



# News Release

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## **One lane now temporarily open for local traffic only through US-95 slide near Council**

COUNCIL—One lane of U.S. Highway 95 is now temporarily open at the slide at milepost 146.5 north of Council. This lane will only be for local traffic and only open during daylight hours between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. until contractor equipment begins work next week.

The highway will fully close each night as crews will only visually monitor the route during daylight for slumps or cracks that could indicate another slide.

Commercial vehicles will not be allowed on the route to avoid the narrow road. Flaggers in New Meadows and Council will direct these vehicles to turn around. The Idaho Transportation Department is working on modifying the permitting process to allow for commercial vehicles to take State Highway 55 instead. Drivers should expect to see more trucks on SH-55 and practice patience.

The engineering team is reviewing data from foundation drilling yesterday and are expecting a design of a retaining wall by Tuesday that will be anchored by steel piles driven into the stable rock layers of the slope. This data will tell the team where and how deep to drive the steel piles, and land surveyor data collected the last few days will identify the full size of the slide for wall length and height design.

ITD has a prime contractor at the ready and will be working simultaneously with the design team to secure materials and any subcontractors prior to the repairs starting next week.

[Download a photo of the slide.](#)

There are no local detours that are passable this early in the season and able to withstand the impact of highway traffic.

ITD will issue another update next week once the design for the repairs has been completed and future impacts to traffic are better known. Drivers may not be able to pass through the slide area once repairs are underway given the size of equipment that will be on site. The highway will likely be impacted through late April.

Workers have been on scene since the hillside gave way on Sunday following steady rainfall.

For 24/7 updates on the status of the highway, visit [511.idaho.gov](http://511.idaho.gov), download the 511 app or call 511 for updates on this closure.

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