



U.S. 26 in eastern Idaho (District 6).

U.S. 26

East-west U.S. 26, which connects the West Coast with Ogallala, Nebraska, runs through southern Idaho between Oregon and Wyoming. The highway enters eastern Idaho at the Blaine-Butte County line and crosses the Snake River Plain before paralleling the Snake River and Palisades Reservoir to Wyoming. Of this route, District 6 manages a 67-mile corridor, which is divided into five segments.

Segment 1. Beach's Corner (milepost 338) northeast of Idaho Falls to the intersection of the Ririe business loop (milepost 348). Beach's Corner forms the junction of U.S. 26 and Idaho 43.

Average daily traffic on the 10-mile stretch is 7,500 vehicles at Beach's Corner, which decreases to 5,100 vehicles at the Ririe business loop. ITD expects traffic volume along the section to slowly increase, continuing its upward trend.

Prior to reconstructing the segment from two to four lanes in 2010, fatal crashes along the road averaged one per year. Since reconstruction, no fatalities have been reported. The speed limit along the stretch is 60 mph.

Segment 2. Ririe business loop (milepost 348) to the top of Granite Hill (milepost 369).

Average daily traffic on this 21-mile stretch is 3,700 vehicles east of the business loop and 4,200 vehicles at Granite Hill. ITD expects traffic volume to remain constant.

Fatal crashes along the two-lane segment, which is in good condition, average one every two years. The speed limit is 65 mph.

Segment 3. Top of Granite Hill (milepost 369) to Palisades Dam (milepost 387).

Average daily traffic on the 18-mile stretch decreases from 4,200 vehicles at Granite Hill to 2,300 vehicles at Palisades Dam. ITD expects traffic volume to remain at these levels.

Fatal crashes on the two-lane route, which is in good condition, also average one every two years. The speed limit is 55 mph.

Segment 4. Palisades Dam (milepost 387) to Wyoming (milepost 402).

Average daily traffic on the 15-mile stretch decreases from 2,300 vehicles at Palisades Dam to 2,200 vehicles at the Wyoming line. ITD expects traffic volume to remain constant.

Fatal crashes on the two-lane segment, which is in good condition, average one every five years. The speed limit is 55 mph.

Segment 5. Ririe business loop from U.S. 26 to Ririe and from Ririe to U.S. 26.

Average daily traffic on the 3-mile stretch is 1,500 vehicles west of Ririe and 1,300 vehicles south of Ririe. ITD expects traffic volume to remain approximately the same.

Fatal crashes on the two-lane loop, which is in good condition, have not been reported since 1987, when ITD began keeping crash records. The speed limit is 35 to 55 mph.

The 67-mile stretch of U.S. 26 under District 6 management has eight bridges, the largest of which spans the Snake River. Reduced visibility and slick roads caused by blowing and drifting snow close parts of the corridor in winter storms, especially segments 2 and 3 east of Ririe. The route has three weather information stations for collecting data on road conditions (click "Cameras" at <http://lb.511.idaho.gov/idlb/cameras/routeselect.jsf;jsessionid=70D4821415F131B6D95A0329622B8F1F?view=state&text=m&textOnly=false>).