Dawn Hofheimer

From: Wesley R. Fleuchaus <wfleuchaus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Participate
Subject: Serenade to River Bridge Striping Idea

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi,
I listened to the council meeting last night. I was wondering why nobody has considered the option I saw brought up in a Mtn Express letter to the editor recently of having a travel lane that switches direction for each rush hour? This is a commonly implemented solution all over the world and it seems it would solve many of the issues presented last night. We would always have 2 lanes of traffic flowing in the direction required during the busy travel times, and there could even still be room for a turn lane, in this scenario, or instead keeping bike lanes. Thanks for your time.
Wes Fleuchaus
235 Spur Lane Unit 402
Ketchum
703 517 7470

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Malie Kopplin, MD <mkopplin@co.blaine.id.us>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:52 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Bridge Lanes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

> Ketchum City Council:
>
> I am writing to voice my support for four lanes over the bridge into Ketchum. As a citizen who drives up and down the valley, the congestion during this construction has been unbearable. To only then have two lanes over the bridge simply moves the bottle neck north and makes all of this suffering for nothing.
>
> As a county official, I am here to say I have serious public safety concerns about having a continued bottleneck at the bridge. We have already seen ambulances having significant delays getting to the hospital or returning to service - and this will only continue as this county grows. There will also inevitably be people peeling off in the gem streets or to the west, increasing congestion in residential areas and having more potential for accidents with pedestrians. Keep in mind that this bottle neck and congestion will not just affect the commuters that come from the south each day - the afternoon congestion backs up into the city of Ketchum, causing severe traffic and delays for all.
>
> We already have a bike path. The four lane plan includes a sidewalk which would allow any cyclists to hop off and walk their bikes across if they choose to ride a bike.
>
> I urge you to make the decision that favors public safety, and deals with the reality of the growth of this county and looks forward, not backward.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Malie Kopplin, MD
> Blaine County EMS Medical Director
> mkopplin@co.blaine.id.us

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Mike Nicolais <mnicolais@robledriveic.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Number of lane issue by the Gem Streets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern- I understand there is discussion about possibly only having 4 lanes on 75 along the Gem Streets meaning no turn lane. This would make commuting in and out of our homes (I am a Gem Street resident) absolutely miserable and would certainly hurt our property values AND create a dangerous situation. Please do not allow this happen! We must have 5 lanes, not 4 so we can have a turn lane.
Mike Nicolais
104 Garnet Street

Mike Nicolais
Roble Drive Investment Co.
mnicolais@robledriveic.com
214-500-4454
Sent from my iPad

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Erika Blank <erika@studioboden.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 3:52 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Public Hearing for Highway 75 Serenade Lane to River

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
It came to our attention today that there would be a discussion of the lane designation on Highway 75 from serenade to River Streets in Ketchum, I and my business partners would like to add our voice to the option for 4 lanes of traffic, 2 southbound and 2 northbound. As residents of the Wood River Valley with a business in Ketchum we use the highway 75 corridor for our daily commute and to conduct business to and from Ketchum daily. The increased lanes would allow for a less congested commute, as well as making our daily tasks more efficient. No one ever wants to see massive growth in their perfect community, but the reality is we have. And this growth needs to be met in a way that benefits the majority of the community. We hope you will consider this as you make decisions on the lane designations.

Thank you,
Erika Blank

--

ERIKA BLANK
Principal Designer, ASID
LEED, Green Associate

STUDIO BODEN

511 East Ave N

PO BOX 108
Ketchum, ID 83340
208.538.1919 office
www.studioboden.com

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Louise Wilson Noyes <lwn208@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:02 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Striping

I have read that there is now a 3rd option for lanes over the bridge entering Ketchum. The new idea would only work if it could be adjusted to 2 lanes north in the morning and then 2 lanes south in the afternoon. This is obviously impossible.

I still believe that four lanes is the only viable option. Bicycles do not need a lane on 75, there are other options. (BTW, I am a bike rider.)

