

Minutes of the meeting for Monday May 6th, 2013

WILDLIFE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING of the Blaine Co. Transportation Committee

I. Introductions:

Angenie McCleary requested that all attendees introduce themselves. Each person introduced themselves and briefly identified their interests. Approximately 20 people were present. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

II. Discuss 2008 Study, Wildlife Data Collection and Potential Highway Mitigation along State Highway 75:

Lili Simpson summarized the 2008 study for participants and handed out a brief written summary of the mortality study.

Alan Reynolds summarized passive and active systems for detecting wildlife and changing driver's reaction time for wildlife crossing the road. There have been many updates to technology in the last 5 years to be investigated. He said fencing and animal-detection systems are more effective together.

Discussions ensued about overpasses and underpasses, which would allow animals to pass to the other side of the road without confronting traffic. Also discussed lower speed limits, plantings of "lure crops" so animals go away from road.

III. ITD Update on Hwy 75 Projects and Wildlife Mitigation

There is one ITD project currently under construction in 2013 from Timber Way to Hospital Drive on SH-75.

The next planned ITD project, if the funding is obtained, is for the replacement of the Big Wood River Bridge just north of Hospital Drive on SH-75. This would occur in approximately 2017.

Then the next phase would purchase Right-of-way for an ITD project from Hailey (McKercher Blvd.) to Alturas Way on SH-75. This would begin whenever funding might be available and construction would follow after that, maybe 2020 or later.

It was asked, if ITD would entertain doing work elsewhere for wildlife crossings or solutions, other than in the specific areas that were under construction. Yes, ITD will consider all recommendations made to the Blaine County Regional Transportation Committee.

IV. Next Steps

ITD to bring current traffic counts to next meeting.

IDFG to bring data report on wildlife/vehicle collisions.

Speed limits are a reoccurring topic of interest and were also briefly discussed.

V. Adjourn

McCleary said all committee meetings would be open to the public. The next meeting will be held the week on June 3 at 11 a.m. in the Blaine County Court House.