

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32421 / S1115

The purpose of this act is to prioritize and advance current Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) studies designed to assess and guide improvements to Idaho's highway infrastructure. This legislation directs the Idaho Department of Transportation to undertake and complete a study of the traffic corridors of existing State Highway 55, existing State Highway 16, and existing State Highway 95, a bypass route for I-84 linking the communities of Nampa and Caldwell south to Kuna, eastward to I-84 near Blacks Creek and of potential alternative routes for safe vehicular travel between central Idaho and the Treasure Valley. The act also directs the department to incorporate completed and on-going studies of these corridors, and to have the studies completed by July 1, 2027.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation requires no additional or new general fund appropriation but will require the Department to reprioritize its existing long range planning budget. There is significant interest in the private sector and among other public entities to prioritize these studies, and authorization is granted for the Department to accept private funding to offset the costs. It is anticipated that approximately 25% of the cost of the studies would be offset by the private sector.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).