and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process, especially with regard to development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, methodologies, and the level of detail for the alternatives analysis.
- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts and to participate in the issue resolution process.
- Responding in writing to the Lead Agency's letter of invitation within 30 days from receipt to decline or accept the role and involvement.
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.
- Confirmation of adoption by reference the work completed and decisions made during the PEL.
- Participating in the environmental scoping process.
- Reviewing and providing comment on the Preferred Alternative and the NEPA document.
- Other additional responsibilities identified by the lead agency.

Cooperating Agencies may have additional responsibilities that are not required of Participating Agencies. Cooperating Agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. For example, projects being dictated by the NEPA/404 merger may have the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) acting as a Cooperating Agency. Distinctions for Cooperating Agencies include:

- Assuming, by request of the Lead Agency, responsibility for identifying the work and decisions made during the PEL that can be adopted by reference, and developing supplemental information and environmental analyses including portions of the NEPA document for which the Cooperating Agency has special expertise.
- Adoption of the NEPA document without recirculation after an independent review and the Cooperating Agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied.



2.1 Agency Contacts and Roles

The Lead Agency will contact the individuals in Table 1 via letter to participate in the NEPA process in the roles identified.

Table 1. Federal, State, and Local Agency Coordination

Agency Name	Contact Person	Roles/Responsibilities
Lead and Joint Lead Agencies		
Federal Highway Administration Idaho Division	Lisa Applebee P.E. Operations, Local Public Agencies, and Transportation Alternatives Program Engineer 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, Suite 126 Boise, ID 83703 (208) 334-9180 ext. 112 Lisa.Applebee@dot.gov	Lead Federal Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination on purpose and need and public scoping materials • Adoption of the alternatives evaluated during the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study. • Coordinate any additional screening of alternatives during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study. • Review of technical resource reports • Review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Idaho Transportation Department District 6	Ryan Day Project Manager 206 North Yellowstone Rigby, ID 83442 208-745-5659 Ryan.Day@itd.idaho.gov	Joint Lead Agency/Project Sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the NEPA process and the public and agency involvement • Prepare all necessary environmental studies, documentation, and permits
Idaho Transportation Department Headquarters	Wendy Terlizzi Environmental Manager 3311 W. State St., PO Box 7129 Boise, ID 83707-1129 (208) 334-8629 wendy.terlizzi@itd.idaho.gov	Joint Lead Agency/Project Sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the NEPA process and the public and agency involvement • Prepare all necessary environmental studies, documentation, and permits



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

Agency Name	Contact Person	Roles/Responsibilities
Idaho Transportation Department Headquarters	Marc Munch State Highway Archaeologist 3311 W. State St., PO Box 7129 Boise, ID 83707-1129 (208) 334-8449 Marc.munch@itd.idaho.gov	Joint Lead Agency/Project Sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the NEPA process and the public and agency involvement Prepare all necessary environmental studies, documentation, and permits
Idaho Transportation Department Headquarters	Matt Kriegl Architectural Historian 3311 W. State St., PO Box 7129 Boise, ID 83707-1129 (208) 334-8188 Matt.kriegl@itd.idaho.gov	Joint Lead Agency/Project Sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the NEPA process and the public and agency involvement Prepare all necessary environmental studies, documentation, and permits
Cooperating or Participating Federal and Tribal Agencies		
Federal Aviation Administration Helena Airports District Office	Steve Engebrecht Acting Manager, Helena District 2725 Skyway Dr #2 Helena, MT 59602 (406) 441-5407 steve.engebrecht@faa.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Collaboration of realty impact to Federal Aviation Administration lands (airport)
United States Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla Regulatory Division Idaho Falls Field Office	Shane Skaar Environmental Resources Specialist 900 N Skyline Rd., Suite A Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 433-4476 shane.k.skaar@usace.army.mil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Permitting authority for Section 404 Permit Concurrence letter for purpose and need, range of alternative, Concurrence on preferred alternatives, least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) review Public notice and concurrent public hearing Finalize compensatory mitigation plan Sign Record of Decision (30 days)



