



US-95 McArthur Lake Frequently Asked Questions

In response to comments received at the June 2019 open house for improvements at US-95 near McArthur Lake, ITD developed this FAQ sheet.

How far will wildlife fencing extend from the structure?

Fencing will stretch approximately .6 miles on both sides of the highway to help funnel wildlife to the bridge for a safe crossing within the project limits. Extending fencing beyond project limits would require extensive coordination with private property owners to address driveway access concerns and could delay construction. Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) evaluated the area and may be able to extend fencing to a total length of 2.6 miles after this project is complete.

Can the bridge provide more than 10 feet of clearance?

Elevating the bridge is beyond the budget of this project, as adding two feet of clearance would likely cost an extra \$2 million.

Instead, ITD will maximize clearance by excavating material underneath the bridge. Although measurements will not be available until construction reveals the exact groundwater level, ITD predicts excavation efforts will add at least two feet of clearance in some areas.

At 300 feet long, the bridge will be significantly wider than previously constructed wildlife underpasses in the area that are 20 feet wide.

The bridge was designed to provide 10 feet of clearance in accordance with minimum guidelines outlined in the Wildlife Crossing Structure Handbook produced by the Federal Highway Administration in 2011. ITD has not adopted standard specifications for wildlife features but works with partners, such as IDFG, to design them while staying within the scope of the highway project.

Although this project will benefit drivers by providing an underpass for wildlife, its primary purpose is to improve safety and mobility by adjusting the road's alignment.

Can wildlife movements be monitored before, during and after construction?

ITD does not monitor wildlife movements, only crashes involving wildlife strikes. That data is dependent on reporting from law enforcement and those looking to salvage any carcasses.

ITD will work with IDFG to collect this data if possible.

Can the turn lane onto McArthur Lake Road be improved?

ITD will adjust striping and add turn lane arrows at the start of the turn lane to distinguish it from the passing lane further north. Changes will likely be made in late August 2019.

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