

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1115

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TITLE  
2 40, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 40-529, IDAHO CODE, TO  
3 AUTHORIZE CERTAIN STUDIES REGARDING EFFICIENT AND SAFE HIGHWAY LINK-  
4 AGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 5, Title 40, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
9 ignated as Section 40-529, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 40-529. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDIES AUTHORIZED -- EF-  
11 FICIENT AND SAFE HIGHWAY LINKAGES. (1) It is the intent of the legislature to  
12 determine how the Idaho state highway system could be improved to facilitate  
13 safer and more efficient highway linkages in Idaho, including the study of  
14 existing and alternate routes.

15 (2) The Idaho transportation department is authorized and shall so-  
16 licit requests for proposals for the purpose of conducting planning and  
17 environmental linkages (PEL) studies to determine the most efficient and  
18 safe north-south highway routes in Idaho. Such studies shall include:

19 (a) A study of the efficient and safe transportation of commerce and  
20 the traveling public specific to the state highway 95, state highway 55,  
21 and state highway 16 corridors from the treasure valley, including the  
22 cities of Boise, Meridian, Nampa, and Caldwell, north to the city of New  
23 Meadows on state highway 95 and the city of McCall on state highway 55;  
24 and

25 (b) A study of how a bypass route might be established south of inter-  
26 state highway I-84 to link the Nampa region, such as where Middleton  
27 road passes over interstate highway I-84, to an area south of the city  
28 of Boise, such as near the blacks creek road exit on interstate highway  
29 I-84.

30 (3) The department is authorized to utilize prior, relevant studies or  
31 any studies that may already be underway to accomplish the objectives of this  
32 section.

33 (4) The department is authorized to accept financial donations from  
34 private individuals, businesses, and organizations for the purposes of:

35 (a) Offsetting the costs of the PEL studies as provided for in this  
36 section, including all associated planning, analysis, and reporting  
37 costs; and

38 (b) Upon the completion of the PEL studies, additional engineering,  
39 design, and construction costs directly related to the project or  
40 projects identified in the studies.

41 (5) The department shall maintain detailed records of all funds re-  
42 ceived and expenditures made pursuant to this section. An annual report

1 summarizing the sources and uses of funds shall be made available to the pub-  
2 lic, and such information shall be included in the report required pursuant  
3 to subsection (6) of this section.

4 (6) The department shall complete the studies provided for in this sec-  
5 tion on or before July 1, 2027, and shall, on or before that date, publish a  
6 report on its website describing the complete findings of such studies and  
7 issuing recommendations regarding the provisions of subsection (2) of this  
8 section. An electronic copy of the report shall be delivered to the legisla-  
9 tive services office and shall be distributed to the senate and house trans-  
10 portation committees.

11 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
12 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
13 passage and approval.