

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUN-
3 CIL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF CERTAIN
4 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN IDAHO.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, State Highway 55 is a vital road that provides the primary ve-
7 hicular travel connection between central Idaho and the Treasure Valley; and
8 WHEREAS, as the population of Idaho has increased, so too has vehicle
9 traffic on State Highway 55, resulting in significant traffic congestion on
10 State Highway 55 during high-volume periods, including the months of June,
11 July, and August; and

12 WHEREAS, with increased traffic congestion comes increased vehicle ac-
13 cidents and fatalities. According to the Idaho transportation department,
14 in the period from 2018-2022 there were 900 accidents and 25 fatalities on
15 State Highway 55; and

16 WHEREAS, State Highway 55, particularly that portion running along the
17 west side of the Payette River between Horseshoe Bend and Rainbow Bridge, af-
18 fords views of a uniquely scenic and beautiful portion of the Gem State that
19 is unquestionably worthy of protection; and

20 WHEREAS, the route followed by State Highway 55, although scenic and
21 beautiful, does not offer sufficient additional width for meaningful en-
22 largement of the roadway absent significant earthmoving activity, which
23 could greatly increase the incidence of geologic instability adjacent to a
24 major vehicular travel route; and

25 WHEREAS, because State Highway 55 is a two-lane roadway for most of the
26 distance between Horseshoe Bend and Round Valley, traffic accidents and
27 other emergency situations that occur on State Highway 55 inevitably result
28 in unsafe conditions and delays; and

29 WHEREAS, existing roadways for north-south travel by vehicle between
30 central Idaho and the Treasure Valley currently are limited in both number
31 and capacity; and

32 WHEREAS, enhancing Idahoans' options for north-south vehicle travel
33 would reduce traffic accidents, increase the interconnectivity of Idaho's
34 small towns, and promote tourism and agribusiness, both of which are crucial
35 to maintaining a healthy state economy; and

36 WHEREAS, implementing alternative north-south routes would unlock the
37 center of the Gem State, thereby enabling economic growth and the creation
38 of new jobs in industries that have been landlocked by the current lack of
39 vehicle connectivity; and

40 WHEREAS, identifying alternative routes for vehicular travel would
41 help ensure the safe and expedient movement of vehicles, materials, sup-
42 plies, and people between central Idaho and the Treasure Valley, thereby

1 improving recreation opportunities and generally raising Idahoans' quality
2 of life.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
4 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
5 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is autho-
6 rized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of existing
7 transportation corridors including State Highway 55, State Highway 16,
8 and State Highway 95, and of potential alternate routes for safe vehicular
9 travel between central Idaho and the Treasure Valley.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council shall determine the
11 number of legislators and membership from each house appointed to the com-
12 mittee and shall authorize the committee to receive input, advice, and as-
13 sistance from interested and affected parties who are not members of the Leg-
14 islature.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council may authorize the
16 committee to appoint nonlegislative advisors with technical expertise with
17 regard to transportation infrastructure, civil engineering, and legal in-
18 formation and issues, and such other subjects as the committee deems neces-
19 sary or advisable for the committee to efficiently conduct and complete its
20 business.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any nonlegislative advisors to the commit-
22 tee are not members of the committee, shall not be reimbursed from legisla-
23 tive funds for per diem, mileage, or other expenses, and shall not have vot-
24 ing privileges regarding the committee's recommendations or proposed legis-
25 lation.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,
27 recommendations, and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular
28 Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature.