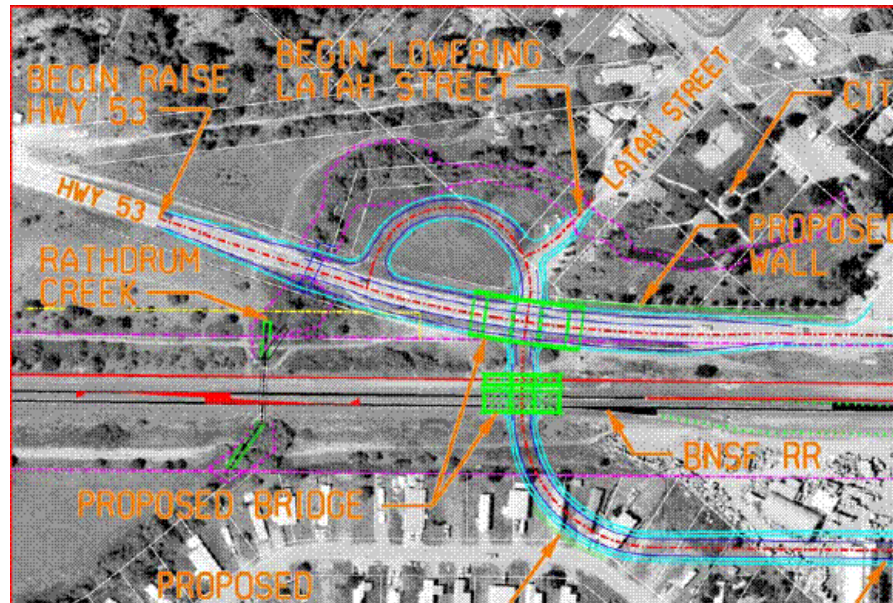


# Main Street Extension / BNSF Grade Separation

## Rathdrum, ID

### Project Location

The location for this new under-crossing was selected by the citizens and City Council of Rathdrum. Main Street is an east-west local-access road in Rathdrum, ID. The Main Street Extension is a new under-crossing of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) mainline near Highway 53. It will connect Highway 53 and downtown Rathdrum. It will also replace the current Mill Street crossing, which is scheduled to be closed,



and the McCartney Street crossing, which is already closed. The Main Street Extension is forecasted to carry approximately 820 vehicles per day in the year 2030. The BNSF line carries between 30 and 50 trains per day.

### Project Description

The Main Street Extension will intersect Highway 53 at Latah Street between the roadway underpass at Greensferry Road  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile west and roadway overpass at Highway 41/53 one mile east. Main Street is an integral part of the Bridging the Valley II project. This project proposes to extend Main Street west to pass under three BNSF tracks and new Highway 53 bridge intersecting Highway 53 east of the Highway 53/Rathdrum Creek bridge. Latah Street will be lowered to intersect Main Street.

This will remove an obstacle to the movement of vehicular traffic and provide another pedestrian crossing under the railroad. In addition to the benefits below, the separation of Main Street and the BNSF tracks and Highway 53 will:

- Provide a vital transportation link to the business and residences north of the BNSF tracks and downtown Rathdrum.
- Improve public safety by eliminating a conflict between vehicles and trains as well as to the children walking to and from school and the park.

### Proposed Schedule

The Type, Size and Location (TS&L) study has been completed to identify project features, challenges, and the estimated cost.

During the next phase, preliminary engineering, the design will be refined by working with the Idaho Transportation Department, the City of Rathdrum, and the public. Preliminary engineering and environmental permitting is expected to be complete by the end of 2004. Final design and construction is anticipated to begin upon Congressional Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill.

### Summary of Benefits

When completed, the Bridging the Valley (BTV) project will separate vehicle traffic from train traffic in the 42 mile corridor between Spokane, Washington and Athol, Idaho. By removing all at-grade rail crossings, Bridging the Valley will:

- Improve public safety by reducing rail / vehicle collisions;
- Improve emergency access to residents and businesses along the corridor;
- Eliminate waiting time for vehicles at rail crossings;
- Reduce noise levels—no more train whistles near crossings;
- Improve traffic flow due to separated grade crossings; and
- Enhance development opportunities with a single rail corridor served by the region's largest railroads.

