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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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March 20, 2020

TO: District Engineers 1-6, Division Administrators, HQ Section Heads, Executive Director of the Idaho AGC, and FHWA Division Office

FROM: Scott Stokes, Chief Deputy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Stokes'.

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Potential Impact on Highway Construction Projects

The Department is in close contact with the Governor's office in monitoring this quickly developing issue, and managing its impacts. Currently, we are deploying the strategies recommended by the CDC and Governor's office to slow the spread of this virus while continuing forward with our essential work.

At this time the Department intends to continue forward with our busy summer construction program while doing everything needed to protect our staff and business partners from exposure to the virus. To do this, we are limiting in-person contact for all aspects of work, which includes working remotely for many of our staff. We also intend to continue with the advertisement and bidding process for the projects yet to be bid for this summer. As luck would have it, we have no scheduled bid openings for the next two weeks, which will allow us some time to address any issues with holding public bid openings while limiting in-person interaction.

With several states issuing "Stay at Home" orders to contain the spread of the virus, they are exempting "essential services". The work of the Idaho Transportation Department to build and maintain our highway infrastructure is considered an essential service. Therefore, we do not anticipate any potential shutdown if a similar order were to be issued in Idaho.

With a lot of uncertainty surrounding this ongoing event, I wanted to issue this communication today to share our intent as we move forward. The safety of the traveling public, our employees, and our business partners is of our utmost concern. We will remain in close contact with the Governor's office and will also continue to monitor the CDC and State Health Department recommendations for working safely.

If you have questions, please contact me.