

File #24-0076,
Date: July 22, 2024

Can Panhandle Door get access directly to Hwy 95?

I spoke with George Shutes, the local ITD supervisor who stated that he believed Pothole Rd was the dedicated access for Panhandle Door. He did not like the idea of using Maverick Lane to the south since the visibility for oncoming traffic is poor. He did say if we wanted to try for a new driveway we would need to apply at the district office in Coeur D Alene.

The district office couldn't give me any indication other than saying we would have to submit an application. The application would need to include the following:

- In order to apply for a new approach, we will need to submit engineered plans stamped by an engineer licensed in the state of Idaho for the new approach.
- A traffic control plan for the approach construction.
- Information about number vehicles per day and peak hour use.

Based on my conversations with ITD personal and the fact that the new access point would be over the crest of the hill and closer to the curve beyond, I don't believe that ITD would grant us another access. Because a new Hwy access application requires a set of Engineered plans and because we currently have a 60 ft easement along Pot Hole Rd., we haven't applied for a new access.

Would a new driveway be safer:

The closest point at which Panhandle's property touches the Hwy right-a-way is 1,250 ft south of Pot Hole rd. That would put the location of the new driveway beyond the yellow sign in the picture below. That is past the crest of the hill which will restrict the view of southbound traffic. On the south side, a new driveway would be only about 500 ft from the curve.

We believe that using Pot Hole Rd is safer than creating a new approach. While Maverick Lane is less desirable than Pot Hole Rd it does provide an alternate access point if we have an emergency situation.



Can Pot Hole Rd be widened to 2 lanes?

Yes. Currently most of Pot Hole Rd is 20 ft wide. At the narrowest point it is 18 ft wide. We have a 60 ft easement and all we need to do to widen the road is add some gravel to the narrow spot and limb some of the trees that overhang the roadway. This can be done with little impact to the trees along the driveway.

Number of Vehicle trips per day

We are currently working 4 - 10 hr. shifts, Mon thru Thursday. The main shift is from 6:00 am to 4:30 pm. Swing shift has 4 people and starts 2:00 pm and all the equipment is shut down by 10:00 pm.

- Mornings – Main shift has 60 to 65 cars arriving from 5:30 to 6:00 am. 4 to 5 office people arrive between 7:00 to 8:00 am.
- Lunch – Between 15 to 20 cars leave and return at lunch (11:00 to 12:00)
- Afternoon - At 2:00 pm swing shift starts and 4 cars arrive
- Evenings – At 4:30 pm the main shift ends and we have 65 to 70 cars are leaving.
- Night – After 10:00 pm the swing shift ends and 4 cars leave.
- In addition to employee traffic, we have 4-5 delivery trucks a day that use Pot Hole Rd.

I believe that combined we have less than 200 trips per day. Peak traffic is not more than 75 trips per hour. We also have quite a few people that ride share. On Thursday, July 18 at 12: 30 pm I counted 49 cars in our parking lot.

Updated Site plan

Fencing:

We haven't seen any evidence that we are the source of the trash the neighbor to the north is complaining about but as a precaution we have installed 300 ft of trash barrier fencing between our parking area and the northern property line. The rest of the property boundary is treed.

Our eastern property line also has a tree line except for a 60' section. If trash is a problem, we'd be happy to install a trash fence there as well.

