

**Organization Completing Application:**

Please include organization name and mailing address.

Ada County Highway District  
3775 Adams St  
Garden City, ID 83614

**Contact person(s) in organization:**

Include any Washington, DC representatives. Please include phone numbers and e-mail address.

John S. Franden, President  
ACHD Commission  
(208) 938-1413  
[johnfranden@cablone.net](mailto:johnfranden@cablone.net)

Kathryn A. Levihn, PE, Manager  
Planning, Programming & Cost Estimating  
(208) 387-6109  
[klevihn@achd.ada.id.us](mailto:klevihn@achd.ada.id.us)

Ken Burgess  
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(208) 385-7070, ext 101  
[ken@veritasadvisors.com](mailto:ken@veritasadvisors.com)

Nils Johnson  
MGN, Inc.  
(202) 393-5937  
[Nils@mgninc.com](mailto:Nils@mgninc.com)

**Appropriations Bill/Subcommittee:** Transportation/Treasury

**Department (if applicable):** Department of Transportation

**Agency:** Federal Highway Administration

**Agency subdivision, program, account, activity, etc., through which this project would be funded:** (Please be specific; e.g.: "Department: USDA; Agency: Forest Service; Program: Road and Trail Construction")

Department: Transportation  
Agency: Federal Highway Administration  
Program: Highway Construction

**Project Name:** Three Cities River Crossing project

**Priority Ranking (if applicable):** First priority for roadway projects by Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (local MPO)

**Amount desired for project for FY 2007:** \$5,000,000

**How will funds be used? (Be specific – e.g. planning and design, construction, salaries, research and development, etc.):**

Right of way acquisition

**Amount desired for project in future years (by year):**

FY08 - \$3,000,000 ROW & \$2,000,000 Design  
FY09 - \$5,000,000 Construction  
FY10 - \$5,000,000 Construction  
FY11 - \$5,000,000 Construction  
FY12 - \$5,000,000 Construction  
SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization - \$7,000,000 Construction

**Total desired federal share (including previous years):**

FY02 STP-U - \$20,000 (includes \$1,468 local match)  
FY03 STP-U - \$1,137,086 (includes \$83,462 local match)  
FY04 STP-U - \$350,000 (includes \$25,690 local match)  
FY05 STP-U - \$431,000 (includes \$136,346 local match)  
FY07 STP-TMA - \$1,600,000 (includes \$117,440 local match)  
FY09 STP-TMA - \$1,050,000 (includes \$77,070 local match)  
SAFETEA-LU Appropriation FY05 – FY09 - \$750,000/year for a total of  
\$3,750,000 including local match  
Congressional Appropriations FY07 - \$5,000,000  
Congressional Appropriations Future Years - \$32,000,000

**Bill / Report language required (if any):**

(Please keep language as short and concise as possible.)

None

**Amount/policy included specifically for this item in the President's budget request for FY 2007:**

None

**Federal funding history (e.g. "\$100,000 in FY06, \$150,000 in FY05"): (all amounts include local match)**

\$20,000 STP-Urban FY2002 for Environmental Impact Statement  
\$1,137,086 STP-Urban FY2003 for Environmental Impact Statement  
\$350,000 STP-Urban FY2004 for Environmental Impact Statement  
\$431,000 STP-Urban FY2005 for Environmental Impact Statement  
\$3,750,000 – Authorized in SAFETEA-LU

**Did you complete a similar application last year (for FY 2006)? Yes / No**

**What other sources of funding have you pursued before applying for an appropriation, and with what success?** (E.g.: Foundation grants, competitive grants or contracts, state appropriation, bond issue, etc.)

1. The State of Idaho has contributed \$300,000 for the corridor and environmental study for this project.
2. Ada County Highway District has committed \$142,266 in match for the corridor and environmental study.
3. Ada County Highway District has programmed \$2,000,000 in FY2007 STP – TMA funds for right-of-way acquisition and \$1,000,000 in Project Development STP-TMA funds (likely FY2009) for construction. The District will provide match for the federal funds.
4. A total of \$33,000,000 of local funds has been programmed or is planned for this project as follows:
  - a. The District has programmed \$5,000,000 of local funds: \$1,000,000 in FY2008 for ROW, \$2,000,000 in FY2009 for ROW and \$2,000,000 in Project Development (likely FY2012).
  - b. The District is planning to use \$28,000,000 of local impact fees: \$3,400,000 in FY2008 for ROW and design, \$15,000,000 in FY2010 for construction and \$10,000,000 on FY2011 for construction.
5. The District is exploring a public-private partnership option with a land owner. Opportunities to create a mutually beneficial agreement will become clear once the Record of Decision is signed and the exact location of the alignment is defined (scheduled for Spring 2007).
6. The District will cooperate with other local governments to use remnant parcels for possible facility sites, including Park and Ride lots, recreation facilities, and storm water disposal sites. Opportunities for partnerships will become clear once the Record of Decision is signed and the exact location of the alignment is defined (scheduled for Spring 2007).
7. The project was listed under Executive Order #13274.

