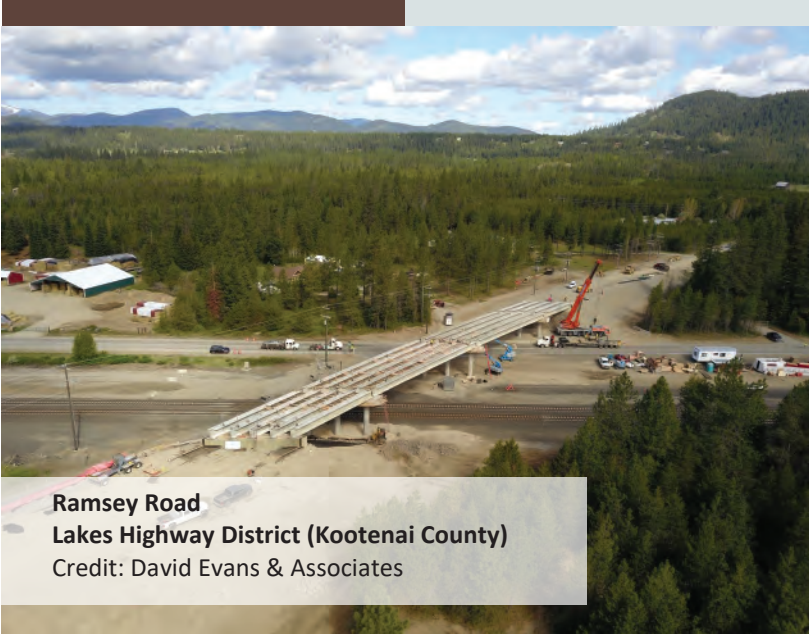


**Cherrylane Bridge**  
**Nez Perce County**  
Credit: Civil Science  
1st Place LHTAC Photo Contest



**Ramsey Road**  
**Lakes Highway District (Kootenai County)**  
Credit: David Evans & Associates

# FY21 Annual Report

July 2020—June 2021



From LHTAC Administrator  
Laila Kral, P.E.

It is my honor to be the new Administrator of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council.

The Council appointed me to replace Jeff Miles, effective May 1. I appreciate their trust in me to lead a team of experts who bring engineering assistance to Local Highway Jurisdictions across Idaho.

I love the Gem State! I grew up in Troy where I learned the value of hard work and the integrity of honest words. My engineering career placed me in the fast-growing Treasure Valley. I have lived in the rural and the urban. I intimately understand the transportation challenges and opportunities both locations offer.

I believe this is a time of great opportunity for Local Highway Jurisdictions. Unprecedented funding is being considered. As an advocate for local communities, my top goal is to ensure LHTAC maximizes every dollar to provide meaningful value to the cities, counties, and highway districts across Idaho. I will push for greater access to technical assistance, increasing resources, and enhanced collaboration between jurisdictions.

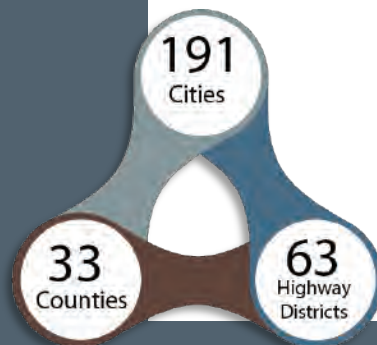
I look forward to serving the people of Idaho in this new role.

## Local Highway Technical Assistance Council

Our mission is to advocate, support and train while providing the most efficient assistance to all local jurisdictions in Idaho.

Fiscal Year 2021 continued a disruption to normalcy stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. LHTAC staff displayed their skill and professionalism by adapting to those circumstances. Virtual and hybrid trainings continued engagement with the jurisdictions we serve across the state. Construction projects were delivered with minimal disruption. Federal funding was efficiently administered to improve the local roadway network.

