Nampa pledged $1 million for Interstate-84 project

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NAMPA The Nampa City Council pledged $1 million in local funding if the Idaho Transportation Department receives a grant to fix a one-mile portion of Interstate 84, The Idaho Press-Tribune reports.

ITD is applying for two federal grants that could be used for improvements on I-84 between Franklin Boulevard and Northside Boulevard including widening the roadway from two to three lanes in each direction. The interstate currently narrows from three lanes down to two at Franklin Boulevard, creating a bottleneck for drivers traveling westbound during rush hour.
ITD officials are hoping to get one of the two grants to put toward the project. Last year, ITD collaborated with Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) to apply for a TIGER grant, but they were unsuccessful.

Nampa pledged a $1 million funding match on that application and the Canyon County Commissioners pledged $500,000 in funding.

ITD and COMPASS are trying again for a $34.3 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. That money would go toward a $45.4 million project on the interstate.

The agencies are also applying for a $59 million FASTLANE grant this time. The funding would contribute to a $98 million project. The FASTLANE funding would allow for more work to be done on the Northside Boulevard interchange, according to a COMPASS map.

ITD has also pledged $9.5 million in local funding for the project, according to spokeswoman Jennifer Gonzalez.

Matt Stoll, executive director of COMPASS, asked the Nampa City Council on Monday if it would approve the funding match along with a letter in support of the project to include in the applications. He said a local funding match is important for securing a grant.

The I-84 corridor has been identified by COMPASS as a top priority for improvements, but ITD doesn't have money in its budget for the projects. With the limited funding that ITD has, the agency can only use funds for projects that maintain the current system, not for expansions, Stoll said.

"Any expansion projects that we would like to do have to be through competitive grants through the federal program," he told the council.

The council unanimously approved the $1 million local funding match and support letter. The money from the city would be spread out evenly over three fiscal years.

If ITD can get the grant money, construction on the project is expected to be complete in August 2019, Stoll said.