And I support expediting next year's construction in any way possible. Yes, it is noisy for a few residents but that does not justify the aggravation the rest of us suffered.

After experiencing the appalling traffic jams this summer - and knowing they will happen again next year - it is foolish to consider anything other than 4 lanes.

Thank you,
--
Louise Wilson Noyes
LWN208@gmail.com

Dawn Hofheimer

From: GEORGE DEMPSEY <flyboycop@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:05 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Road lane Survey

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I think the option with the center turn lane would be the best followed by the four lane option. The two lanes with the bicycle lane option is the worst possible idea.
Thanks,

George Dempsey,

Elkhorn

Sent from George Dempsey's iPad

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Sarah Michael <ms.sarahmichael@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 8:12 AM
To: Participate
Cc: Carissa Connelly; Jade Riley; Keith Perry
Subject: BCHA Real Estate Sales

To: Ketchum Mayor and City Council

From: Sarah Michael

Cc: Jade Riley, Carissa Connelly; Keith Perry

Subject: BCHA Real Estate Transactions are complicated

_____

Having managed the sale of three -four BCHA homes as Interim Executive Director of the Blaine County Housing Authority, I found these transactions far more complex and detailed than a regular real estate sale. Fortunately, I worked with Anna Mathieu who is an expert in the details. She knew the formulas for allowable BCHA appreciation, what capital improvements were allowed, did thorough inspections on these, and worked with the BCHA staff on eligible candidates. She is a pro who has spent years becoming an expert in selling a very limited stock of deed restricted homes for below market prices.
The City and the BCHA hires experts and consultants to work in specialties for the best outcome and to avoid mistakes. Anna Mathieu is such an expert and should be considered a consultant, not just someone with a real estate license.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.
Sarah Michael
Blaine County Housing Authority
Interim Executive Director 2022-23.

(208)721-1593
P.O. Box 3060
Sun Valley, ID 83353

Dawn Hofheimer

From: Michael David <msdavid1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Preserving the Character of Ketchum

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

"A road diet reallocates a street's space to better serve the community around it and its full range of users.

The needs of our communities evolve over time, and our street design should, too. That's the idea behind a road diet (also known as rightsizing)—reconfiguring the layout of a street to better serve the people who use them, whether they're commuters driving, shoppers walking, or children bicycling. Across the country, communities large and small are achieving impressive safety, mobility, and community outcomes by implementing such reconfigurations…"

Or we can do the opposite…Ketchum & ITD are "wrongsizing" instead of rightsizing. Wrongsizing to hopefully save commuters 16 seconds of travel time.

Please take a moment to read this and reconsider the decision to permanently have a 4-lane highway bisecting the Reinheimer Ranch as the gateway into Ketchum.

https://www.pps.org/article/a-placemakers-primer-on-road-diets

Sincerely,

Michael David
Ketchum Worker, South of Bellevue Resident
208-450-9178

Dawn Hofheimer

From: James Hungelmann <jim.hungelmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:18 AM
To: Neil Bradshaw; Amanda Breen; Courtney Hamilton; Spencer Cordovano; Tripp Hutchinson; Participate; martha.burke@haileycityhall.org; kaz.thea@haileycityhall.org; heidi.husbands@haileycityhall.org; dustin.stone@haileycityhall.org; Juan Martinez; cgiordani@bellevueidaho.us; dshay@bellevueidaho.us; tbergin@bellevueidaho.us; tdavis@bellevueidaho.us; Shaun Mahoney; jobenauf@bellevueidaho.us; Suzanne Wrede; phendricks@sunvalleyidaho.gov; Michelle Griffith; Keith Saks; mburchmore@sunvalleyidaho.gov; dmadaras@sunvalleyidhaoo.gov; logan.davis@cityofcarey.org; clayton.mecham@cityofcarey.org; Cody.Baird@cityofcarey.org; DAVID.WARTHEN@cityofcarey.org; mdavis@co.blaine.id.us; Angenie McCleary; lmollineaux@co.blaine.id.us; Jim Foudy
Subject: general public comment (for the record of next public meeting): A Civic Reflection: "The Last King — An American Reflection on Power, Truth, and the Courage to Question"
Attachments: THE LAST KING oct 2025.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayors, Council Members, Commissioners, and School District Trustees:

I am submitting the attached essay, *The Last King: An American Reflection on Power, Truth, and the Courage to Question*, for your thoughtful consideration.