The supply chain, in-person restrictions, and Idaho's growth remain top concerns for our constituents. The Local Highway Technical Assistance Council is committed to providing superior service through these challenges and promote a healthy vision as communities recover and prosper.



## Who We Serve

There are currently 287\* Local Highway Jurisdictions (LHJs) with road ownership in Idaho. There are nine cities and eleven counties who have roads that are maintained by their local highway district.

\*This number may fluctuate with consolidations.

# T2 Center

The T2 Center following COVID-19 protocols this year has included some virtual classes as more of a permanent approach to deliver training opportunities to all local highway jurisdictions. We understand that the virtual classes can reach a larger population and have strategically provided certain classes to our local agencies.



Pocatello Safety Fest is scheduled May 9-12 2022. The T2 Center continues in providing support to the safety fest team by advertising outside training opportunities that offer instructor-led in person and virtual courses. Throughout the year we had opportunities to connect with other Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAPs) and learn from other centers on how they are training and using specific tools and delivery methods.

The T2 Center has provided training to a total of 1,292 students over the course of the year. In support of the training, the center also is responsible for providing and tracking technical assistance to the local agencies and outside requests. We have provided answers to specific questions which range from our normal application process to more advanced technical assistance with bridge weight restriction improvements or environmental permitting impacts. LHTAC responds to approximately 50 technical assistance questions per month.



Cemetery Road  
City of Middleton  
Credit: Nick Cordell



Ora Bridge  
Fremont County  
Credit: Civil Science

## Wetland Mitigation - STIC Grant

LHTAC applied for and received an FHWA State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) grant to provide advanced wetland mitigation to Idaho Local Highway Jurisdictions (LHJs) for future FHWA funded projects with wetland impacts. The partnership with the Bureau of Land Management will create advance wetland mitigation within the Salmon and Lower Snake River Watersheds. This will reduce the time and cost of development and construction of future federally funded projects in Southwestern and Central Idaho where FHWA wetland mitigation is required.

## Bridge Preservation Workshop - STIC Grant

LHTAC applied for and was awarded a \$100k grant through the FHWA STIC to present a series of hands-on bridge preservation and maintenance demonstration workshops to Idaho local agencies. The workshops will provide the opportunity for local agency employees to hear from experts and observe various techniques that will enable them to extend the life of their local bridge structures.

The workshops were scheduled for Spring/Summer 2020; however, they were delayed due to COVID-19. The classes will be scheduled for spring 2022.

## Commercial Vehicles

LHTAC has three focus areas to assist LHJs with commercial transportation needs.

- Educate about ITD's optional permitting service
- Coordinate fund distribution for technical analysis of commercial routes
- Aid application process for routes approving 129K routes.

Technical Analysis Funds  
Distributed to Date  
**\$72,900**

LHJs opting in to ITD permitting

**15** COMPLETED

**19** IN PROGRESS

**5** DECLINED

# Technical Assistance

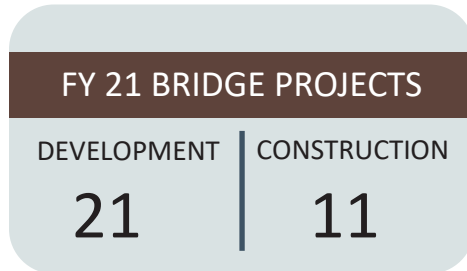


## Bridge

Meeting the needs to repair or replace the aging bridges on Idaho's local roadway system is a primary focus for LHTAC advocacy.

Each year, LHTAC spends \$1.9 million of Federal-aid Bridge funds to the Idaho Transportation Department for regular inspections of every local bridge greater than 20 feet. An additional \$7 million of Federal-aid Bridge funding is invested in bridge repair or replacement projects, administered by LHTAC.

†LHTAC coordinates technical assistance such as material and load testing to enhance a bridge's engineering analysis and reduce the posted limit. Staff also provide maintenance guidance to improve bridge condition in order to increase the lifespan of a bridge.



