



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Idaho Division

December 15, 2014

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In Reply Refer To:
HPR-ID

Mr. Brian W. Ness, Director
Idaho Transportation Department
P. O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707

Attn: Blake Rindlisbacher, Engineering Services Division Administrator

RE: NHS Network Error Corrections Request

Dear Mr. Ness:

The purpose for this letter is to request that ITD initiate steps to address errors in Idaho's National Highway System (NHS) network as depicted in FHWA's official maps at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national_highway_system/nhs_maps/idaho/index.cfm and as reflected in Idaho's annual HPMS data submittals.

The two types of errors that are of particular concern to FHWA at this time are:

1. Intended but unrecorded changes to the NHS as a result of highway construction projects; and
2. Additions to the NHS in conjunction with MAP-21 which were based on misinterpretations of Idaho's highway network.

With respect to unrecorded changes to Idaho's NHS, it has come to our attention that since the NHS was first established, there have been a number of highway projects in Idaho which have introduced changes to NHS alignments or routing but which have not been submitted to FHWA for formal approval and the updating of Idaho's network.

As for the additions (enhancements) to the NHS as called for by MAP-21, it has come to our attention that a number of the roadways added to Idaho's portion of the NHS by FHWA Headquarters were based upon incorrect interpretations of Idaho's existing highway network. Specifically, it has been discovered that FHWA Headquarters misinterpreted a number of grade-separations of principal arterials in Idaho to be actual intersecting (connecting) roadways. As a result, FHWA added several principal arterials to the enhanced NHS which failed to meet the MAP-21 criteria restricting additions to those principal arterials connecting on at least one end to the pre-MAP-21 NHS network.

In conferring with our FHWA Headquarters Office on this matter, they have asked that for the above described two types of NHS errors ITD should submit change requests so that corrections

to the network can be made. For the unrecorded change errors, ITD's request should consist of an explanation and justification for each such change in accordance with the general guidance outlined in 23 CFR 470, Appendix D. As for the MAP-21 enhancement implementation errors, the request should include a brief explanation and statement of justification, along with extracted shape files for each change.

In light of the fact that these changes are to address errors and omissions in the updating of the network, no formal coordination and outreach process with the affected MPOs or other local officials is necessary in conjunction with the submittal of these corrections. However, a brief notification on the nature of and need for these changes would be appropriate.

Your follow up on the above matter will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call me (334-9180, ext. 115) if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Scott Frey".

R. Scott Frey
Transportation Engineer

cc: ITD: Tom Points, Transportation Systems Engineer
Glenda Fuller, Roadway Data Manager
Margaret Pridmore, HPMS Coordinator
Erika Bowen