

Leadership in Government

Idaho Transportation Department, Broadway Bridge

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) partnered with the City of Boise, Boise State University, and the Ada County Highway District to replace the Broadway Avenue Bridge in the City of Boise, adjacent to the Boise State University campus. ITD closed the old, 1956 bridge in January 2016; construction was complete in September 2016. Completion of a project of this magnitude in nine months was a monumental feat.

The 60-year old Broadway Bridge did not meet today's standards – it had outlived its design life and was no longer able to accommodate the high volume of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists that travel over the bridge.

The new bridge was designed to meet projected growth and traffic patterns for decades to come. All transportation users – vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and even floaters on the Boise River – were taken into consideration in the design process through a series of community workshops that solicited public feedback. The new bridge adds additional vehicle lanes and dedicated bike lanes in each direction and provides connections to the Boise River Greenbelt from the bicycle lanes and from new, wide sidewalks.

The decision to construct the bridge through a complete closure, as opposed to a phased construction with partial closures, was based on input provided during the community workshops. During construction, a detailed detour was carefully crafted in conjunction with the Ada County Highway District that not only accommodated vehicles, but also bicyclists and pedestrians who used the heavily traveled Boise River Greenbelt in the immediate area.

The project took into account the sensitive environmental issues surrounding Julia Davis Park, the Boise River, and historic buildings in the area. Careful collaboration with area water managers including the US Bureau of Reclamation, Ada County Waterways, and the Army Corp of Engineers was instrumental to ensure that a construction timeline was established and executed that didn't impact users of the Boise River, from irrigators to recreationists.

When the Broadway Bridge successfully opened on time in September 2016, it was met with praise and appreciation from community partners and the public alike, as shown in emails received by ITD commenting on the completed project:

"I personally want to thank all involved with the Broadway Bridge project! Speaking as both a bicycle and auto commuter, the bridge is absolutely fantastic!"

"Kudos to ITD on a terrific job on the new Broadway Bridge...the functionality and aesthetics are greatly appreciated."

"I just wanted to say that the Broadway Bridge is BEAUTIFUL! Thank you for widening the bridge, adding bike lanes, wide sidewalks, and...the underpass. Classy!"

"Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the ITD group and all the contractors, engineers, and others on the superb job in completing the Broadway Bridge!"