

# Karcher interchange project intended to ease traffic congestion

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- Courtesy of ITD/City of Nampa

While the Idaho Transportation Department and City of Nampa have not announced a start date, the Karcher interchange at Interstate 84 Exit 33 will undergo construction to alleviate traffic congestion. It is hoped that construction will begin sometime this year.

## Editor's Note

This story has been updated to reflect how much the city of Nampa will contribute to the project.

NAMPA — Motorists should anticipate some changes later this year at the Karcher interchange.

A \$2.85 million construction project funded by the city of Nampa and the Idaho Transportation Department is planned to ease congestion at the intersection of Midland Boulevard and the Karcher Bypass.

“This is a real priority,” Councilman Paul Raymond said during Monday’s City Council meeting.

“It’s going to integrate with widening the interstate from Karcher to Franklin, it’s going to be part of the whole package. I think we should do it.”

A study commissioned by the city and ITD estimated that once the project is complete, motorists will experience a significant reduction in traffic delays.

The City Council approved adding to Nampa’s financial contribution to the project Monday. Originally projected at \$500,000, the city’s contribution will be a little more than \$1 million instead due to an updated assessment of the project. ITD is providing \$2.29 million.

No start date has been announced, though construction is likely to impact traffic in the area. The project is going out for bid this spring with the hopes of beginning construction later this year.

The changes include adding a second southbound lane on Midland Boulevard that goes through the intersection and a second left-turn lane from the Karcher Bypass to southbound Midland Boulevard. This will be accomplished by eliminating the off-ramp that splits from the main exit loop coming off westbound Interstate 84. Instead, all exiting vehicles will be directed to the Midland Boulevard and Karcher Bypass intersection.

Additionally, raised medians will be installed on Midland Boulevard north of the intersection to the next traffic signal by the McDonald's fast food restaurant and on the Karcher Bypass to the Marketplace Boulevard intersection to improve traffic safety.