This piece was written as a call to renew the habits of inquiry and civic integrity that sustain both liberty and public trust. It challenges us — as citizens and as leaders — to recognize how authority, when left unexamined, can gradually shift from service to control. Its message is not partisan; it is foundational. It reminds us that the preservation of freedom requires consistency, evidence, and the courage to question power in every form, including our own assumptions.

As Blaine County continues to shape its civic and educational future, this reflection may serve as a tool for discussion — in schools, public meetings, and community forums — about the responsibilities of free people in a free republic. The heart of the essay is a simple principle: **"When the inner king is dethroned, no outer tyrant can long survive."**

May the ideas within *The Last King* help strengthen the thoughtful self-governance that defines both our local and national character.

Respectfully,

James Hungelmann

Ketchum, Idaho

The Last King
An American Reflection on Power, Truth, and the Courage to Question
October 2025

Introduction

Throughout history, the notion of a virtuous ruler—the philosopher-king—has been idealized as the highest form of governance, yet in practice it has never materialized, for unchecked power and unexamined obedience breed the slow decay of freedom.
America was founded on the audacious idea that no human being, however powerful, could claim divine or inherent authority over another's mind or life. "No Kings" was more than a cry of rebellion; it was a moral declaration — that truth and freedom require vigilance, inquiry, and courage.
Yet in an age when power has grown diffuse and disguised—when narratives replace evidence and institutions wield unseen influence—the meaning of "No Kings" demands re-examination and a renewed affirmation. The question is not whether we still reject kings, but whether we still recognize them when they no longer wear crowns.

Historical Rejection of Kings

From the nation's birth, Americans have harbored a deep and principled suspicion of kings. This was rooted not merely in rebellion against a crown, but in a conscious rejection of the psychology of submission. The American experiment rests on the conviction that reason, evidence, and moral conscience — not inherited power — are the rightful governors of human affairs. Across generations, the cry of "No Kings" has echoed whenever people have felt betrayed by those who usurped power or placed themselves above the law.

Across the country this October of 2025, the "No Kings" protests denounce what they describe as autocratic acts of the Trump administration — particularly concerning ICE enforcement, national security, surveillance, and executive overreach. On the surface, the message sounds principled: "We reject authoritarianism."

Selective Outrage and the Modern Crown

The irony—and it is a profound one—lies in the selective outrage of the protesting crowd.
While difficult to acknowledge, the truth is that many of these protesters have effectively cried "Yes, Kings!" many times — enthusiastically complying with, and even defending, some of the most sweeping and constitutionally dubious acts of recent history. Many who now decry authoritarianism once embraced it—so long as it wore the mask of safety, science, or social virtue.

As many foresaw, every component of the COVID narrative has unraveled — beginning with the pardon of Dr. Fauci and extending to the Idaho legislative committee's report on the "COVID response," which

found serious constitutional and legal violations throughout the entire episode; those violations inflicted immense physical, mental, and spiritual harm on the public.

Where was the cry of “No Kings!” when unelected federal agencies brushed aside overwhelming evidence and public opposition to advance corporate projects such as 5G “Fast!”, Roundup (glyphosate), and geoengineering and atmospheric spraying — each marked by denial, deception, and disregard for public health and consent?

For that matter, where was the indignation when U.S. presidents — from the Bushes through Clinton and Obama — launched devastating wars in the Middle East on flimsy or fabricated grounds, resulting in covert regime changes, drone strikes, and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians?