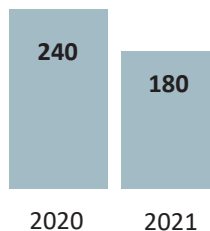
## Environmental

LHTAC staff provide expert guidance for federal-aid projects required to comply with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations.

LHTAC offers general assistance for environmental clearance of projects, and in smaller projects completing the documentation directly. Staff seek to avoid, then minimize, and finally mitigate environmental impacts. When mitigation has been required, LHTAC has facilitated the process by focusing results on scope, schedule, and budget. Recent actions include wetland and stream impacts, inadvertent archaeological discoveries during construction, and mitigation to three historic bridges.

## LHTAC Outreach Workshops

Staff resumed in-person workshops throughout the state to promote the various programs available for funding this cycle, training opportunities, and available technical assistance. Ten events were held across the state. Additionally, a virtual workshop was conducted. In total, 155 people attended the in-person workshops and an additional 25 joined the virtual one.



## LHTAC Awards

### Excellence in Construction Partnering - Gold

The Narrows Project; Oneida County

*Karissa Nelson, Matt Koster, Western Construction, Civil Science, Keller Assoc. Inc.*

This project expanded the Caribou Targhee National Forest Service Rock Creek Restoration Project. The ITD/AGC award recognized a multi-agency partnership that achieved a \$400,000 savings, provided access for emergency services, and excellent stakeholder engagement during construction.

## Local Bridge Data\*

There are 2,474 bridges (span > 20') on the local roadway system

154

In poor condition (6%)

39%

Over 50 years old (966 bridges)

359

Bridges posted or closed

10

Bridges that have new or more restrictive postings in 2021

3

Posted bridges LHTAC is replacing with FY21 federal funds

5+

Bridges that have removed or reduced their posting in 2021

\*As of November 2021

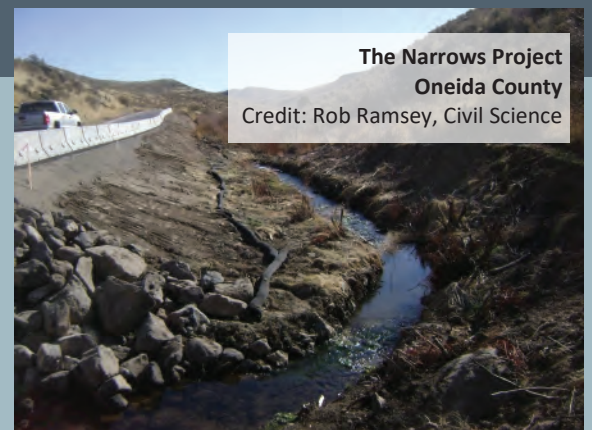


Number of small structures (span < 20')

1,928

Number of 1-lane bridges

289



The Narrows Project  
Oneida County  
Credit: Rob Ramsey, Civil Science

## LHTAC—Council Members (July 2020—June 2021)

### Counties (Commissioners)

Todd Smith\*—*Madison County*  
 Phil Lampert—*Benewah County*  
 Mark Rekow—*Gem County*

### Cities (Mayors)

Robert (BJ) Berlin<sup>†</sup>—*City of Roberts*  
 Mac Pooler—*City of Kellogg*  
 Bruce Hossfeld—*City of Paul*

### Highway Districts

Neil Gier<sup>‡</sup>—*Buhl HD*  
 Gilbert Hofmeister—*Power County HD*  
 Terry Werner—*Post Falls HD*

### Ex-Officio Members (Executive)

Kelley Packer—*Association of Idaho Cities*  
 Seth Grigg—*Idaho Association of Counties*  
 Nick Veldhouse—*Idaho Association of Highway Districts*

