IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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Infrastructure, Land Use & Transportation Committee

Monday, January 26, 2026 | 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Boise Centre | Boise, ID | Room 130

Meeting Agenda

2:30 pm Call to Order | *Chair Todd Smith*

- Welcome and Introductions
- *Kathleen Atkinson moved to approve the September 2025 Minutes. Bryce Somsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Area of Impact Planning (AOI) | *Gary Armstrong, Madison County Planner*
Gary Armstrong opened up his presentation by asking committee members what questions they have that they would like to see addressed. A question was asked about how counties are being good neighbors with cities that had ordinances in place in the area of impact. Armstrong pointed out that the cities do not have any authority to pass or enforce ordinances in the area of impact.

Ultimately, as long as a farmer wants to farm, they can continue to farm in the area of impact, because they cannot be annexed unless they agree to be annexed.

Armstrong reminded the committee that if they don't have a reasonable expectation of being able to expand into the area of impact they are requesting within the next five years, then the new law does not support that. Coordinating with your cities, if you have a city you can work with, is definitely the way to go if you can. Armstrong said they have a good relationship with the city of Rexburg. He sat down with the city planner to work on the AOI. Rexburg is reducing its AOI by 30-40% because it has had an AOI in place for the past 30 years that they don't think they will ever realistically expand into, and certainly not within the next 5 years.

Local Bridges & General LHTAC Update | *Laila Kral, Director, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC)*
Director Kral gave an update on the Leading Idaho Bridge program. $564 M is being utilized. Ninety-one bridges are currently in process. These are mostly the more

complicated projects that were left because they focused on the simpler, less expensive bridges first. They will get to more projects, but it will be slower to ensure that if you have a funded project, they can get it all the way through construction. She anticipates that by the end of this year, another round will likely open up.

With the LILB program, they are also still working on relocating historic trestle bridges. They have a private citizen who is adopting a bridge. Others are adopting bike and pedestrian crossings because they can handle that weight.

They have a T-2 training program. They adopted a new registration system. If you are a user of the T-2 Center, please be aware that there is a new registration program. Laila fields the majority of calls about what should be included in the annual road and street report. They don't collect it or mandate it, but they do provide line-by-line instructions for how to fill out the report. They will put together a webinar training before the next reporting cycle to help with this.

They have kits for closing down a four-way intersection that they give away each month through a random drawing.

There are still a few federal competitive grants available at the tail end of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

The update on the potential permitting reform push in Idaho presentation was canceled because the NTIA communications team did not allow the NTIA rep for Idaho/Oregon to present to local elected officials in Idaho.

3:20 pm Policy Update: Transportation Funding, Potential legislation on permitting, land use, short-term rentals etc.| *Sara Westbrook, Director of Government Affairs, Idaho Association of Counties*

Sara Westbrook gave an update on the governor's proposal not to fund the Strategic Initiative Program funds ($110M for locals). He intends for it to be a one-time cut, but we are concerned that once it is removed from the state budget, it will be extremely difficult to get it back in. IAC is working closely with our other local partners to ensure that legislators know what the impacts to their legislative districts will be if this funding is eliminated. Sara provided a breakdown of the impacts to every county, city, and highway district in each legislative district. County officials attending the meeting volunteered to share these sheets with their legislators and visit with them about the impacts. The sheets were distributed after the meeting adjourned.

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