



*Project Newsletter*

*Volume 5: August 2006*

## ***In this Issue:***

- Project Status
- Project Team
- Design Development
- Right of Way Acquisition

## **Project Status**

It has been some time since our last update. This newsletter provides an update on the work that has been progressing on the project.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was filed in August 2005 to select Alternative G. Work has continued on the design and plans for construction. A copy of the ROD is available from Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD).

## **Project Team**

Since the last update the project team has some new faces. The partners on the project – East Side Highway District, Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and WFLHD remain the same.

Greg Gifford, P.E., PMP, has taken over the reigns of project management from Sajid Aftab. Greg is new to WFLHD, but brings years of experience from county and state government in the northwest.

Also new to this project is Andy Rasmussen, Environmental Specialist. Andy's job is to ensure that the commitments made in the EIS are followed through in the construction plans.

DJ&A, Consulting Engineers from Missoula, MT are assisting WFLHD with the completion of construction plans.

The project team will also continue to work with appropriate permitting and regulatory agencies in developing the project.

## **Design Development**

DJ&A has been further developing the preliminary plans produced during the EIS process. This includes a number of revisions and details to make the set of plans complete. We recently completed a Plan-in-Hand field review to look at some design issues on the ground. Currently, the plans are about 75% complete.



**PIH Field Review - July 2006**

## Right of Way Acquisition

Acquisition of needed right-of-way has also begun. For adjacent property owners, you may

have talked with an appraiser on site, or will likely be contacted soon. After appraisals are complete affected property owners will receive letters to inform them about the process.

## What's Next?

Complete Construction Plans

Now – February 2007

R/W Appraisals

Now – September 2006

Obtain Project Permits

by January 2007

R/W Acquisition

September 2006 – January 2007

Utility Agreements and Coordination

Now – June 2007

Advertise Contract

April 2007

Award Contract

July 2007

Construction

Fall 2007 – Spring 2009

## Keeping You Informed

Thanks you for your continuing support and interest in the Fernan Lake Road safety improvement project. As the design is near completion, we are not anticipating any further public involvement activities other than ROW acquisition meetings. Your comments on the project are always welcome and will receive consideration. Please send your comments:

- by email to [greg.gifford@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:greg.gifford@fhwa.dot.gov)
- by phone to Greg Gifford, Project Manager, at 360.619.7622, or
- by mail to Greg Gifford at FHWA's return address

Information on the project, including the development history, EIS, and ROD, can be found on the project website at: <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/fernand/>. Please be aware that the website has had only limited updates since publishing the ROD.



U.S. Department of Transportation

**Federal Highway Administration**

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