

What is an Expressway?

An Expressway is a principal arterial highway that places a high priority on mobility (higher traffic speeds and longer trip lengths), and a low priority on local access (typically 2-mile interchange spacing). In cross section, an Expressway is very similar to a typical interstate freeway: two or more lanes in each direction, a wide median, and non-signalized interchanges that do not impede the flow of traffic.

What is the timing of the CCWR Arterial project?

Today's traffic volumes do not support construction of new arterial routes in the study area. The study area has begun to see some residential development, however, so we believe it is important today to identify the best route for a future regional arterial, so that we are not forced to settle for less favorable or more expensive alternatives when the need is there. Our goal initially is to identify this best route, and use the County zoning ordinance to preserve the corridor for the future.

Central Canyon County currently has only a single continuous north-south route: Farmway Road, which currently extends only from Orchard Avenue to Simplot Blvd (SH 19). The CCWR corridor would establish another north-south route linking Hwy 55 (Karcher Road) with Hwy 19, and ultimately, Hwy 20/26 and the Interstate. As the region grows, the CCWR arterial could initially be constructed as a two- or three-lane highway to relieve future congestion on SH 55 and Farmway Road. The CCWR arterial could also be an extension or expansion of the existing north-south highways, or a combination of existing roads and new alignment.

If the Treasure Valley were to grow to fill just today's approved land use densities, traffic demand models predict a multi-lane, divided highway within the study area would be necessary to satisfy demand. This may be 30, 50, or more years in the future, but if we wait until we need the route to identify it, the corridor may already be fully developed.