



City of Ketchum

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA MEMO

Meeting Date: Staff Member/Dept:

Agenda Item:

Recommended Motion:

"I move to support a construction schedule of fall 2025 and spring 2026 for the Trail Creek bridge replacement."

Policy Analysis and Background:

The Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) has been working closely with the city regarding the roadway design. ITD's current plan is to split the work between 2025 and 2026. The new Trail Creek bridge will be constructed in two phases during the spring of both years (current plan). During that period, northbound traffic will stay on the highway and southbound traffic will be detoured to Second Ave and then Serenade Lane.

Upon learning that Sun Valley will host the 2025 World Cup Finals (March 22-27), several entities requested that the city work with ITD to determine whether construction plans could change to not take place during the events. Work in the creek channel must take place in the winter/spring while water levels are lowest and to avoid fish spawning periods under Idaho law. The timing also avoids fall activities (Wagon Days and Trailing of the Sheep) and is lowest traffic volume period of the year.

Potential timelines

1. Current plan: Winter/Spring 2025 & Winter/Spring 2026
 - Construct half of Trail Creek bridge at a time, to include a single-lane closure.
 - Approximate 15-week period from mid-February to the end of May, in 2025 and 2026.
 - Northbound traffic would remain on Highway 75 and southbound traffic would detour to 2nd Avenue and then Serenade Lane.
2. Alternate #1: Winter-Spring 2026
 - Construct entirety of Trail Creek bridge in a single phase which would require a complete closure
 - This would require all traffic to detour onto the Serenade detour route.
 - Construction would begin in early January 2026 and extend into June 2026—approximately 24-week period.
3. Alternate #2: Fall 2025 and Winter/Spring 2026
 - Construct half of Trail Creek bridge at a time, to include a single-lane closure.
 - Northbound traffic would remain on Highway 75 and southbound traffic would detour to 2nd Avenue and then Serenade Lane.
 - Approximate 10-week period from post-Labor Day to mid-November in 2025. Staff would need to coordinate with Trailing of the Sheep organizers to address this closure.

- Approximate 15-week period from mid-February to the end of May in 2026

Utility relocation work ahead of bridge replacement

- Should the current plan of spring 2025 stay as the preferred schedule, Intermountain Gas will need to close the bridge for three to four weeks to bore a new line under Trail Creek in order to be out of the way for construction.
- Should the new schedule of fall 2025 occur, that work could be moved to spring of 2025.
- The city will also need to relocate a wastewater line which would take two to three days of a full closure. These efforts would be coordinated.

Staff recommendation

Per Council direction, staff met with the Ketchum Business Advisory Council and Harriman Hotel construction team to understand impacts of all options. Both groups preferred Alternate #2. It is important to note that due to the Labor Day holiday, city staff were not able to hold a final meeting with ITD to validate any concerns of asphalt patching during November. Staff intends to meet with ITD and the design team prior to the Council meeting to validate any final concerns.

Sustainability Impact:

None.

Financial Impact:

None OR Adequate funds exist in account:

There is no financial request of the City.