Agency Name	Contact Person	Roles/Responsibilities
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service St. Anthony Service Center	Trudy Pink Resource Soil Scientist 1210 S. Industrial Park Rd. St. Anthony, ID 83445 (208) 244-5019 Trudy.pink@id.usda.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Documentation for the Farmland Protection Policy Act
United States Fish and Wildlife Service Eastern Idaho Field Office	Alicia Parlette 4425 Burley Dr # A, Chubbuck, ID 83202 Phone: Alicia_parlette@fws.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7 Consultation Review of Biological Assessment Issuance of biological concurrence Review of the EIS
United States Fish and Wildlife Service Eastern Idaho Field Office	Ryan Blakadar 4425 Burley Dr # A, Chubbuck, ID 83202 (208) 756-7773 ryan_blackadar@fws.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7 Consultation Review of Biological Assessment Issuance of biological concurrence Review of the EIS
United States Fish and Wildlife Service Eastern Idaho Field Office	Laura Berglund Branch Chief – Conservation and Consultation 4425 Burley Dr., Suite A Chubbuck, ID 83202 (208) 237-6975 ext. 103 laura_berglund@fws.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7 Consultation Review of Biological Assessment Issuance of biological concurrence Review of the EIS
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 10	Susan Sturges National Environmental Policy Act Reviewer, Transportation Sector Lead 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155 Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 553-1200 Sturges.Susan@epa.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Review of the EIS
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Devon Boyer Cultural Resources Coordinator 306 Pima Dr, P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203 dboyer@sbtribes.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Review of the EIS
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Carolyn Smith Tribal Chairman 306 Pima Dr, P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203 csmith@sbtribes.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Review of the EIS



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

Agency Name	Contact Person	Roles/Responsibilities
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	LaRae Bill Tribal Department of Energy Program 306 Pima Dr, P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203 lbill@sbtribes.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Review of the EIS
Cooperating or Participating State Agencies		
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Idaho Falls Regional Office	Erick Neher Regional Administrator 1410 North Hilton Boise, ID 83706 (208) 373-0502 erick.neher@deg.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Permitting authority for Section 401 Water Quality Certification Permit
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Idaho Falls Regional Office	Troy Saffle Regional Manager 900 N. Skyline Drive, Suite B Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 528-2650 Troy.saffle@deg.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Permitting authority for Section 401 Water Quality Certification Permit Surface water quality
Idaho Fish and Game Upper Snake Region	Jim White Regional Supervisor 4279 Commerce Circle Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 525-7290 jim.white@idfg.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
Idaho Department of Lands Eastern Supervisory Area	Pat Brown Area Manager 3563 E Ririe Hwy, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 525-7167 pbrown@idl.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4(f) jurisdiction Easement of State-Owned Submerged Lands via Joint Application for Permit
Idaho Department of Water Resources	James Cefalo Regional Manager 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 525-7167 James.cefalo@idwr.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream Channel Alteration Permit via Joint Application for Permit Floodplain No-Rise Certification
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	Kathy Muir State and Federal Grant Manager PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0065 Kathy.muir@idpr.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4(f) Section 6(f)



Agency Name	Contact Person	Roles/Responsibilities
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office	Chris Shaver Compliance Archaeologist 210 Main St. Boise, ID 83702 (208) 488-7467 chris.shaver@ishs.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Resolve effects Sign Memorandum of Agreement (30 days)
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office	Ashley Molloy Compliance Architectural Historian 210 Main St. Boise, ID 83702 (208) 488-7463 ashley.molloy@ishs.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Resolve effects Sign Memorandum of Agreement (30 days)
Idaho Emergency Management Agency	Josh McIntosh Southeast Idaho Area Field Officer 4040 Guard St., Bldg. 600 Boise, ID 83705-5004 (208) 258-6542 jmcintosh@imd.idaho.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
Participating Local Agencies		
Bonneville County	Lance Bates County Engineer LBates@co.bonneville.id.us	Participating Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
City of Idaho Falls	Chris Fredrickson Public Works Director PWD@idahofallsidaho.gov	Participating Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization	Darrell West Executive Director DWest@bmpo.org	Participating Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
Idaho Falls Regional Airport	Rick Cloutier Airport Director 2140 N Skyline Dr, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 612-8224 rcloutier@idahofalls.gov	Participating Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS
Idaho Falls Regional Airport	Jayne Verish Assistant Director of Operations & Maintenance 2140 N Skyline Dr, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 612-8267 jverish@idahofalls.gov	Participating Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the EIS



