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### **“THE CURVE” PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED**

Following a public meeting in July, the team working on Sandpoint’s “Curve” project is ready to present their recommendations to the City of Sandpoint’s Public Works Committee. The presentation is on the Public Works Committee’s agenda for September 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm, in the Sandpoint City Hall Council Chambers.

Alternatives for the “Curve” were examined at the July public meeting. Project consultants provided technical information on three options: A three-lane scenario, a five-lane scenario and a couplet scenario that was inspired by a citizen suggestion at an earlier workshop in April this year. Community comments were subsequently received and reviewed by the project steering committee.

“We had a lot of insightful comments”, says Eric Paull, who represents the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency on the steering committee for the project. “Most people understand the benefits of getting trucks out of downtown. People really seem to care about making this project a good fit for Sandpoint.”

Consultants were initially tasked with finding alternatives that minimized right of way and environmental impacts that could cause the project to delay. Consequently, none of the alternatives presented on July 27 provided full access to Boyer Avenue south of US2.

After considering community comments, however, the project team is recommending a modification to the couplet option that will allow traffic to move to and from the highway to south Boyer in all directions, and will also allow traffic to travel north-south across the highway at Boyer. “Positive response to the couplet alternative was pretty overwhelming,” says Kody van Dyk, the City’s Public Works Director. “We also heard about the importance of keeping good access to Boyer.”

Additional right of way will be needed near the Boyer intersection, and the change could also impact adjacent properties that are considered to be cultural resources in the federal environmental clearance process. However, the project steering committee noted that important issues related to emergency response and community connectivity may be significant enough to justify jumping through these hoops. Project manager, Carole Richardson, PE, from David Evans and Associates, Inc. agrees. “The project will need to serve Sandpoint for at least 20 years, probably more. A little longer design process up front may result in a better project for the long term.”