The victimization from these “fascist measures” has been profound, yet silence has too often prevailed — especially when opposition might have prevented mass suffering and the gradual acceptance of a fabricated and managed, punishing reality.

Sketchy Storylines

Much of today’s “No Kings” protest is also fueled by media-crafted imagery that distorts reality. Dramatic ICE footage suggests mass roundups and family separations, yet in most areas of the country experiencing a large influx of undocumented immigrants, enforcement appears minimal at best. Local communities rely on these workers to fill essential roles in agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries. The outrage, then, is often emotionally reactive, shaped more by narrative than by fact.

Many have accepted these storylines uncritically, without even the simplest habit of forensic inquiry — asking questions, comparing claims to evidence, and recognizing inconsistencies. Too often what is missing is not access to information but the will to think freely. Without that discipline, people become vulnerable to manipulation by “experts”—armed with ever more sophisticated tools of deception: AI, CGI, and psychological conditioning. That failure of discernment is the true crisis — one that no protest, no slogan, and no king can cure without self-examination.

The Moral Imperative of Critical Inquiry

Those today shouting, “No Kings!” are not wrong in their instincts. The impulse to resist arbitrary power is noble — proof that the moral circuitry of freedom still lives, that the yearning for truth and justice has not been extinguished, only misdirected. But for this awakening to be genuine, it must be complete. It must include the courage to question not only rulers and institutions, but also the systems, narratives, and habits of belief we have trusted.

To be misled is not a moral failure; it is part of being human. As Mark Twain observed, it is hardest to admit when we’ve been fooled. This is especially the case when a story’s emotional power deepens its depiction of reality in the public mind. Yet the willingness to re-examine what we believe — even when it shatters our pride — is one of the highest acts of integrity.

The real test of citizenship today is not whether we oppose a single king, but whether we are willing to challenge every form of illegitimate or unaccountable power — wherever it hides and whoever wields it.

Failure to question does not preserve innocence; it creates complicity. By refusing to examine the stories that govern us, we become participants in the very machinery of deception we claim to resist. This failure endangers not only liberty but reality itself, eroding discernment and draining moral strength. When the mind's freedom to think and the will's courage to act are surrendered to manufactured consensus, humanity becomes vulnerable to total subjugation — psychological, technological, and moral.

Unless we confront every form of deception, we risk losing liberty and, eventually, even the memory of what it means to be human.

How Tyranny Speaks

When people stop thinking clearly, they soon stop speaking truthfully.
Tyranny rarely begins with armies; it begins with words—with contempt, with slogans that replace thought, and with ridicule that silences inquiry. When language is corrupted, conscience soon follows.

True resistance cannot be selective or partisan. It demands consistency — skepticism toward all power, no matter the office or ideology. Outrage without inquiry is too often loud in protest but silent in compliance, blind to contradiction, and easily swayed by whatever authority shouts the loudest.

The "No Kings" movement must therefore reject not only political tyranny but the deeper habit of surrendering judgment to authority. Today's dominion no longer wears a crown; it conceals itself behind credentials, ideology, and the rhetoric of a so-called "greater good."

The enduring safeguard of liberty lies not in the virtue of rulers, but in the vigilance of the governed.
As Benjamin Franklin warned, only an informed and vigilant citizenry can preserve liberty. Thomas Jefferson reminded us that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Their counsel is not a relic of history, but a living demand — to examine not only those in power but our own assumptions.

Mark Twain wrote, "In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned," but when his cause succeeds, "the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot." Each generation faces that same test — when comfort collides with conscience, and silence must yield to courage.

Moreover, to treat others with contempt or condescension for their beliefs is not only an unfortunate collapse of civility and reason, but an act of tyranny itself — shutting down the democratic process of engagement and expression that truth requires. When ego replaces humility, dialogue dies, and the very freedom we claim to defend begins to erode.

