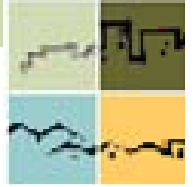


# Purple Sage/Beacon Light Road



The Purple Sage and Beacon Light Roads will provide relief for SH 44 and are important for future regional connections.



## WHY THIS CORRIDOR MATTERS

The small cities in northern Ada and Canyon Counties (Eagle, Star, and Middleton) expect tremendous growth through 2035 and beyond. The build-out of this northern area could add as many 100,000 people or more than today! This much growth will cause pressure on the existing SH 44 corridor. The Purple Sage/Beacon Light corridor will provide a “reliever” to SH 44 in the future. In 2035, the SH 44 corridor is forecasted to carry over 37,000 vehicle trips per day west of Can-Ada Road. Purple Sage Road, even without a direct connection to Beacon Light, could have up to 11,000 trips per day and over 21,000 on Beacon Light Road east of Linder Road

Proposed improvements include widening Beacon Light Road from SH 55 to SH 16 to four or five lanes, and an unfunded extension to connect Beacon Light and Purple Sage Roads. Purple Sage Road, from the new connection to I-84, is proposed to be widened to three lanes.

The corridor extends twenty miles including a two-mile gap, from I-84 to SH 55, and is rural in nature. The most heavily developed section of roadway is in the City of Eagle from SH 55 to Linder Road. The development along this section includes large-lot subdivisions and ranchettes. The corridor currently does not intersect any of the cities, but in the future could become a boundary or even an internal arterial in all of the northern cities.

## 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 Purple Sage Road / Beacon Light Road Corridor to meet CIM goals:

- ❖ Beacon Light Road is recommended for expansion to four or five lanes. An extension of Beacon Light Road to Purple Sage Road is also recommended. Widening Purple Sage Road from I-84 to the new connection will help provide relief to SH 44.

## Recommendations for Purple Sage Road / Beacon Light Road Corridor Public Transportation:

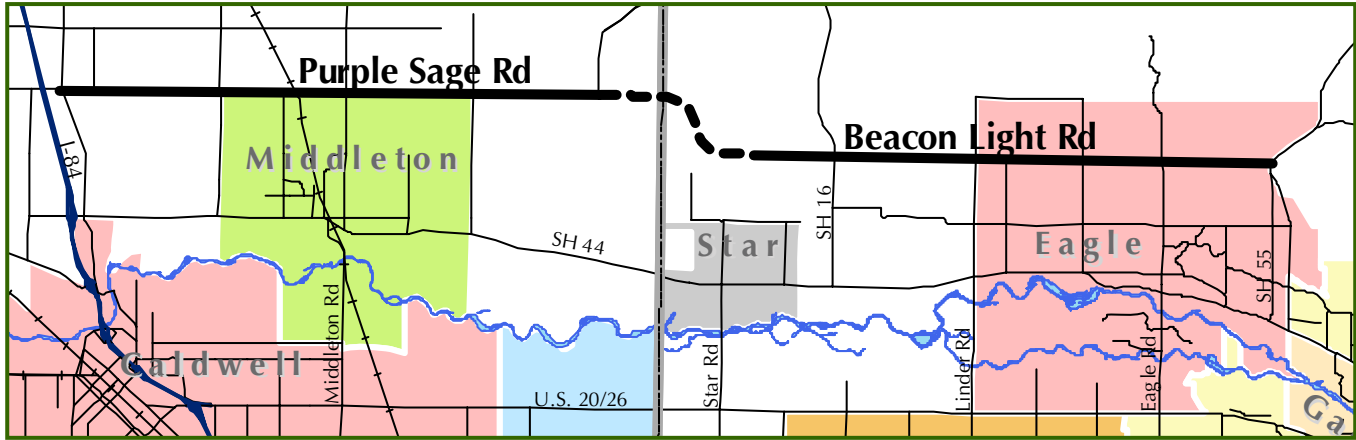
- ❖ While not a major transit corridor, provision should be made for park-and-rides.
- ❖ Improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be considered in future designs.

## Land use decisions needed to implement the plan:

- ❖ To reinforce the future land-use pattern, local governments along the corridor are recommended to focus development in designated growth areas.
- ❖ Land-use decisions need to ensure access to the Purple Sage/Beacon Light corridor is managed to maintain its function as a regional arterial.



# Regional Connection



## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Rapid population growth along the corridor will increase pressure on SH 44. The Purple Sage Road/Beacon Light Road corridor has an opportunity to evolve as an alternate route for drivers on SH 44 and is the most northern road before the foothills. The planned extension and widening of Beacon Light Road/Purple Sage Road will improve connectivity within the region. Recent annexations and platting activity north of the City of Star already challenge the possibility of the extension between Purple Sage Road and Beacon Light Road. Goodson Road, two miles north, is another opportunity for providing east-west capacity, although it has no connecting roadway east of SH 16.

Past and Current Investments through 2015	Funded Investments through 2035	Unfunded Improvements through 2035
<p>This is the first plan proposing a connection between Purple Sage Road and Beacon Light Road and the widening of Beacon Light Road.</p> <p>In 2008, the Ada County Highway District approved an alignment study regarding a connection between Beacon Light and Purple Sage Roads. <sup>1</sup></p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Beacon Light Road Extension: Purple Sage Road-SH 16. Construct new 2 lane road.\$4,033,000</p> <p>Beacon Light Road: SH 16-SH 55. Widen from 2 lanes to 5 lanes.\$48,701,000</p>

<sup>1</sup> The Purple Sage/Beacon Light Alignment Study can be found at <http://www.achdidaho.org/Projects/ProjectsPast.aspx>