

State Highway 44 (State Street)

State Highway 44 is a major east-west route north of Interstate 84 and links several communities in the Treasure Valley. Bus rapid transit is being planned.



WHY THIS CORRIDOR MATTERS

State Highway 44 (SH 44), also known as State Street, is the only east-west highway that links Canyon County to Ada County north of the Boise River. State Street is under ITD jurisdiction as SH 44 from Glenwood to I-84. SH 44 continues south on Glenwood to Chinden Boulevard. From Glenwood east to downtown Boise, State Street is under ACHD jurisdiction. State Street carries high levels of commuter traffic from Middleton and western Ada County, as well as commuters from Gem County via SH 16. Existing travel volumes range from 11,500 average daily traffic at the western terminus with I-84 in Canyon County, to 14,500 in the Star vicinity to 41,000 just west of Glenwood.

The corridor varies in character from the rural western edge to downtown Boise. Main areas include downtown Middleton, downtown Star, and the urban corridor from Eagle Road to downtown Boise. The City of Middleton comprehensive plan and the SH 44 Corridor Study have included an alignment for a bypass of downtown Middleton. A bypass of the City of Star was reviewed in the SH 44 Corridor Study but no options now exist for such a bypass. Further east, local and state agencies have been working on a plan to incorporate bus rapid transit into the State Street/SH 44 corridor.

Until additional river crossings can be identified and constructed, such as the Three Cities River Crossing, this highway will need to carry an ever increasing volume of traffic. Future volumes are forecasted to increase to 29,000 west of Middleton to 68,000 near Veterans Parkway by the year 2035.

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 State Highway 44 (SH 44) Corridor to meet CIM goals:

- ❖ From Eagle Road west to I-84, the corridor is recommended to be a four-lane, limited access arterial with design treatments determined by collaborative planning among Idaho Transportation Department, local highway districts, and local jurisdictions.
- ❖ Continued support for the completion of the corridor plan for SH 44 is needed.

Recommendations for State Highway 44 (SH 44) Corridor Public Transportation:

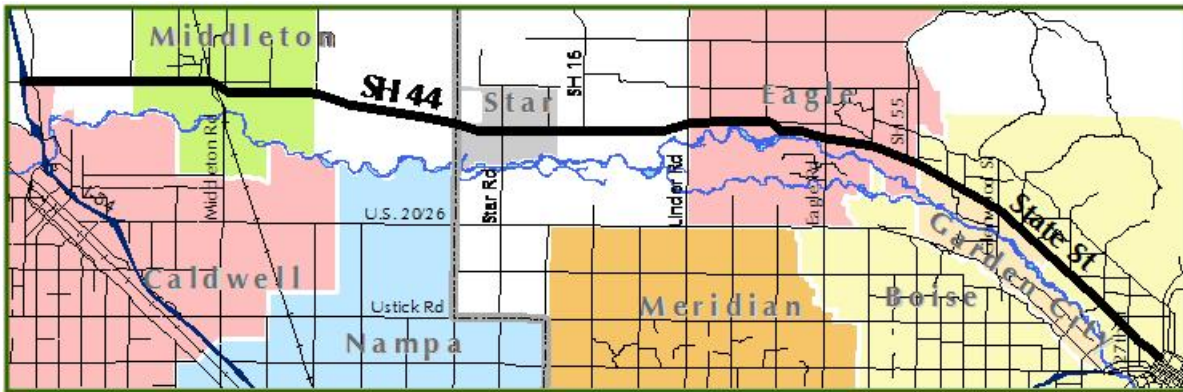
- ❖ This corridor is a candidate for bus rapid transit along with high-frequency local bus service.
- ❖ Development and street design should allow for direct access to transit stops and consider appropriate locations for shelters and bus pull-outs.
- ❖ Park-and-ride facilities should be considered at key locations.

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, especially those associated with BRT stations.
- ❖ Land-use decisions need to ensure access to the SH 44 corridor is consistent with the standards of the Idaho Transportation Department.



Regional Connection



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This corridor is rapidly being developed as the cities of Eagle, Star, and Middleton grow. The cost of right-of-way along the corridor increased dramatically during the past decade. The cities of Eagle and Middleton have recognized in their comprehensive plans the importance of maintaining traffic flow throughout the corridor. Eagle has adopted a system of parallel collector roadways that are being built by developers as the city grows. Middleton has adopted an alignment of a proposed alternate route. This action attempts to protect a viable alternate route south of the City of Middleton from development. The SH 44 Corridor Study found broad support for preserving the arterial function of the roadway enhanced with more investment in public transportation services to serve the urban population in the corridor. Changes in land use will be needed to focus growth near transit and to improve land use and transportation designs to foster transit, walking and biking. One challenge to maintaining traffic flow through the corridor is the section of the roadway through downtown Star.

Past and Current Investments through 2015	Funded Investments through 2035	Unfunded Improvements through 2035
<p>The State Street Corridor Study (north SH 55 to 23rd Street) was completed in 2004. The corridor would feature two new lanes for buses and carpools, full sidewalks and bike lanes to promote alternative transportation.</p> <p>Currently underway is Phase II of this project, the Traffic and Transit Operations Plan, follows up on recommendations approved under the initial State Street Corridor Study. Work focuses on implementing land use and transportation concepts.¹</p> <p>A corridor study is nearing completion for the segment between I-84 in Canyon County to Eagle Road in Ada County. ITD has budgeted funding for right of way acquisition but not for construction.²</p>	<p>Widen State Street between downtown Boise (starting at proposed Multi-Modal Center) to Eagle Road (SH 55) to accommodate a dedicated lane for transit.</p> <p>Improve State Street from Glenwood to 36th St. → \$36,700,000</p>	<p>Develop a bus rapid transit system between downtown Boise and Eagle Road and transit stations at activity centers along the corridor.</p> <p>Widen State Street between downtown Boise (starting at proposed Multi-Modal Center) to Eagle Road (SH 55) to accommodate a dedicated lane for transit. Remaining portion of SH 44 from SH 55 to Glenwood. \$20,341,000</p> <p>SH 44: I-84-Ballantyne Road. Widen from 2 lanes to 4 lane limited access highway. Includes a new alternate route around Middleton. \$108,773,000</p>

¹ Information on the State Street Corridor Transit Study can be found at <http://www.valleyregionaltransit.org/PROJECTSSTUDIES/STATESTREETCORRIDORSTUDY/tabid/174/Default.aspx>

² Information on the Idaho (S.H.) 44 Corridor Preservation Study can be found at <http://itd.idaho.gov/Projects/D3/SH44Corridor/>