



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 97 • Rigby, ID 83442-0097
(208) 745-7781 • itd.idaho.gov

May 23, 2018

Fremont County Commission
151 West 1st North
St. Anthony, ID 83445

Dear: Chairman Jordon Stoddard, Commissioner Bill Baxter, Commissioner LeRoy Miller,

On behalf of the Idaho Transportation Board and Director Brian Ness, we appreciate your letter on April 26 expressing your concerns regarding your resolution that encourage the Idaho Transportation Department to change speed limits as part of the Targhee Pass project on U.S. 20 near Montana. As you note in your letter, five alternatives are being evaluated as part of the current Targhee Pass Environmental Assessment (EA). They can be reviewed at www.islandparkUS20.com.

We are assessing your concern for the speed limits and under state guidelines speed limits cannot be set by a county resolution, also speed limit changes are not part of the Targhee Pass Environmental Assessment process. However, speed limits can be increased or decreased independent of the project. ITD conducted a speed study in the Targhee Pass area. ITD staff had concluded there was no need to decrease the speed.

Our concern with reducing the limit below the warranted speed can actually be hazardous and unsafe. Studies have shown that merely reducing a speed limit has little effect on the speed at which motorists will travel. Enforcement of the speed limit by the law-enforcement community is essential. Furthermore, no published research findings have established any direct relationship between posted speed limits and accident frequency. When determining speed limits, engineers attempt to set a realistic limit that the majority of drivers will obey and that can be reasonably enforced.

ITD highly encourages and engages in frequent cooperation and meetings with locals, council members, legislation and anyone else of interest with our projects. We will strongly encourage everyone to participate in our next public meeting late summer after our EA has been completed and finalized. We do kindly ask to have confidence and patience of our process as it does take time in order to conduct our process step-by-step thoroughly and effectively.

For more information on how speed limits are set, please download this helpful brochure:
[http://apps.itd.idaho.gov/apps/info/Brochure Speed%20Limits 2011.pdf](http://apps.itd.idaho.gov/apps/info/Brochure%20Speed%20Limits%202011.pdf)



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 97 • Rigby, ID 83442-0097
(208) 745-7781 • itd.idaho.gov

Thank you again for providing this input, which will be forwarded to the ITD study team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Minzghor', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jason Minzghor, P.E.
District 6 Engineer

Cc: Director Brian Ness, Sen. Bert Brackett, Rep. Karey Hanks, Rep. Joe Palmer, Lee Gagner, Mayor (Island Park) Tom Jewell, Sheriff Len Humphries, Ashton Police Chief Greg W. Griffel, Ashton City Council, Mayor (St. Anthony) Donald Powell, Ralph and Connie Kincheleo,