**Sources and amounts of matching funds:**

(Many federal programs require varying amounts of non-federal matches.)

Ada County Highway District has scheduled local funds to meet the required match.

**Relevant authorization law/bill/status:**

(e.g.: "Public Law 107-111"; "FY 2006 DOD Authorization"; "Currently pursuing authorization through Agriculture Committee"; "Safe Drinking Water Act" )

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) provides existing authority.

**BRIEF description of project (maximum 5 sentences):**

The Three Cities River Crossing is a new roadway and bridge that will provide a route across the Boise River and its benches, which are significant regional obstacles to travel, in a rapidly urbanizing area. In this area there is currently a four mile distance between river crossings. The project will provide a connection

between two important state highways (north terminus is intersection of SH 55 and SH 44) and US 20/26 (south terminus).

**Current status and additional background / justification for this project:**

(Include information such as location of project, work that has been completed to this point, budgets, etc.)

***Background***

The Three Cities River Crossing project will enhance traffic flow in the State, address environmental concerns, and provide options and choices for mobility. The project lies along the borders of three cities (Boise, Eagle, and Garden City) and includes portions of Ada County, all of which strongly support a connection to improve traffic flow in the region. Taken in its entirety, the project will provide connectivity between five counties (Ada, Canyon, Gem, Idaho, and Valley) and beyond. The project is designated as a principal arterial that would connect three US/State highways all designated as part of the National Highway System. The Idaho Transportation Department has several improvement projects on-going and programmed for all three: the SH 55 corridor to the north (one of only two north-south corridors in the State of Idaho), the US 20/26 corridor running east-west at the southern terminus and the US 44 corridor running east-west at the northern terminus.

A road in this location was first proposed in 1961 in the Major Thoroughfares Plan for the Boise Metropolitan Area. The need was reaffirmed in the 1995 Bench-Valley Study, which proposed several projects to create routes across the Boise River and its benches. Most of the proposed projects have been constructed or are in planning. The Three Cities River Crossing project has been included in regional long-range transportation plans for 2015, 2020, 2025 and the current Destination 2030 Limited Plan Update, the COMPASS Transportation Improvement Program, and the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Several intersections on the adjoining routes are already experiencing significant delays during peak hours and are projected to be substantially over capacity by the year 2015. Parallel routes to the east and west are showing annual increased levels of use and congestion, and this project would provide an alternate to those arterials, significantly relieving congestion. Without timely construction of this project, travel demand model projections indicate traffic on the existing river crossings (Eagle Road/SH 55 and Glenwood Street/SH 44) will exceed planning capacity of the roadways by 25 to 35 percent in 2015 and 40 to 60 percent in 2035.

According to the model provided by COMPASS, the area's metropolitan planning organization, the project reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and the associated air pollution. The project will incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including linkages to the regional greenbelt, and is coordinating with

Valley Regional Transit, the regional transit authority, and CommuterRide, which provides vanpools, to coordinate with other alternative transportation services including a possible Park-n-Ride lot.

Current estimates of the total cost range up to \$74 million, well beyond what can be funded from currently available local, state and federal funds.

When Ada County Highway District initiated the Three Cities project, the District committed to demonstrating environmental streamlining and stewardship principles. One step the District has taken is to initiate the Environmental Impact Statement early in the process of defining the exact alignment. Early impact analysis affords the best opportunity for environmentally responsive decisions by considering environmental consequences when there is the greatest opportunity to affect decisions. However, early analysis carries a potential liability; if the District does not take major steps to advance the project on a regular basis, the environmental approvals can expire, requiring costly re-studies. A predictable stream of funds and prompt action to advance the project will be essential to keeping the environmental approvals from expiring.