\*Chairman, <sup>†</sup>Vice Chairman, <sup>‡</sup>Secretary/Treasurer

## LHTAC Projects Since Inception

Total Projects by ITD District	LRHIP	Federal-aid & Safety
ITD District 1	106	161
ITD District 2	126	91
ITD District 3	145	149
ITD District 4	122	108
ITD District 5	101	54
ITD District 6	106	120

## Programs Administered by LHTAC

New projects added this fiscal year:

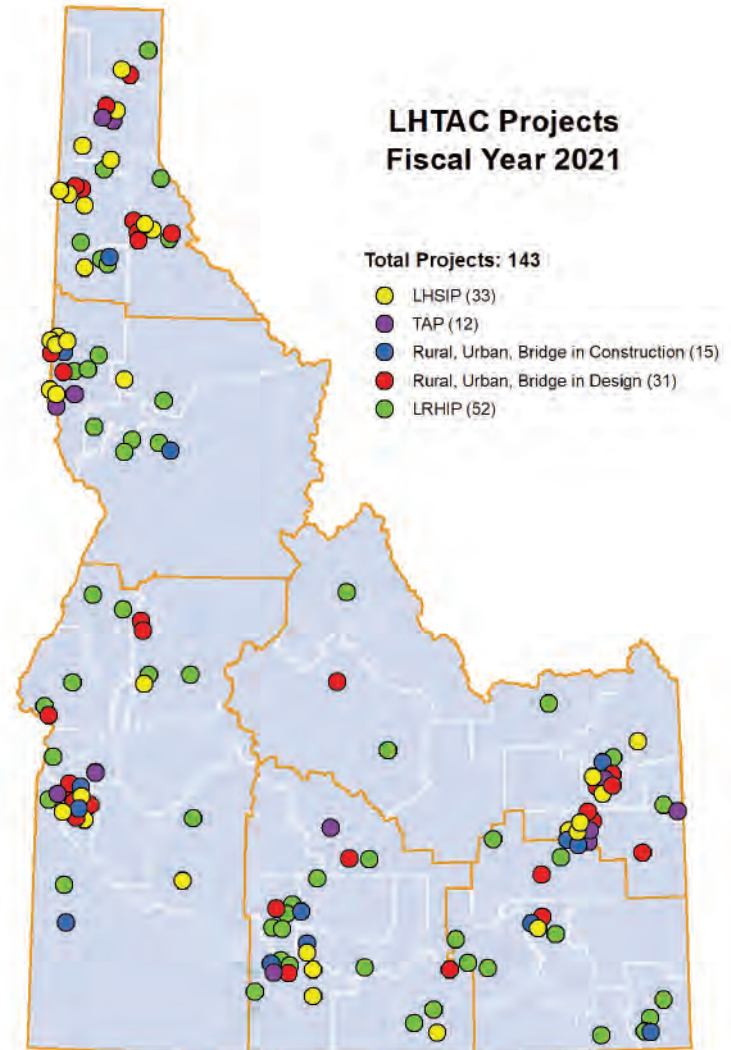
Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) Includes 2020 Emergency Projects	Grant
FY21 Projects	52
FY21 Funds	\$3.4M
<b>Local Highway Safety</b>	
FY21 Projects	33
FY21 Funds	\$8.4M

Federal-aid Bridge FY22-FY28 ITIP	Federal-aid Urban FY22-FY28 ITIP	Federal-aid Rural FY22-FY28 ITIP	Federal-aid Construction
Projects Added	0	6	0
Add'l Funds	\$0M	\$13.5M	\$0M
			FY21 Projects
			27
			FY21 Funds
			\$17.2M

## Other Projects Administered by LHTAC

ITD—Transportation Alternative Program*	
FY21 Projects	12
FY21 Funds	\$3.1M

\*LHTAC manages entire TAP program beginning FY22



LHTAC administers projects from programs managed outside LHTAC, including:

**Federal Lands Access Program (2 projects)**  
 Managed by Western Federal Lands  
**Freight (5 projects)**  
 Managed by ITD