

# Dewey Road Corridor Plan

*Prepared for*

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## CERTIFICATION

The technical material and data contained in this document were prepared under the supervision and direction of the undersigned, whose seal, as a professional engineer licensed to practice as such, is affixed below.

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## **ACRONYMS**

ADT	Average Daily Traffic volumes
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
COMPASS	Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
LHTAC	Local Highway Technical Assistance Council
LOS	Level of Service
ROW	Right-of-Way
SH	State Highway

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The extension of Dewey Road is identified in the Gem County Master Transportation Plan, 2002 as a new arterial connection from State Highway (SH) 52 west to Black Canyon Interchange (Exit 13) on Interstate 84 (I-84). The corridor passes through Gem and Payette Counties and is identified in the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, *Communities in Motion* adopted in August 2006. The Dewey Road Extension will provide a regional connection from Emmett and western Gem County to I-84 to promote economic development in Gem and Payette Counties.

The Gem County Commissioners, in cooperation with Payette and Canyon Counties and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) initiated the Dewey Road Corridor Study. The purpose of the study is to examine potential use and, if significant, evaluate feasible alignments and select an alignment for future preservation. The study evaluates environmental effects, identifies design strategies and identifies future bridge structure requirements at the Dewey Road crossing of the Black Canyon Canal. The Dewey Road Corridor Study is consistent with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Corridor Planning Guidebook.

The study boundary is approximately six and a half miles long and includes SH 52 and SH 30 to the north and El Paso and Oasis Roads to the south. See Figure 1 for the study boundary.

The Dewey Road Corridor Study includes an environmental scan and analysis, development of a travel forecast model, traffic study, conceptual roadway and bridge options, and identification of design constraints. An important feature of this study is public involvement and early coordination with key stakeholders, to include adjacent land owners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and public agencies in Gem, Canyon and Payette Counties.

## 2. BACKGROUND DATA

The study area for the Dewey Road Corridor is characterized by farmland in the east half of the corridor (the valley portion) and an arid rolling hills plateau in the west half. Most of the west half of the study area is BLM land with pockets of private land with irrigated agriculture. The study area lies mostly in Gem and Payette Counties, with the southernmost portion touching Canyon County.

There are two gas pipelines traversing the area. A number of irrigation canals and drainage ditches exist in the study area, including the Black Canyon Canal with numerous laterals. The valley portion is composed of small farm sites and residential lots with a series of narrow county roads interspersed.

A summary report of the Inventory of Existing Conditions is included in Appendix A.