### **Status**

The Ada County Highway District initiated concept design and environmental studies in December 2003 to select an alignment for a connection from the intersection of SH 55 and SH 44, over the Boise River to US 20/26. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be complete by the end of FY 2006. The EIS will include sufficient design to allow acquisition of right-of-way. **ACHD is interested in purchasing right-of-way as soon as the EIS is complete because the cost of property is rising as much as 30% every six months in the area.**

With right of way and construction at an estimated cost of \$45-65 million, the project significantly exceeds ACHD's annual construction budget of about \$30 million per year. ACHD expects approximately \$29 million in impact fees will be available for this project in the future. \$7 million are currently programmed from the general fund and the Surface Transportation Program. SAFETEA-LU also appropriated \$3 million towards this project. However, these funding sources are not enough to pay for the entire project.

### **How many jobs in Idaho would be created, preserved, or supported if this project is funded? (And, if applicable, how many jobs outside of Idaho?)**

This project will support economic development in and around the project area. The project is located in an area undergoing substantial residential and commercial growth. The road/bridge project will reduce travel times and improve access between residential and commercial development in the area. It will also provide improved access to employment for people who commute from other counties.

ACHD convened a panel of developers and asked them to evaluate how the road/bridge project would impact development. They concluded that the project would:

- Increase commercial development at key intersections by 10-15%.
- Possibly increase the proportion of light industry in the area.
- Accelerate commercial development along State Highway 55 to the north.

The project will provide significantly improved access to the Hewlett Packard campus, a major employer in the region and improved access to employment for lower income populations in Garden City.

In addition, the project will provide an estimated 1000 construction jobs during two to three years of construction. This will be one of Idaho's largest construction projects. The scope of the project will be such that Idaho contractors will be competitive. Recently, Idaho contractors have successfully bid on construction of a new I-84 interchange.

**What other organizations, in the state, Washington DC, or nationally, publicly support this application?**

This project is publicly supported by:

- Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho – top priority for roadway projects
- Cities of Boise, Garden City and Eagle
- Ada County
- Federal Highway Administration
- Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

Governor Kempthorne supported this project in a letter regarding Presidential Executive Order #13274 for Environmental Streamlining. The COMPASS Board amended the Ada County long-range transportation plan in September 2002 to include this project as "build" rather than "corridor preservation" as well as voting on January 27, 2003 and December 20, 2004 to submit this project as one of its high priority requests to the Congressional Delegation. On January 23, 2006 the Board voted to make the Three Cities River Crossing its highest priority project for request to the Delegation. The Idaho Transportation Department Board has provided \$300,000 in state funds to advance the corridor and environmental study.

**What other organizations, in the state, Washington DC, or nationally, might oppose this application?** (Consider all possible factors, such as ideological differences, competitor organizations, federal agencies protecting their turf or budgets from "carve-outs," etc.)

None.

**Other Comments/Misc. information?** (Please attach separate sheets as needed or helpful.)

In a series of public meetings involving about 600 citizens in February 2004, the public overwhelmingly supported the need for the Three Cities River Crossing project. In follow up meetings involving about 380 citizens in December 2005, the public again indicated overwhelming support for the project. Their main concern was that the project needs to be built sooner than currently planned.

## Transportation Project Appendix

**Organization Completing Application:** [Ada County Highway District](#)

**Project Name:** [Three Cities River Crossing](#)

1. Other federal funds that have been or will be committed to this project (TEA-21, other appropriations bills, etc.)	Ada County Highway District has obtained \$1,754,086 in STP-Urban funds in FY03 and FY04 for the environmental study and concept design; and has programmed \$2,000,000 in FY2007 and \$1,000,000 in FY2009 local STP – TMA funds for right-of-way acquisition and construction. An additional \$3,750,000 was authorized in SAFETEA-LU (year funds available to be determined).								
2. Amount of anticipated non-federal match in FY2007, prior years, and future years	<table><tr><td>FY 2002-2006</td><td>\$ 142,266</td></tr><tr><td>FY2007</td><td>\$ 1,517,000</td></tr><tr><td><u>FY2008 –2012</u></td><td><u>\$ 8,680,000</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total:</td><td>\$10,339,266</td></tr></table>	FY 2002-2006	\$ 142,266	FY2007	\$ 1,517,000	<u>FY2008 –2012</u>	<u>\$ 8,680,000</u>	Total:	\$10,339,266
FY 2002-2006	\$ 142,266								
FY2007	\$ 1,517,000								
<u>FY2008 –2012</u>	<u>\$ 8,680,000</u>								
Total:	\$10,339,266								
3. Please identify any reason why the funding requested could not be obligated in full on the date of enactment of this Act	None.								