The following agencies declined to participate in the EIS (as of July 8, 2021):

- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- United States Department of Agriculture, Idaho Farm Service Agency

2.2 Coordination Points and Responsibilities

Key coordination points, including which agency is responsible for activities during that coordination point, are identified below, as well as the information required at each coordination point and who is responsible for transmitting that information.

Communication between the agencies and ITD will be primarily by means of electronic mail (e-mail). All communication to and from federal resource agencies should include a copy to:

- FHWA (Lisa Applebee: Lisa.Applebee@dot.gov)
- ITD (Ryan Day: Ryan.Day@itd.idaho.gov)
- Project email: comments@i15us20corridor.com

Any communication to a federal resource agency or tribal government agency requesting an action, approval or consultation should be provided to FHWA for their review. FHWA will then make these requests directly.

Electronic versions of all meeting agendas and backup material will be provided to the agencies at least one week prior to the meeting when practicable. Additionally, FHWA, ITD or their consultant's file transfer protocol (FTP) site can be used as needed to transmit large documents for agency review and other information related to the project. ITD can also print and distribute hard copies of the EIS, supporting studies, and the decision document in a quantity jointly decided between the Joint Lead Agencies.

The NEPA review will be subject to prior concurrence by FHWA Headquarters (HEPE) under 23 CFR 771.125, as well as legal sufficiency reviews by FHWA Office of the Chief Counsel (HCC).

The agencies listed in Table 1 are expected to be involved in the coordination points described in Table 2. Agencies will be allowed agreed upon review timeframes for major deliverables and return comment to FHWA and ITD unless otherwise noted.

ITD will obtain written concurrence from all Cooperating Agencies whose authorization is required for the project at three key milestones:

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives to Be Carried Forward for Evaluation
- Preferred Alternative



Table 2. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Note: Cooperating and Participating Agencies participation highlighted in blue.

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution	Requested Action of Recipient(s)	Date
Notice of Intent (NOI)	Publish NOI in Federal Register; invite agencies by mail to serve as cooperating or participating agencies; invite agencies and the public to participate in Scoping Meetings	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Review NOI in Federal Register; review letter by mail	Comments on NOI Response to invitation	Published <i>August 29, 2022</i> . Invitation sent within 45 days after NOI is published.
		Stakeholders	Review NOI in Federal Register; review website	Comments requested	Published August 29, 2022.
Public and Agency Scoping	Conduct Scoping Meetings	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Direct email notification and invitation	Input on project to better define the scope of the project	Agency scoping after NOI is published (October 12, 2022)
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website	Input on project to better define the scope of the project	Public scoping is scheduled for October 18, 2022
Coordination Plan	Prepare Coordination Plan	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Comments on Coordination Plan (30-day comment period)	Draft available for comment within 90 days of NOI
Impact Assessment Methodologies/ Evaluation Criteria	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development and review of the methodologies and level of detail required for the analysis of alternatives	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Collaboration and input through the development of methodologies, and comments on proposed methodologies (30-day comment period)	Cooperating and Participating Agency workshop to be scheduled after publication of NOI



Table 2. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Note: Cooperating and Participating Agencies participation highlighted in blue.

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution	Requested Action of Recipient(s)	Date
Purpose and Need	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies, and other stakeholders, with draft purpose and need statement ; solicit comments	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Comments on purpose and need (30-day comment period) Written concurrence required from Cooperating Agencies	Draft available for comment at Agency Scoping meeting
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast of availability; website	No action requested; comments accepted	Draft available October 18, 2022, Public Scoping Meeting
Evaluation Criteria	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies and other stakeholders the evaluation criteria for alternatives evaluation	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Comments on range of alternatives and issues of concern (30-day comment period)	Draft available for comment [exact date TBD]
Range of Alternatives	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies, and other stakeholders, with range of alternatives to be carried forward for evaluation ; solicit comments	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Comments on range of alternatives and issues of concern (30-day comment period) Written concurrence required from Cooperating Agencies	Draft available for comment [exact date TBD]
		Stakeholders	Stakeholder email blast of availability; website	No action requested; comments accepted	Available once finalized



Table 2. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Note: Cooperating and Participating Agencies participation highlighted in blue.

