



COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
of Southwest Idaho

# State Highway 55/Midland Boulevard Bottleneck In City of Nampa

## Priority 23

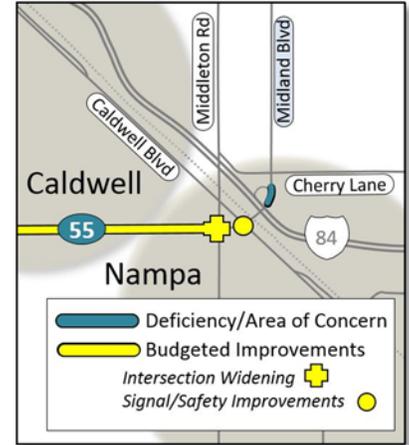
### Background

*Update! This project has been funded; see below.*

When it opened in 2006, the I-84 interchange for State Highway 55 (Karcher Road) and Midland Boulevard spurred development on the north/east side of I-84.

### The Corridor at a Glance

- A four-lane roadway
- Bike lanes on both sides of Midland, continuing over I-84 past Caldwell Boulevard
- Sidewalks on both sides of Midland north of the bottleneck, but only on the south/east side of the overpass to Caldwell Boulevard
- No bus service north/east of I-84 on Midland Boulevard
- Suburban/commercial area, including Karcher Mall, Treasure Valley Marketplace, St. Luke's Nampa



Current and Future <sup>1</sup>	2013	2040
Employment	1,128	2,412

### Problem

A bottleneck occurs on the north side of I-84, where southbound traffic on Midland Boulevard is reduced to just one through lane. This already causes congestion on Midland Boulevard at peak hours and it will only worsen if no changes are made.

- Traffic is projected to more than double on Midland Boulevard, from about 14,000 vehicles per day in 2013 to 37,000 in 2040.
- Employment in this small area is also expected to double by 2040.

### Other Considerations

#### Roadway Users

Most of the analysis to identify the increased traffic issue is based on cars, the main mode of transportation on streets and highways. Pedestrians, as well as vehicles such as bicycles, freight trucks, farm equipment, and buses, may also share the road.

#### Budgeted Projects

**New!** As of June 2016, a project to modify the I-84/Karcher Road interchange and add a through-lane on Midland Boulevard has been funded. The project will add a second southbound through lane (approximately 500 feet) on Midland Boulevard at the I-84/Karcher Interchange; add a second westbound-to-southbound left turn lane on the Karcher Bypass; remove the 33B off-ramp; and modify the 33A loop ramp configuration to accommodate the additional lane. The estimated cost of the project is \$2,590,000; construction is proposed for FY2017.

There are no other road, pathway, or park-and-ride construction projects, or any new bus services, in approved budgets for Midland Boulevard north of I-84. ITD maintains the freeway interchange, which includes the overpass, ramps, and approaches; the City of Nampa administers Midland Boulevard north of the interchange.

#### Unfunded Future Needs

Operations, Management and Technology Projects: Aside from road widening, other actions such as improving driveways or changing the traffic signals can help improve traffic conditions. The regional Intelligent Transportation System plan<sup>2</sup> includes installing speed detection devices (for data collection) at the interchange.

<sup>1</sup> Employment figures are based on the adjacent census tracts.

<sup>2</sup> Final Report: Treasure Valley Transportation System: Operations, Management, and ITS can be found online at [www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cms-intro.htm](http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cms-intro.htm).