

Minutes

Wildlife Crossing Committee Meeting

Blaine County Court House, Hailey
Monday, July 1, 2013, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Seventeen people were present. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

Angenie noted that she had invited the Blaine County Transportation Committee to this meeting as they will receive any recommendations from this committee.

I. Update and Discussion on Highway 75 Speed Limit Issue: Bruce Christensen

Bruce Christensen went over the handout and summarized his investigation of the accidents in the 2 mile stretch north of Hailey, from about McKercher to Zinc Spur. As agreed in the previous meeting, Bruce presented his review and findings for a possible solution. He is proposing a night time reduced speed limit to the subcommittee. This would be a 45 mph night time speed limit in this area. Bruce explained the signage diagram to illustrate where the new signs would be located.

Related discussion:

The variable message signs (VMS) are not permanent signs as the ITD Foreman has to use these signs as needed, and the signs can be moved to any locations. .

Is it possible to have dusk to dawn on the sign? That would be very hard for the Blaine County Sheriff to enforce with the courts.

It was agreed that preparing the public with education of the reasons for the change in advance would be helpful if the change is carried out.

Angenie asked all those present what they thought of the proposal individually. There was general agreement. Sheriff Ramsey said that he could support a night time reduction in the speed limit.

ITD requested that the Blaine County Committee provide a letter of support for the speed reduction prior to ITD District 4 implementing any changes or formally presenting the proposed change within ITD to the Idaho Transportation Board members meeting for approval.

Jim Keating asked them to consider if the proposal might have unintended consequences for pedestrians crossing.

Mary Jane Conger asked that the subcommittee receive reports from ITD about the progress of the speed reduction proposal at the monthly meetings. She also said that there needs to be a criteria determined to determine whether the proposed change works as expected.

Kris Stoffer would like to see public education concerning wildlife on SH-75. Lili Simpson agreed this is a way to raise awareness of the issue.

Lili also brought up the facts that MP 107 to MP 111 and MP 121 to MP 124 have similar issues with wildlife vehicle collisions on SH-75.

Sheriff Ramsey suggested that someone from the subcommittee might talk to Mr. Reinker about getting rid of the alfalfa field before the elk and deer start going there to eat in August.

Walter said that he would expect a formal letter of support to be generated from the Blaine County Transportation Committee to support the proposal from this subcommittee. But informally, he will start with the information from this subcommittee today. Angenie will coordinate with the Blaine County Transportation Committee. Walter will talk to District Engineer Devin Rigby.

If the idea is supported from the committee, then Angenie will talk to the Mountain Express. When ITD does a formal press release, Kris asked that the subcommittee review the press release first. Nathan Jerke said that would be welcomed. Walter said that ITD's press release would be after the all of the necessary approvals are in place.

II. Next Steps, Goal Setting and Priorities

Angenie had another subject for the subcommittee.

Blaine County contributed funding for three months to hire a facilitator. The facilitator will also put together a plan for this subcommittee that will help form goals. Blaine County is looking for a strong process to define goals that is science based and evidence based with a clear timeline focused from the Timmerman Junction to Ketchum on SH75.

Claire introduced herself and asked for feedback from the subcommittee prior to the next meeting on the following :

- 1) how success will be measured? We want measurable criteria.
- 2) do we have all the data that we need
- 3) What are the goals of the subcommittee
- 4) Do we have enough information?

III. Adjourn

The next meeting is August 5th.