

Exhibit C

Response to COE Question 3

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

COE Question 3

“U.S. 95 is proposed to be upgraded to 4 lanes both north and south of the project site but the proposed section through the Sandpoint area will be only 2 lanes. It appears that the proposed section of highway could form a traffic flow bottleneck and necessitate the construction of an additional 2 lanes to accommodate traffic in the near future. You need to explain why only 2 lanes are being proposed through town while 4 lanes are being proposed at both ends of this project. Are there plans to upgrade this section of highway in the future to 4 lanes but for some reason, you are only proposing a 2 lane highway at this time? If 4 lanes are planned for the future, it appears that the railroad constrains expansion to the east of the highway. Therefore, the only option would appear to be expansion to the west into Sand Creek which would substantially increase fills into Sand Creek. Therefore, if this section is planned to require 4 lanes in the foreseeable future, we need to include in our evaluation the cumulative impacts that would result from the 4 lane highway and alternatives to a 4 lane highway in Sand Creek.”

Response:

For this project, as with other ITD projects, ITD utilized FHWA and ITD guidelines for determining roadway capacity. The design year for the Byway phase of the project is 2024. The Origin and Destination/Traffic Study completed in March 2002, by Washington Infrastructure Services, analyzed the current configuration of the proposed Byway Project and found that the Level of Service for northbound traffic in year 2024 is expected to be a “C” and the southbound direction a Level of Service “B”. An acceptable Level of Service is “D” or greater. Recently, an independent traffic model reconfirmed the Byway lane configuration. This study was conducted by David Evans and Associates using a travel demand model based on projected land use rather than growth projections, which were used in the 2002 study. Separate confirmation of our study using different methodology increases our confidence in the projected level of service. Thus, within the planning window for this project, there are no plans to expand or upgrade this section of the highway.