

# With 4-mile I-84 stretch due for repave, what about the other 3 miles in Nampa?

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Numerous potholes received emergency repair Wednesday from the Idaho Transportation Department along westbound Interstate 84 between Nampa and Caldwell.

NAMPA — A 3-mile stretch of Interstate 84 in Nampa was omitted from Wednesday's announcement about a repaving project due to complications with getting grant funds, according to a transportation official.

The Idaho Transportation Board approved \$14 million Wednesday so the state this summer can repave the section of I-84 between Franklin Road in Caldwell, milepost 29, and the Karcher interchange in Nampa, milepost 33. This came after several weeks of hard winter weather that deteriorated the condition of the road. However, a section of interstate farther east, from the Karcher interchange to the Franklin Boulevard exit at milepost 36, was not approved as part of the resurfacing project.

While Nampa Mayor Bob Henry said ITD “took the right steps” in moving funding so the repaving could occur a year earlier than planned, he said the plan still falls short.

“It doesn’t make sense for ITD to hope that funds for the stretch between milepost 33 and milepost 36 can be secured,” Henry said in a statement. “Why not start at milepost 36 and work west?”

The 3 miles of interstate from Karcher east to Franklin is on track to be repaved in 2019, said Jake Melder, a spokesman for ITD. The road deteriorated this winter along with the interstate farther west, but allocating money and moving up schedules to fix those 3 miles is a little difficult, he said.

“We’re not ignoring the other 3-mile stretch,” he said. “We are looking for solutions there, but it’s just more complicated.”

The fact that ITD is applying for federal funding makes it difficult to simply move up the repaving schedule, Melder said. He was unable to elaborate.

ITD wants to widen I-84 from two to three lanes on that same 3-mile stretch, from Franklin Boulevard to the Karcher underpass. The challenge is finding the money to do it.

The state agency, along with the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, applied for two federal grants last year but were denied funding. In December, they applied for one of those grants again and are waiting to hear back.

Melder said ITD will continue to make repairs to the stretch of road between mileposts 31 and 36 after the weather improves.