



**DATE:** January 10, 2020

**Program Number(s)**

**TO:** District Engineers

**Key Number(s)**

**FROM:** Kevin Sablan, PE  
Design/Traffic Services

**Program ID, County, Etc.**

**RE:** Interchange Modification & Justification Reports

This memo was developed in collaboration with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to provide guidance on determining whether an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) is required when modifications within an interchange area are being proposed on a Federal route and/or a project FHWA has identified as one they want to review. Headquarters Design/Traffic Services (DTS) will assist the Districts in determining if an IMR is necessary. DTS will coordinate with FHWA on final IMR/IJR determination.

**Requires IJR/IMR**

- Access changes.
- New interchange (Requires an Interchange Justification Report - IJR).
- Modification of existing interchange configuration; for example, adding new ramp(s), abandoning/removing ramp(s), completing basic movements, and changing ramp intersection traffic control.
- Abandonment of ramps or interchanges.
- Relocation of a terminal of a ramp to a different local road.
- Decreasing the length of any acceleration or deceleration lane on any existing ramps.
- Addition of an auxiliary lane between (2) adjacent interchange ramps.

\* Locked gate access requests, for example access via locked gates for emergency response or construction, require the submission of the Idaho Division Check list for Locked Gates on the Interstate System to FHWA for approval.

**May or May Not Require an IMR**

DTS may need to coordinate with FHWA Division Office to determine if an IMR is required based on the context of the project. FHWA to provide programmatic oversight on IMR process.

- Modification of geometrics within an Interchange area.
  - Shift of a ramp’s location within the same interchange configuration, which results in ramp spacing that meets FHWA’s design criteria.
  - Addition of lanes (left-turn storage lanes, right-turn storage lanes, and through travel lanes at the terminus of existing ramps, etc.).
  - Relocation or shifting of the existing on-ramp or off-ramp termini (i.e., moving the ramp end that connects with the local road) along the same roadway.
  - Increasing the length of acceleration or deceleration lanes involved with any ramp.

- Changing the configuration of ramp termini intersections or the cross section of any cross road thru the interchange area.
- Implementation of ramp metering or other active control of vehicles entering the Interstate System.
- Changes in access between managed lanes and general purpose lanes on the Interstate.

### **Does Not Require an IMR**

- Maintenance activities (crack sealing, striping, etc.)
- Pavement preservation
  - seal coats
  - micro surfacing
  - thin plant mix overlays <0.15'
  - grinding minor surface irregularities
  - scrub coat
  - milling
  - fog coat
  - joint repair
  - crack sealing

### **Include the following Information Required for Review of an IMR/IJR**

- **Project Information**
  1. Project Key Number
  2. Federal-aid Project Number
  3. Project Title
  4. Project Description
- **Interchange Modification Details**
  1. Provide details and graphics showing the proposed interchange modification.
  2. What is the need of the proposed interchange modification? (Capacity, Safety, Operations, etc.)
  3. Explain and Provide data and graphics to demonstrate the need for the proposed interchange modification.
  4. Does the proposed modification address the need for the proposed revision? Explain.
  5. Have any solutions which do not involve geometric modification been analyzed? Explain.
  6. Are there any other build alternatives that should be considered and analyzed? Explain.
  7. Will the modification meet current design standards? If not, please explain and justify deviation.
  8. Does the proposed modification have the potential to adversely affect the operations or safety of the interchange? (including the Interstate mainline, ramps, ramp intersections) Explain.
  9. Does this determination contain all the necessary information to make a determination?

cc: COO, HDA/CE, HCO, FHWA, HDMs, HCOMs, GARVEE, DEM2s, DCMs