



STATE OF IDAHO

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

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STUDY TO ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF MULTI-MODAL FREIGHT CENTER IN BOISE

An initial feasibility study on the potential for a multi-modal transload center to serve southwestern Idaho will be conducted this fall. The proposed facility will expand opportunities to combine rail service with local truck service, reducing overall freight costs and improving the competitiveness of outbound Idaho-produced freight and inbound goods and materials.

"Transportation infrastructure is a critical need for economic development," said Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter. "There is no more immediate or direct way to invest in our future prosperity than to ensure access to markets here and abroad. A multi-modal freight center that can help Idaho companies get product to market faster and more cost-effectively, will generate jobs and provide economic returns for future generations."

There now is no such facility in Idaho. The nearest container transloading facility is in Salt Lake City. "The flexibility of using intermodal shipments to our distant markets will be very beneficial and should reduce total distribution costs," said Bryan Whipple of Amalgamated Sugar Company, co-chair of the REDIFiT Interagency Working Group. "The cost of moving a trailer to Salt Lake currently exceeds the savings from shipping intermodal containers."

The Boise Valley Railroad and City of Boise received a matching grant from the State of Idaho to conduct the study. The study will be coordinated by the Business Research and Economic Development Center at Boise State University. Total project cost is estimated at \$88,000, of which half is provided from the State grant and the other half from matching funds – \$22,000 each from the Boise Valley Railroad and the City of Boise. The study should be complete by the end of the year.

The grant was funded through the Idaho Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation (REDIFiT) Program administered by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Commerce.

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