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution	Requested Action of Recipient(s)	Date
Alternatives Analysis	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with evaluation of alternatives; solicit input comments	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email (printed copy provided upon request)	Provide input and solicit comments on the evaluation of alternatives	Distributed for comment to Cooperating and Participating agencies [exact date TBD]
Preferred Alternative	Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to review preliminary results of analyses of all Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) alternatives and provide input on recommended preferred alternative	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed by email	Identification of preferred alternative occurs prior to completion of DEIS and provides basis for developing implementation plan and potential segments of independent utility. (30-day comment period) Written concurrence required from Cooperating Agencies	Available for Cooperating and Participating agency review [exact date TBD]
Review of Draft EIS	Review of DEIS by FHWA, Cooperating Agencies and other resource agencies; DEIS selects the preferred alternative and identifies the environmental resources and likely effects of the alternatives on the natural, social, and built environment	FHWA Division, Cooperating agencies, and other resource agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed electronically	Provision of substantive comments on the DEIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval (30-day review and comment period)	Available for review April 2023



Table 2. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Note: Cooperating and Participating Agencies participation highlighted in blue.

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution	Requested Action of Recipient(s)	Date
Public Review of DEIS	Provide the public opportunity to review DEIS				
		Stakeholders	Notice of Availability (NOA) in Federal Register; stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website; DEIS availability for review at certain locations; public hearing	Comments on range of alternatives, affected environment, impact analysis, and identified preferred corridor (45-day public review period, including public hearings)	Available for agency and public review and comment September 2023
Review of Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	Review of DEIS by FHWA, Cooperating Agencies and other resource agencies; FEIS presents the final evaluation of environmental resources and likely effects of the selected corridor on the natural, social, and built environment.	FHWA Division, Cooperating agencies, and other resource agencies	Progress meeting; draft distributed electronically	Provision of substantive comments on the Draft FEIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval; concurrence on selected corridor (30-day review and comment period)	Available for Cooperating agency review February 2024
FEIS/Record of Decision (ROD)	Combined FEIS/ROD; includes responses to comments on DEIS and any refinements to selected corridor	Cooperating and Participating agencies	Direct electronic distribution of FEIS/ROD to stakeholders on mailing list	N/A	August 2024



Table 2. Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Requested Actions

Note: Cooperating and Participating Agencies participation highlighted in blue.

Coordination Point ^a	Lead Agency Action	Recipient(s)	Information Distribution	Requested Action of Recipient(s)	Date
		Stakeholders	NOA in Federal Register, stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website; FEIS/ROD availability for review at certain locations	N/A	August 2024

Note: Dates in brackets are tentative or pending.

^a Lead agencies will distribute information to reviewing and commenting parties associated with these coordination points.

^b Information available to stakeholders and the public may be made available for comment through open houses and/or the study website, depending on coordination point.



3 Project Schedule

The project schedule will be established as part of the requirements of the environmental review process under 23 U.S.C. 139 and will comply with 40 CFR 1501.10(b)(2), which requires that environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects occur within two years (from the date of publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to the date of issuance of the ROD. In addition, H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act codified One Federal Decision and requires that all permits for major projects be issued within 90 days after the ROD.

The project schedule in Table 3 identifies items that have been completed to date and anticipated review timelines for future key milestones. The schedule will be agreed upon by the Cooperating and Participating agencies, and will be updated as needed throughout the EIS process. ITD and FHWA meet monthly to review ongoing project activities and potential issues that may cause a schedule risk. Strategies will be agreed upon to complete the activities and meet major milestones within the two-year timeframe, and the project schedule will be updated accordingly.