Mayor: Nancy C. Merrill

CITY OF EAGLE

P.O. Box 1520  
Eagle, Idaho 83616  
939-6813

Council: Stanley J. Bastian  
Phil Bandy  
Steve Guerber  
Scott Nordstrom

January 31, 2006

Honorable Larry Craig  
Member of the Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Michael Crapo  
Member of the Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress  
1339 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Member of Congress  
1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Craig and Crapo and Representatives Simpson and Otter:

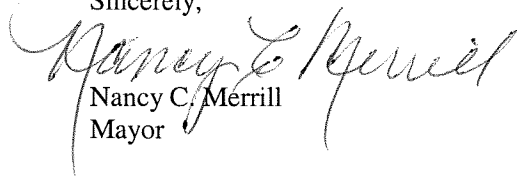
The City of Eagle supports the Three Cities River Crossing project as a needed improvement of regional significance in southwest Idaho, including the efforts to obtain designated funding through Idaho's congressional delegation under the FY 2007 appropriation funds process. The project has been shown on both the Ada County "Long Range Highway & Street Map – 2030 Functional Street Classification System" and the on the City's comprehensive plan "Transportation/Pathway Network Map #1 of 2" since 1999. Further, the City has continually included the following language as part of the yearly Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

"Accelerate the development of the extension of Highway 55 across the east end of Eagle Island to Chinden Boulevard generally as shown on the City of Eagle Transportation/Pathway Network Map #1 and within the 2025 Ada County Long Range Highway and Street Map."

The City has assigned a staff member to sit on the Technical Advisory Committee which provides valued input to the ongoing study of the Three Cities River Crossing project. Numerous meetings with agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Flood Control District No. 10, Department of Fish and Game, Boise City, Garden City, Ada County, and the Ada County Highway District, as well as multiple public meetings have all contributed to coordinate the planning of this facility. This roadway will provide a much needed additional connection between Chinden Boulevard (State Highway 20-26) and State Highway 44 and will reduce traffic congestion on Eagle Road and Glenwood Street, thereby enhancing the region's north/south traffic flow. We would like to state, however, that any proposed alignment that would connect the facility directly to Eagle Road is not amiable with the City's objectives.

If you have any questions please call me at 939-0227.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy C. Merrill  
Mayor

cc: City Council Members



"Nestled by the River"

## city of Garden City

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6015 Glenwood, Garden City, Idaho 83714  
Phone: (208) 472-2900 • Fax: (208) 472-2996

January 31, 2006

The Honorable Larry Craig  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
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1339 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
United States Representative  
1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Craig, Senator Crapo, Representative Simpson and Representative Otter:

The City of Garden City supports the Three Cities River Crossing project sponsored by the Ada County Highway District for the FY 2007 appropriation funds.

The proposed roadway and bridge system is an approximately 1.5 mile single connection from the intersection of State Street (State Highway 44) and State Highway 55 on the north to US 20/26 (Chinden Boulevard) at one or two points on the south. Without timely construction of this project, the COMPASS travel demand model predicts traffic on the existing river crossings (Eagle Road/State Highway 55 and Glenwood Street/State Highway 44) will exceed planning capacity of the roadways by 25 to 35 percent in 1015 and 40 to 60 percent in 2035. This important and widely supported project has been identified by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho as their top priority for designated federal funding.)

It is important to the City of Garden City to provide safety and connectivity throughout the Treasure Valley. This project will provide a good base for these objectives. As always, we appreciate your support of projects that benefit the citizens of the City of Garden City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John G. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

John G. Evans, Mayor

JGE:pjt



February 1, 2006

Senator Larry Craig  
520 Hart Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Mike Crapo  
239 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Rep. Mike Simpson  
1339 Longworth House Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Rep. Butch Otter  
1711 Longworth House Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Craig and Crapo and Representatives Simpson and Otter:

The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce supports the Three Cities River Crossing project sponsored by the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) for Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation funding.

This project appears on the Chamber's Transportation Project Priority List as approved by the Board of Directors in May, 2004.

The Chamber believes the Three Cities River Crossing is a critical north-south connection between Glenwood Street and Eagle Road, linking State Street with Chinden Boulevard. This is a project of regional significance for the metro area.

The Boise Metro Chamber requests your support for funding this project important for the economy of southwest Idaho.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Z. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dennis Johnson,  
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Vannorsdel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nancy Vannorsdel,  
President & CEO