



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

Rep. Mike Simpson

**FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations
Member Project Requests**

In accordance with the policies put forth by the House Appropriations Committee, I would like to share with you some information regarding the projects that I have submitted for consideration in FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: Buses and Bus Facilities, Idaho Transit Coalition

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Account: FTA/Buses and Bus Facilities

Recipient: Community Transportation Association of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 10480 Garverdale Court, Bldg. 4, Ste. 804A, Boise, ID 83704

Description: Funding for this project will be used to support essential transit systems in rural and urban areas of the State of Idaho. This project meets the criteria of the FTA's Section 5209 Capital Program and has been funded by the Committee since FY 2002.

Project Name: City of Rocks Back Country Byway Relocation, ID

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Account: FHWA/Public Lands Highways

Recipient: Idaho Transportation Department

Recipient's Street Address: 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID 83707

Description: This 16.7 mile long project is located on the popular City of Rocks Back Country Byway in Cassia County, Idaho, which provides the only direct access to the City of Rocks National Reserve. When fully completed, the project will pave a 1.0 mile gravel segment, reconstruct 15.7 miles of deficient roadway, correct deteriorated road and slope conditions, provide a wider road with shoulders and guardrail, and improve the road's alignment by reducing the number and severity of sharp curves and steep grades. These improvements will increase safety for the driving public and provide safer access for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. These improvements will also significantly reduce the amount of on-going maintenance required to keep the route usable. Previously appropriated federal funding, FY 1999 through FY 2009, totals \$14,788,750 including \$1.96 million in FY 2009. Full funding of this request in FY 2010 will complete the project.

Project Name: College of Southern Idaho North College Road Alternative Route Construction, Twin Falls, ID

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Account: FHWA/TCSP

Recipient: College of Southern Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 315 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, ID 83303

Description: This project would establish an alternative route for traffic utilizing North College Road, which runs through the campus of the College of Southern Idaho. When this route is established, the

College would make North College Road pedestrian-friendly through modifications and by slowing traffic to 25 miles per hour, similar to other interior campus roads. Completion of this project would allow for easier access to property that the College is developing to expand the campus.

Project Name: Custer County Economic Development Initiative in Custer County, ID

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Account: HUD/EDI

Recipient: Custer County, ID

Recipient's Street Address: 802 Main Street, Challis, ID 83226

Description: At almost 5,000 square miles, Custer County is larger than three states yet has just over 4,000 people. Unfortunately, it is burdened with a high proportion of public lands with over 95% of the county's 3.4 million acres administered by federal agencies. The county's tax base, or more specifically the lack thereof, is inadequate to support the services required for such an expansive county. This grossly disproportionate public ownership causes a severe strain on their resources. Funding would be used to construct a community center which would serve a number of purposes for the county. Language would reprogram previous funding for Custer County included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY08 and the Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY09 to be used to construct a community center. The original funding was intended to purchase a middle school building to be used as a community center.

Project Name: I-84, Broadway to Gowen Road Widening, Boise, ID

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Account: FHWA/Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Recipient: Idaho Transportation Department

Recipient's Street Address: 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID 83707

Description: This project will add a third east and westbound lane to I-84 between Broadway Avenue and Gowen Road on I-84. The FY10 earmark will fund the design of this project. The project will be ready for construction in FY11 in conjunction with the Connecting Idaho (GARVEE bonding) projects in this area. This project is required to alleviate congestion and safety issues caused by the continued fast growth in the Treasure Valley. This project is included in the I-84 Boise Corridor Study adopted by the Idaho Transportation and Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Boards in October of 2001 and part of the COMPASS Regional 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, approved in 2006.

Project Name: Memorial Drive Power Line Relocation, Idaho Falls, ID

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Account: HUD/EDI

Recipient: City of Idaho Falls, ID

Recipient's Street Address: 308 Constitution Way, Idaho Falls, ID 83405

Description: The City of Idaho Falls is in the midst of redeveloping Memorial Drive. This stretch of road runs along the Snake River as it runs adjacent to downtown Idaho Falls. Redevelopment of Memorial Drive will allow the community to fully realize the economic development potential of this beautiful area alongside downtown Idaho Falls. The overall redevelopment will eventually include large areas of green/park space, a community amphitheater, and a pedestrian bridge crossing the Snake River and joining downtown with an area across the river with significant hotels and restaurants. The first aspect of redeveloping this area, however, is the removal and burial of power lines running along Memorial Drive. Removal of these above ground lines will not only allow the larger re-development to proceed, it will remove an eyesore from an area that will eventually be one of the most spectacular public places in the entire state.

