I-84 project not funded again

Editor's Note

This article has been updated to provide the correct information about the section of Interstate 84 in question being the No. 1 unfunded project on COMPASS' long range plan.

A project to widen the stretch of Interstate 84 from Franklin Boulevard to Northside Boulevard in Nampa failed to get federal funding again this year.

Organizers will try to get more money from other sources — possibly businesses, private individuals or other government organizations — as they prepare to submit grant applications for federal aid again next year, said Kathy Parker, principal planner for resource development with Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho.

“Our local partners really stepped up to the plate and pledged match dollars, but we need to come up with more to be competitive,” Parker said.

The stretch of interstate in question narrows from three to two lanes and is part of a larger criticism on the state of I-84 in Canyon County.

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, grant is administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Idaho Department of Transportation, which requested the funding in collaboration with COMPASS, asked for $34.3 million in TIGER money.

A request for $59 million was submitted to FASTLANE, a grant program also administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. FASTLANE stands for Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies.

The TIGER grant awardees were announced July 29. While the FASTLANE grant awards are under congressional review before finalization, COMPASS Communication Coordinator Amy Luft said the project did not make the list submitted to Congress July 5, and it is unlikely the project will get added to it. Congress has 60 days to approve the FASTLANE grant awards.

Parker added the nature of the project makes it expensive. The basic plan is to add one lane going each direction on that stretch of I-84. A more expensive plan includes improving the interchanges at Franklin Boulevard and Northside Boulevard and installing a culvert on a bridge over railroad tracks and a canal.

The project has local funding matches from Nampa, $1 million; Canyon County, $500,000; and the Idaho Department of Transportation, $9.5 million if the TIGER grant came through and $38 million if FASTLANE comes through.
The section of I-84 between Franklin and Northside boulevards is the No. 1 unfunded prioritized project in COMPASS' long range plan, "Communities in Motion 2040," Parker said.

“We’re not going to give up trying,” Parker said of the effort to fund the roadway project.

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