



East Side Fire District

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DATE: January 20, 2026
TO: Ben Weymouth
East Side Highway Commissioners
FROM: Jerry Lynn, Fire Chief
RE: Gozzer Road ROW Vacation

East Side Fire District offers the following:

East Side Fire District has completed its review of the proposal for the Gozzer Road ROW vacation. After evaluating the request in accordance with applicable fire code requirements, emergency access standards, and district operational needs, the Fire District has the following concerns and therefore does not support the Gozzer Road ROW vacation.

- **Emergency Access Reliability:** Public roads ensure consistent, unobstructed access for fire and emergency medical services. Converting this roadway to private ownership introduces an impediment to emergency services that, in the event of a time sensitive emergency, could be the difference between a life or death outcome for a patient. It would create a potential life/safety issue. The district heavily depends on Gozzer Road for access for first responders responding to the station, ambulance or directly to a scene in their private vehicles for residents outside the Gozzer community. This could involve access requirements for any of our 40 current volunteers. The requirement to stop for identification purposes results in a delay or potential denial of access. Management of this process could also introduce unnecessary delays. Additionally, an emergency vehicle having to stop and wait for a gate to be opened, or any mechanical failure with the gate, would also introduce a delay. The best way to ensure timely emergency services to the district and afford the best possible outcome for a patient is to leave Gozzer Road as is with public access.

Additionally, Gozzer Road is a major detour route in the event Highway 97 is closed. The recent wind event as well as previous wind events are examples of that. As a fallout of the most recent event, the Idaho Transportation Department closed Highway 97 just south of Gozzer road for several days. Gozzer Road became a detour route, and again critical for emergency response.

Regards,

Jerry Lynn
Fire Chief