Project Name: Rexburg Economic Development Initiative in Rexburg, ID

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Account: HUD/EDI

Recipient: City of Rexburg, ID

Recipient's Street Address: 12 North Center, Rexburg, ID, 83440

Description: Funding would be used for design and construction of public facilities along the Teton River through the City of Rexburg, Idaho. The project would provide public green spaces for the community, safe bike and walking paths, wheelchair accessibility, and economic development for Rexburg, as well as ensure protection of the delicate waterway banks along the River. Work would integrate new development with existing infrastructure.

Project Name: SH-75, Widening from Timmerman to Ketchum, ID

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Account: FHWA/TCSP

Recipient: Idaho Transportation Department

Recipient's Street Address: 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID 83707

Description: SH-75 from Timmerman to Ketchum (MP 102 to 128) is the only north-south corridor in the Sun Valley area and serves as a main route for commercial, recreational, and commuter traffic. Locally, it is the primary traffic and commuter route between Jct. US-20 and Ketchum, Idaho. It accommodates public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessibility on a 27-mile section of road to Sun Valley, Idaho. The requested funds will be used to design, purchase right-of-way, and construct projects as part of a major effort to convert this two-lane highway to a four-lane highway. Such work is necessary to maintain economic vitality in the region and to provide for adequate safety for the traveling public. Several projects are planned for the stretch of road (MP 102 to 128) from Timmerman to Ketchum, Idaho. The first two projects, Alturas to Timber Way (MP 121-123) and Big Wood River Bridge at Greenhorn (MP 122) were completed in FY 2000. The Idaho Department of Transportation received \$22.8 million for this project as a High Priority in SAFETEA-LU.

Project Name: Trail Creek Highway/Forest Highway 66 Reconstruction, Mackay, ID

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Account: FHWA/Public Lands Highways

Recipient: Lost River Highway District

Recipient's Street Address: 213 South McCaleb, Mackay, ID 83251

Description: Trail Creek Highway/Forest Highway 66 runs through the Salmon-Challis National Forest from U.S. Highway 93 west to Sun Valley, Idaho. The road is maintained entirely by the Lost River Highway District and includes 17 miles of unpaved road that is used extensively for commerce and recreational purposes by tourists and homeowners. The high traffic volume (500 cars per day and expected to grow) and poor road conditions cause safety concerns for those traveling along the highway. Funds would be used to complete study and design work and upgrade the road by paving 5.5 miles of gravel road from the end of existing pavement near the West Bartlett Point Road (MP 11.750) to the Copper Basin Turn-off (MP 17.250).

Project Name: Treasure Valley Transit Facilities, Meridian, ID

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Account: FTA/Buses and Bus Facilities

Recipient: Valley Regional Transit

Recipient's Street Address: 830 N. Main Street, Meridian, ID 83642

Description: This project will fund site location and required environmental analysis for up to one administration facility and/or up to four bus transfer centers to improve transit services in western Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho. The development of transit facilities is a recommendation in the regional transit plan which characterizes these transit centers as crucial to the success of the transit system. These facilities will support regional public transportation services in the area. \$9.5 million was authorized in SAFETEA-LU for the Boise Multi-Modal Center (MMC). This project is part of the same system and is included, as is the MMC, in the regional capital facilities plan for transit in the Treasure Valley. This project is the next phase of development.

Project Name: University Place Blvd. Extension and Rail Crossing Construction, Idaho Falls, ID

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Account: FRA/Grade Crossings

Recipient: City of Idaho Falls

Recipient's Street Address: 308 Constitution Way, Idaho Falls, ID 83405

Description: Funding would be used to plan and construct a two-lane railroad overpass to connect the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) at Idaho National Laboratory to University Place in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The CAES center opened in February 2008 as a joint partnership between the state universities and the INL, but without a way to cross the railroad tracks it becomes difficult to commute between the two facilities. Funding would be used for design and construction of a two-lane overpass extending University Place Blvd. over the Union Pacific railroad to connect it the University Place campus with bike and pedestrian paths and to make necessary modifications to current parking facilities.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of the projects I have requested in the FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on behalf of Idaho and provide an explanation of my support for them.