Table 3. Project Schedule

Project Milestone	Schedule
Publish NOI - NEPA Schedule Starts	August 2022
Agency Scoping Meeting	October 12, 2022
Identification of Preferred Alternative	December 2022
DEIS Submitted to ITD (District 6 and Headquarters) for Review	February 2023
FHWA Division and Resource Agency Review of DEIS	April 2023
ITD Reviews and Approves Revised DEIS and Submits to FHWA	May 2023
FHWA Legal Review and Approval of DEIS for Public Review (45 days)	May 2023 (45 days)
FHWA Approval to Publish	August 2023
NOA of DEIS - Start Public Comment Period	September 2023 (60 days)
Public Hearing	October 2023
Public Comment Period (60 days) Ends	November 2023
FEIS Submitted to ITD (District 6 and Headquarters) for Review	January 2024
FEIS Submitted to FHWA and Resource Agencies for Review	February 2024
FHWA Completes FEIS Review	March 2024
FHWA Legal Review and Approval of FEIS for Public Review	April 2024 (45 days)
ITD Revises and Approves FEIS	May 2024
FHWA Approves Revised FEIS for Publication	June 2024
Final ROD Submitted to ITD (District 6 and Headquarters) for Review	July 2024
Final ROD Submitted to FHWA for Review	August 2024
FHWA Issues FEIS/Record of Decision	August 2024
Begin Design Phase (if a build alternative is selected)	October 2024
Completion of FHWA Major Project Financial Plan (if a build alternative is selected)	November 2024



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

Project Milestone	Schedule
Completion of Required Permits (if a build alternative is selected)	December 2024
Construction Phase (if a build alternative is selected)	Timing and Funding Unknown

DEIS-Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 FEIS-Final Environmental Impact Statement
 FHWA-Federal Highway Administration
 ITD-Idaho Transportation Department

NEPA-National Environmental Policy Act
 NOA-Notice of Availability
 NOI-Notice of Intent
 ROD-Record of Decision

4 Permitting Timetable

During the EIS process, ITD will review this draft permitting timetable with the listed resource agencies and request their agreement on the timeframes to complete the permitting process. The timetable will be updated as needed throughout the EIS process.

Federal Lead Agency/ Action

FHWA – Environmental Impact Statement

Milestone	Target Date
Issuance of NOI to prepare an EIS	August 29, 2022
Resource Agency Scoping	October 12, 2022
Official Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS published in the Federal Register beginning both the public comment period and concurrent Clean Air Act Section 309 Review	September 6, 2023
Official Notice of Availability of a Final EIS published in the Federal Register beginning both the public review period and concurrent Clean Air Act Section 309 Review	June 24, 2024
Issuance of Record of Decision or combined Final EIS/Record of Decision	August 28, 2024

Responsible Agency: FHWA
 Phone: 208-617-2134

Point of Contact (POC): Lisa Applebee
 Email: lisa.applebee@dot.gov

FHWA- Cultural Resources – Section 106

Milestone	Target Date
Consultation initiated with State Historic Preservation Office	September 19, 2022
Section 106 Consultation Concluded	July 10, 2023

*Conclusion of Section 106 can be:

- No cultural resources (historic properties or archaeological resources) affected,
- Finding of no adverse effect, or



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

- Memorandum of agreement or programmatic agreement or other conclusion to resolve adverse effects reached

Responsible Agency: FHWA
Phone: 208-617-2134

POC: Lisa Applebee
Email: lisa.applebee@dot.gov

FHWA– Section 4(f)

Milestone	Target Date
Determination of Applicability of Section 4(f)	January 3, 2023
Concurrence from Officials with Jurisdiction	July 31, 2023
FHWA Approval/Conclusion of Section 4(f)	June 10, 2024

Responsible Agency: FHWA
Phone: 208-617-2134
Cooperating/Participating Agency Actions:

POC: Lisa Applebee
Email: lisa.applebee@dot.gov

USACE– Section 404 Clean Water Act

Milestone	Target Date
Pre-construction Notification (PCN)/Form ENG 4345/Joint Application Form Received	May 14, 2024 (may not be needed)
Complete Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)/Application Received (Submittal includes Section 404-408-10 information)	May 14, 2024 (may not be needed)
Publication of Public Notice	Not Likely Needed
Final Verification/Permit Decision Rendered	Not Likely Needed