As Ayn Rand warned through her novels, the simplification of language — the reduction of complex thought into slogans and repetition like No Kings! — breeds a dangerous conformity. Over time, it cripples independent cognition and fosters a hive mind easily shaped by those who master the machinery of persuasion and deception.

The Discipline of Dissent

To question power is not rebellion; it is the essence of citizenship. A people unwilling to test assumptions and expose contradictions are not free — they are managed. And the management of minds—"government" in its truest sense—is the quietest form of tyranny.

Those who refuse to question become complicit not only in the dismantling of liberty, but in the manipulation of reality itself — of truth, health, and will. Humanity's moral and creative future depends on the courage to think independently and to resist coercion in all its forms.

If the "No Kings" movement stands firmly for evidence and inquiry, it will transcend ridicule and become a legitimate force for civic renewal — protecting truth, health, and freedom. For this reason, the label "conspiracy theorist" must be seen for what it is: an authoritarian weapon to shame and silence independent minds. Like any slur, it seeks to isolate and punish the act of questioning — the very act upon which democracy depends. The danger to liberty lies not in those who ask questions, but in the powers that forbid them.

As more citizens rise to defend open thought and fearless speech, such tactics lose force — and the foundation of truth and human dignity grows stronger. The more people who have the courage to object to deception and domination, the more brightly the light of liberty will burn for generations yet to come.

True freedom requires disciplined inquiry — the courage to verify, to doubt, to see through illusion. Only then does the cry of "No Kings!" become more than defiance; it becomes a living practice of sovereignty, humility, and truth-seeking.

The Most Dangerous King

The cry of "No Kings" must not be shouted only outward, at distant rulers or imagined enemies. It must also be directed inward — toward the mind's submission to fabricated narratives and manufactured consent. The most brutal monarch is not the one who wears a crown, but the one who lives within: the voice that punishes inquiry, condemns dissent as disloyalty, and persuades us that comfort is safer than truth.

A refusal to test one's beliefs and assumptions through reason is a form of inner disorder—a disorientation that breeds both personal and collective delusion. Much of American life has been built upon such unexamined myths — narratives so absurd in their contradictions that they verge on comic-book fantasy. Yet we adapt to them, defend them, and mistake propaganda for truth. In doing so, we deepen our own complicity, placing trust in institutions that have deceived us on matters of the highest consequence.

History offers no shortage of examples: the official story of President Kennedy's assassination — defying forensic logic yet swiftly declared 'settled' — the claim that a man in a cave orchestrated the destruction of the Twin Towers, ushering in decades of surveillance and war; the narrative of COVID — proclaimed as absolute truth while dissenting scientists and health care professionals were censored and due process abandoned. Each followed the same pattern: a crisis followed by an unquestionable story, enforced by ridicule of anyone who asked too many questions.

Any belief system, personal or collective, that clings to certainty and rejects scrutiny is ripe for delusion. When such delusions harden into the shared foundation of a culture, the line between sanity and mass hypnosis vanishes, leaving a nation estranged from reality itself.
To reject all kings, then, is to overthrow the despot within — the one that fears evidence, forbids doubt, and shrinks from courage. Freedom begins when the mind re-examines its own beliefs, is willing to admit error, and stands again in the light of truth, unafraid.

Teaching the Next Generation

This lesson matters most for our youth. They must learn that freedom is not inherited but exercised; that rights are not preserved by slogans, but by evidence, discipline, due process, and tolerance of opposing views. If the next generation learns that inalienable rights can be suspended by fear or decree, those rights will vanish from living memory. But if they learn instead that truth demands proof — and that submission without due process is the seed of tyranny — the flame of liberty will endure.

The revolution that matters most is not waged against a ruler in a palace, but against inner complacency — the quiet surrender that lets falsehood and the demonization of opposing voices rule unchecked.
In the end, the fate of liberty depends not on the rulers we resist, but on the reason we dare to use. When the inner king is dethroned, no outer tyrant can long survive.