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News Release

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Willow Creek Bridge south of Emmett to be replaced starting June 20

BOISE - The two-lane bridge north of Firebird Raceway on Idaho 16 will be replaced with a wider, three-lane structure starting **June 20**. The Idaho Transportation Department expects this project to finish in late November.

The bridge replacement, about eight miles south of Emmett at milepost 6.3, will result in a significantly wider bridge - 54 feet wide compared to the current 36-foot width. It also will be slightly longer - 108 feet instead of the current 90 feet. The new bridge will be a single-span structure.

The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph during construction. Traffic will be shifted, but one lane each way will be maintained. Work will begin on the east half of the bridge.

Crews will use traffic drums, temporary guardrail and striping, and normal traffic-control signing. A portable message sign will be installed to alert drivers to the upcoming project a week prior to the beginning of construction.

In addition to replacing the bridge, built in 1959, the project will require approach work to accommodate the new width of the structure and construction of a temporary detour on the west side of the existing bridge to handle southbound Idaho 16 commuter traffic.

The center lane on the new bridge will transition to match up with the current center turn lane south of the bridge, at the intersection of Chapparal Lane. North of the bridge, the road will be tapered from three lanes to match the existing two-lane configuration.

The project will improve the poor condition of the bridge substructure.

Concrete Placing Co., of Boise, is the contractor on this $1.1 million project