

Leadership in Government, Canyon County

Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Interstate 84 Widening — Safety Patrols

The enhanced safety service patrols pilot program for the Interstate 84 construction zone in Canyon County increased the efficient movement of people and commerce through the narrow corridor, improved the reliability of travel times, and, most importantly, provided a safer traveling environment.

The potential impacts to safety, mobility, and economic opportunity were the impetus for the pilot program. ITD recognized that traffic volumes, coupled with narrow shoulders during reconstruction of I-84, were a safety concern and could increase congestion by delaying vehicles behind a crash or disabled vehicle. In response to this, a third party tow company was hired to patrol the corridor and assist motorists and first responders when there are breakdowns or crashes. The goal is to remove the affected vehicles and occupants from the work zone and take them to a safe location off the interstate to enhance their safety while reducing traffic delays.

The service began in December 2019. As of the end of August 2020, the safety service patrol had assisted with 81 breakdowns and 44 crashes, in addition to providing assistance to law enforcement on 29 occasions — all with no serious injuries.

This pilot program has enhanced quality of life by increasing safety, reducing congestion, and improving reliability of travel times.