



Harris Creek/Centerville Road

Harris Creek/Centerville Road provide connections for Boise County.

WHY THIS CORRIDOR MATTERS



Boise County is served by two state highways. SH 21 connects between Ada County and Idaho City, continuing to the northeast into Stanley. SH 55 connects from Ada County and Horseshoe Bend, continuing through Crouch and into Valley County to the north. The two main cities in Boise County, Idaho City and Horseshoe Bend, are divided by mountainous terrain. Harris Creek/Centerville Road connects Idaho City, the county seat, to Horseshoe Bend, the largest city in the county. The existing road is a mountain dirt road that runs in an east-west direction. This road is typically used during the summer months because winter travel is hazardous in wet or ice and snow conditions. The alternate routes are much longer with the most common through the City of Boise (fifty-seven miles) or via Garden Valley (eighty-two miles). These distances are compared to approximately thirty miles on Harris Creek/Centerville Road.

According to the 2000 Census, fifty-two percent of workers living in Boise County commute to Ada County during the week. However, on weekends, there are many recreational trips from Ada County and Canyon County residents.

Goals for *Communities in Motion* (CIM)

Connections: Provide options for safe access and mobility in a cost-effective manner for the region.

Coordination: Achieve better inter-jurisdictional coordination of transportation and land use planning.

Environment: Minimize transportation impacts to people, cultural resources, and the environment.

Information: Coordinate data gathering and dispense better information.

Recommendations for Harris Creek/Centerville Road Corridor to meet CIM goals:

- ❖ The proposed improvements provide better connections and in some case an option of travel in Boise County.
- ❖ Support from the Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho City, the City of Horseshoe Bend and Boise County is needed.

Recommendations for Harris Creek/Centerville Road Corridor Public Transportation:

- ❖ No public transportation options have been noted.

Land use decisions needed to implement the plan:

- ❖ County is experiencing residential development. The Harris Creek corridor should be preserved so that the cost of the project does not escalate.



Regional Connection



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Harris Creek/Centerville Road – A safe, all-weather connection between the county seat and the largest city in the county would be beneficial to the residents. The challenge is mainly in the cost of this project, which is 30 miles long through difficult terrain, including narrow canyons and severe slopes. Upgrading the roadway to all weather standards while protecting environmental features will be very expensive. Current traffic volumes are approximately two-hundred vehicles per day, although this could escalate rapidly given the residential activity occurring in the county.

Past and Current Investments through 2015	Funded Investments through 2035	Unfunded Improvements through 2035
<p>The County made a major investment in improving the Banks-Lowman Road through Garden Valley in the 1990s. Funded primarily with US Forest Service land funds, the project cost exceeded \$20 million.</p>	<p>None, pending further evaluation.</p>	<p>Harris Creek Road is estimated to cost up to \$35,000,000 depending on design standards and environmental issues. A lower cost would be possible for a pavement treatment, but speeds would be low given the terrain and tight curves. A more detailed study to provide alternatives and cost estimates, including environmental work, would be needed. Estimated cost: \$300-\$600,000.</p>