

U.S. 12 & 21st Street Intersection Project

Public Meeting Summary

December 2016

The Idaho Transportation Department hosted a **U.S. 12/ 21st Street Intersection Project** public meeting on Dec. 14, 2016. ITD is designing several improvements to this busy intersection in downtown Lewiston. The public meeting provided an opportunity for the community to learn about the project and give input about the preliminary design.



ITD notified the community about the meeting through a postcard invitation, personal phone calls and visits to nearby businesses, and a media release.

Meeting attendees were invited to stop by between 4 and 7 p.m. to view display boards and submit written comment sheets. Members of the project team were on hand to answer questions. In addition, business owners were invited to come early to speak one-on-one with project staff.

Key Findings

Sixty-five people attended the public meeting and 25 people submitted comment sheets about the project. Mostly commonly heard comments included:

- Enthusiastic support for the new intersection design.
- Support for specific traffic improvements (e.g., improved safety and drainage).
- Support for bicycle/pedestrian improvements.
- A wide variety of questions and general comments (e.g., who would be responsible for landscaping).
- A wide variety of specific suggestions about design elements (e.g., turn lanes).



A detailed summary of comments begins on page 2.

Summary of Comments

ITD received 25 comment sheets or emails with input about the U.S. 12/21st Street Intersection Project. Comments varied widely but were overwhelmingly supportive.

Frequent themes

- **Enthusiastic support for the new intersection design**
- **Support for specific traffic improvements**

Commenters gave a wide variety of reasons why they supported the proposed design including:

- Safety improvements
- Efficient traffic flow
- Drainage improvements
- The right-in, right-out at Idaho/21st Street
- The ability to turn south onto 21st from eastbound US 12
- The dead end at G Street
- Pedestrian-controlled, free-running right-turn lanes (westbound U.S. 12 to City Center and Main to eastbound U.S. 12)

- **Support for bicycle/pedestrian improvements**

Commenters mentioned:

- Bicycle access to bridge
- Proposed bike/ped path
- Lighted crosswalk/pedestrian crossings and/or sidewalks

- **Suggestions and questions about specific design elements**

A full list of suggestions and questions is included in the next section.

Suggestions and questions

Suggestions about the design were detailed and helpful, but varied widely. Repeated suggestions included:

- Address landscaping (i.e., be clear about landscaping the City of Lewiston will manage, and/or provide funds for landscaping).
- Add signage for cyclists and out-of-town visitors (i.e., at Hells Gate Campground).
- Continue to improve connectivity between bicycle routes, or consider bike lanes.

Other suggestions included:

Turn lanes and intersection changes

- Add a free-running right from 21st to Main Street.

- Make 7th Avenue either one way westbound, or a right-turn-only for eastbound traffic going to 21st Street)
- The intersection of 19th and U.S. 12 should be a “T” intersection.
- The left-turn on 21st Street (to Idaho Street) should be in a separate turn lane, instead of causing backups on 21st Street.

Access

- Add access to G Street from eastbound US 12.
- Add access to Idaho Street from northbound 21st Street.

Other comments

- Please explain construction impacts on local businesses.
- Work with the City of Lewiston on storm water and pipe fixes.
- Closing G Street will slightly increase response times at Lewiston Fire Station #1, but the increase appears to be negligible.
- Sight distance on Highway 12 may not be sufficient without removing trees.
- Add parking spaces to the cul-de-sac at G/21st for Locomotive Park visitors.
- Consider how left-turn signals will affect motorcycles. If the sensor does not “see” a motorcycle, the rider will need to make an unprotected left turn.
- The 16th/G Street intersection will be hazardous. Mail trucks will be trying to get through the narrow streets.
- U.S. 12 should be a bypass.
- Do not build the cul-de-sac off G Street.
- Semi trucks hold up traffic in the afternoons (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) when they cross the intersection.
- Do not build the raised island in the southwest corner near Harley-Davison. It will put pedestrians in harm’s way.
- Consider using an asphalt layer on top of base so you can move traffic during construction phasing. Concrete could be completed one lane at a time once the lanes are reconfigured, allowing final joint configurations to accurately match travel lanes.