

http://www.idahopress.com/news/local/transportation-board-approves-funding-to-widen-i--in-nampa/article_a893efaa-90b4-583b-afe6-f0194a1a49a2.html

Transportation board approves funding to widen I-84 in Nampa

By IDAHO PRESS- TRIBUNE STAFF newsroom@idahopress.com Apr 21, 2017

Tired of seeing surveys on articles? If you are a subscriber, simply [log in](#) or [Subscribe now!](#)

×



Chris Bronson/IPT

[Buy Now](#)

Traffic travels on Interstate 84 near the Franklin exit in Nampa on Wednesday afternoon. A bill passed by the Idaho Legislature could mean that a segment of I-84 stretching from Franklin Boulevard to the Karcher Road underpass in Nampa, about 2 miles of road altogether, gets widened from two to three lanes in both directions.

NAMPA — The Idaho Transportation Board unanimously approved funding to repair and add lanes on Interstate 84 from Franklin Boulevard to Karcher Road in Nampa.

The board approved \$150 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bonds, more commonly known as GARVEE bonds, according to the Idaho Transportation Department. That will allow ITD to move forward on a widening project that will add a third lane in each direction and reconstruct existing lanes on the stretch of Canyon County interstate. The project also includes bridge upgrades between Franklin and Karcher.

“We recognize this I-84 corridor presents immediate safety and congestion concerns,” chairman of the board Jerry Whitehead said in a statement. “ITD engineers have shown a readiness to tackle the project and the board supports moving quickly to improve this section of road.”

ITD staff completed initial planning and an environmental assessment to move the project along quickly.

This project takes up half the amount lawmakers granted this session in Senate Bill 1206. The bill authorizes the state to bond up to \$300 million under GARVEE, a program that allows states to pay for road projects by borrowing against future federal highway payments. It also includes compromises made with House leadership, like extending the surplus eliminator sunset date for two more years and establishing a fund that would be for transportation expansion and congestion mitigation.

The only section of I-84 that would be funded by the approved GARVEE funds is between the Karcher underpass and Franklin Boulevard in Nampa. Fixing that stretch is possible because it's the only segment that already has undergone a formal environmental impact statement. The rest of the interstate to Caldwell is also on the state's list of priorities, but lawmakers will have to figure out another way to pay for the project.

The transportation board will review other corridors outlined in the bill and determine how to use other revenue streams lawmakers created this year, according to ITD.