



Northwest Foothills Transportation Study

Ada County Highway District Open House | August 14, 2008 Phase 2

Project Description

In response to the influx of proposals for planned communities and future development in the Northwest Foothills, the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) has initiated a study to analyze future impacts to the regional transportation system.

This study will:

- Analyze potential impacts of development on the existing and future transportation system
- Predict traffic conditions and identify future transportation needs
- Identify a future road network
- Establish policies for improving the transportation system when development occurs

This study will not justify land use plans, endorse development or provide approval for future development.

Study Process

The Northwest Foothills area will be studied by:

- Reviewing approved and working land use plans (City of Eagle & Ada County)
- Establishing environmental conditions
- Gathering public input about potential development & transportation needs
- Evaluating existing and projected traffic

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why study the Northwest Foothills now?

A: The Northwest Foothills area has experienced a considerable number of development applications and proposals. In addition, provisions have been made in the City of Eagle and in the Ada County Comprehensive plans for growth in this area. Studying the Northwest Foothills area now allows the opportunity to effectively plan for local roadways before development occurs.

Q: Who is involved in this study?

A: This study requires the participation and input of several groups and agencies, both public and private-- City of Eagle, Ada County, City of Star, City of Boise, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), North Ada County Foothills Association (NACFA), public land management agencies, area citizens and property owners, State Highway 55 Consortium and the Ada County Highway District.

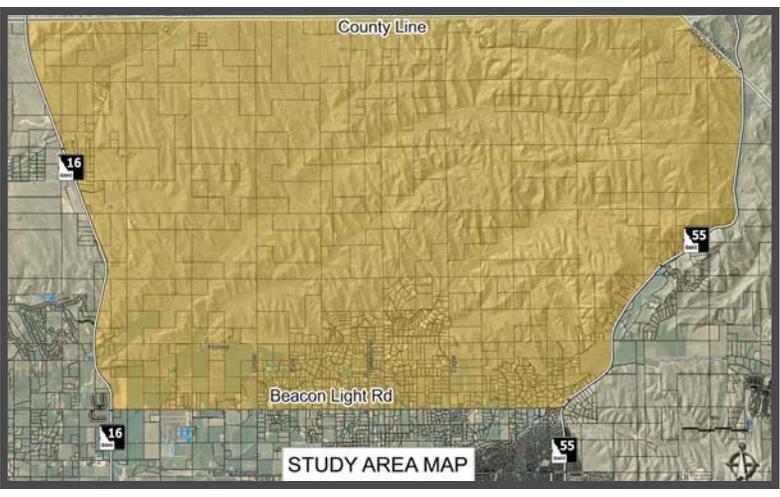
The coordination between land use agencies and ACHD will be crucial for the success of this plan.

Q: What happened during Phase I of the study?

A: Phase 1 of the study focused on data gathering and coordination of information from other agencies. Because influential projects such as the Ada County Comprehensive Plan update and the City of Eagle Comprehensive Plan update were underway, ACHD decided to wait until these processes were complete and land use decisions were made before beginning Phase 2 of the study.

Q: How soon would new roadways be built in the Northwest Ada Foothills?

A: Potential roadway needs identified in the study will be built as development happens in the Foothills area. Impacts generated from these future developments will influence the need to build the necessary roadways and improvements and would be part of the development approval process. Approval of future development falls under the jurisdiction of the land-use agency in which it is proposed. Potential roadways for the Northwest Foothills are under the jurisdiction of ACHD and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and are expected to be constructed over the course of 25-30 years. Construction will not happen all at once.



Study Area: Traffic analysis may extend beyond the project area and is anticipated to include surrounding or adjacent developments both east of SH-55 and west of SH-16.

Frequently Asked Questions, continued

Q: How will current Eagle residents living below the Foothills be impacted?

A: Determining and evaluating the potential impacts to Eagle Residents and the roadways beneath the Foothills will be a significant factor in the study process. Detailed traffic analyses will be conducted and used to determine some of the impacts and corresponding transportation improvements. Public participation will be an important component in identifying and addressing community issues and concerns throughout the study process.

Q: How will areas outside of the defined study area be considered?

A: Proposed development outside of the project area will be considered in the traffic analysis that is being conducted in this study. Consideration of this development will provide a clearer picture of traffic impacts to the Northwest Foothills Study area.

Q: Who will pay for the future roadways that are determined as needed by this study?

A: Construction of most roads within the project area is anticipated to be funded by developers as property develops and connections to the transportation system are required. This study will develop an Extraordinary Impact Fee area, a region where development will have to pay a special fee for transportation needs-- and will identify specific projects to ensure that adequate facilities are provided to the public.

Q: How is ACHD using land use plans in this study?

A: The City of Eagle's Comprehensive Plan and the Ada County Comprehensive Plan have identified provisions for future growth in the Northwest Foothills area. In particular, development densities have been established by the City of Eagle for this area. Growth projections based on these densities will allow ACHD to assess future impacts and needs.

Q: What's next?

A: Comments regarding this stage of the study will be accepted through Thursday, August 28th, 2008 and will be utilized as the study progresses. The potential roadway network will continue to be evaluated, future travel demand will be analyzed and a preliminary traffic analysis will be conducted. The next public open house is anticipated for winter 2008. There will be additional opportunities for public comment in association with the second and any subsequent open houses.

Who is COMPASS?

- COMPASS is the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho. It is a region-wide entity that addresses transportation issues expected in the next 20 or more years.
- COMPASS is responsible for preparing the region's long-range transportation plan.
- www.compassidaho.org

Who should I contact with questions related to future land use and development?

Ada County Development Services
208.287.7900
www.adaweb.net

City of Eagle Planning & Development
208.939.0227
www.cityofeagle.com

City of Star
208.286.7247

City of Boise Planning & Development Services
208.384.3830
www.cityofboise.org

Additional Resources

COMPASS: www.compassidaho.org

Commuteride: www.commuteride.com

ITD: www.itd.idaho.gov

Materials and displays from tonight's open house will be available online at: www.achd.ada.id.us/projects.

Contact

Craig Herndon
ACHD Project Manager
208.387.6118
projects@achd.ada.id.us

Web: www.achd.ada.id.us

Comments

Please leave your completed comment sheet at the sign-in table. If you would like to complete it at a later date, please send it to the postmarked address or e-mail your comments to: projects@achd.ada.id.us by August 28, 2008. *Thank you!*

