

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24, As Amended

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, State Highway 95 is the primary north-south highway in Idaho
9 and is a vital transportation corridor between the Boise metropolitan area
10 and the Canadian border; and

11 WHEREAS, as the population of Idaho has increased, so too has vehicle
12 traffic on State Highway 55 and State Highway 95, resulting in significant
13 traffic congestion during high-volume periods, including the months of
14 June, July, and August; and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, a railroad right-of-way that is not currently being used fol-
29 lows a similar route as Highway 55 between Horseshoe Bend and Cascade; and

30 WHEREAS, State Highway 55 and State Highway 95 are vital to the
31 economies of the communities within their transportation corridors, and it
32 is critical that such communities not be adversely affected by any changes
33 to such transportation corridors; and

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

38 WHEREAS, existing roadways for north-south travel by vehicle between
39 Canada and the Treasure Valley currently are limited in both number and ca-
40 pacity; and

41 WHEREAS, enhancing Idahoans' options for north-south vehicle travel
42 would reduce traffic accidents, increase the interconnectivity of Idaho's

1 small towns, and promote tourism and agribusiness, both of which are crucial
2 to maintaining a healthy state economy; and

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

7 WHEREAS, identifying alternative routes for vehicular travel would
8 help ensure the safe and expedient movement of vehicles, materials, sup-
9 plies, and people between Canada and the Treasure Valley, thereby improving
10 recreation opportunities and generally raising Idahoans' quality of life.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
12 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
13 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is autho-
14 rized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of existing
15 transportation corridors including State Highway 55, State Highway 16, and
16 State Highway 95, unused railroad rights-of-way, potential alternate routes
17 for safe vehicular travel between Canada and the Treasure Valley, and the
18 economic impacts of any proposed solutions on existing communities within
19 the State Highway 55 and State Highway 95 corridors.

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council may authorize the
26 committee to appoint nonlegislative advisors with technical expertise with
27 regard to transportation infrastructure, civil engineering, and legal in-
28 formation and issues, economics, and such other subjects as the committee
29 deems necessary or advisable for the committee to efficiently conduct and
30 complete its business.

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

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