Responsible Agency: USACE
Phone: 208-433-4476

POC: Shane Skaar
Email: shane.k.skaar@usace.army.mil

United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation

Milestone	Target Date
Request for ESA Consultation Received	September 13, 2023
Consultation Package Complete (Informal Consultation):	March 20, 2023
Conclusion of ESA Consultation	June 19, 2023

Responsible Agency: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

POC: Ryan Blackadar



Idaho Transportation Department

I-15 / US 20 Connector, Idaho Falls, Project No. A022(222) KN22222

Phone: 208-756-7773

Email: ryan_blackadar@fws.gov

National Park Service – Section 6(f) Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

Milestone	Date
Initial Application Received	October 19, 2022
Completed Application Received	May 15, 2023
Issuance of Decision for Permit/Approval	January 2, 2024
Notice to Proceed	June 10, 2024

Responsible Agency: National Park Service
Phone: 206-220-4141

POC: Christopher Johnson
Email: Christopher_e_johnson@nps.gov

Federal Aviation Administration – Airport Land Release Permit

Milestone	Target Date
Initial Application Received	May 30, 2023
Completed Application Received	July 31, 2023
Issuance of Permit/Approval	November 28, 2023

Responsible Agency: Federal Aviation Administration
Phone: 406-441-5407

POC: Steve Engebrecht
Email: steve.engebrecht@faa.gov

State, Local, Tribal, Other Non- Federal Agency and Not Cooperating or Participating Agency

Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Milestone	Target Date
Initial Application Received	November 22, 2023
Completed Application Received	November 22, 2023
Issuance of Permit/Approval	April 15, 2024

Responsible Agency: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Phone: 208-528-2650

POC: Troy Saffle
Email: troy.saffle@deqidaho.gov



5 Public Outreach

5.1 Outreach Conducted to Date

Highlights of the public outreach conducted during the PEL Study are listed in Table 4:

Table 4. Public Outreach Conducted to Date

Event	Input Received
January 31, 2018: Community Working Group #1	Project introduction and scoping
May 9, 2018: Public Meeting #1/Community Kickoff	Project introduction and scoping
June 20, 2018: Community Working Group #2	Review of comments from May 9 public meeting
August 23, 2018: Community Working Group #3	Gather feedback on Level One alternatives
September 5, 2018: Public Meeting #2/Open House	Presentation of Level One alternatives
November 8, 2018: 81 st Street Neighborhood Meeting	Neighborhood-level review of alternatives that may impact the 81 st Street neighborhood
April 29, 2019: Community Working Group #4	Presentation of Level Two alternatives
May 16, 2019: Public Meeting #3/Open House	Guided tour of Level Two alternatives
June 10, 2019: 49 th Street Neighborhood Meeting (Alternative H)	Neighborhood-level review of Level Two Alternative H
February 27, 2020: Community Working Group #5	Presentation of Level Three alternatives updated from the Cost Risk Assessment and Value Engineering workshop
July 20, 2020: Community Working Group #6	Presentation of the two Recommended Alternatives and the No Action Alternative to be carried forward to a National Environmental Policy Act study
August 6-24, 2020: Public Meeting #4/Virtual Meeting http://i15us20connector.com/onlineMeeting/	Presentation of the Level Three alternatives and the two Recommended Alternatives and No Action Alternative that will be carried forward to a National Environmental Policy Act study

5.2 Continued Outreach

ITD developed a Public Involvement Plan for the I-15/US-20 Connector EIS in compliance with FHWA and other federal and state regulations. The EIS process conducted for the I-15/US-20 Connector will promote informed decision-making by federal, state, and local agencies.

ITD will continue the collaboration, communication, and cooperation between all who are involved in environmental decisions, including government officials, private businesses, and the public as the project moves from the PEL study into the NEPA process.

Stakeholder and public input continue to provide important insight to ITD as it analyzes Alternatives E3 and H2 and selects the Preferred Alternative for improving the I-15/US-20 corridor. Public and agency input will be integrated into the technical evaluation process before decisions are made.