



## Rainbow Bridge

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is making plans to build a new bridge over the North Fork of the Payette River in Valley County. The existing bridge, known as the Rainbow Bridge, has served Idaho travelers since 1933.

This project includes environmental and design work for a bridge that will serve Idaho communities, travelers and commerce for many more years. It also includes a decision about the future of the existing bridge.

### BACKGROUND

After nearly a century, the current Rainbow Bridge no longer meets current standards for state highway bridges. Despite regular maintenance and major repairs, the structure is reaching the point where ITD will no longer be able to maintain it for highway traffic. Other issues include narrow lane and shoulder widths, tight curves on both sides of the bridge, and limited sight distance for drivers.

### PROJECT PROCESS

ITD is working with technical and environmental experts, agencies and community members to design a new bridge. This project is funded for construction in 2028. This process will include:

- Completing environmental studies regarding wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, viewshed and socioeconomic resources, the Clean Water Act and other issues.
- Completing technical studies such as geotechnical and hydraulics work.
- Evaluating a range of alternatives for a new bridge.
- Determining the future of the existing bridge.
- Developing design and construction plans for the bridge and roadway.
- Working with local agencies and the public throughout the process.







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## PROJECT TIMELINE

2021	Feasibility study
Early/Mid 2024	Project begins Community engagement Technical and environmental work
2025	Community engagement Technical and environmental work  Preliminary design complete Determination regarding existing bridge
2026	Final design complete
2028	Construction



## COMMUNITY INPUT

ITD will approach decisions about the Rainbow Bridge with a high level of transparency, education and community involvement. The community input process will be a key component of the final recommendation for the new bridge and the existing bridge.

**ITD will host a series of community open houses and small-group meetings during this project:**

- Community open houses will be scheduled at key points of the preliminary design process.
- A Bridge Involvement Group will meet prior to each community open house. Meetings are open to any community members who are willing to invest a higher level of time and engagement.

Additional public outreach will occur prior to final design and construction.



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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*Individuals who need special accommodations should contact [CivilRights@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:CivilRights@itd.idaho.gov) or 208-334-8884. TTY/TDD users Dial 711 to use the Idaho Relay System. Persons needing an interpreter should contact 208-334-8496.*