



# MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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## Agenda Topic on the Transportation Commission Agenda

**From:** Hether Hill

**Meeting Date:** April 1, 2024

**Topic:** Staff Communications

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Below are summaries of relevant correspondences received by City Staff since the last TC meeting.

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**From:** Rick <[richpres@gmail.com](mailto:richpres@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:33 PM

**To:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>

**Subject:** Chinden and Linder Traffic Concerns

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

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Hello Mayor Simison, I know you care about traffic concerns in the city. I am sending a copy of information (below) I passed along today to the Ada County Highway District related to safety concerns in the area of Chinden and Linder near my home. Anything your office can do to help would be appreciated. Thank you!

Richard Presnell  
88 W. Pavilion Ln  
Meridian, ID 83646

There are several safety problems with this area which continues to become busier with growth and may become more so with the hwy 16 extension and more growth. First, there is no direct way to go east on Chinden from the Fred Meyer complex. Many leave getting on Chinden westbound at the Fred Meyer gas station and attempt to cross 4 traffic lanes in a short distance to be able to make a U-turn at Linder. This is very difficult and dangerous especially at busy times of the day. There are so many people that do this that there are a large percentage of U-turns at Linder. I often see people turning right (east) from Linder to Chinden nearly colliding with those making the U-turn. This is in part due to there not being a "yield to U-turn" sign or one of the red U-turn lights similar to those at the intersection of Eagle Road and Ustick. I think there are four things that should be done to improve the situation. 1--Slow down the Chinden traffic (it is only 35 through Garden City and the traffic, number of schools, churches, nursing homes, and private residences are much higher in the Chinden/Linder area). I think it should be no more than 40 MPH similar to the major roadways that feed into it in that area (Meridian Road and Linder). 2--Add a stop light near the Fred Meyer complex to allow people to go east on Chinden at a stop light. A light at Bergman would be perfect

and would not result in traffic backing up into the Fred Meyer complex. 3--Add "yield to U-turn" signage at northbound Linder and Chinden, and perhaps one of those lights preventing a right turn on red from Linder to Chinden when the Chinden to Linder left turn lane has a green arrow. 4--Put a raised center island on Chinden to make it clear where U-turns can be made. I often see illegal U-turns crossing two sets of double yellow lines and also people making the U-turn at Linder much too early which contributes to the problem related to those turning onto Chinden from Linder. They don't think there is anyone making a U-turn and then run into someone who makes the U-turn 50-100 feet before they should. Thank you!

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**From:** Ryan Head <[RHead@achdidaho.org](mailto:RHead@achdidaho.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:33 PM  
**To:** Miranda Carson <[Carson.Miranda@westada.org](mailto:Carson.Miranda@westada.org)>; John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>  
**Cc:** [hhill@cityofmeridian.org](mailto:hhill@cityofmeridian.org); David Reinhart <[Reinhart.David@westada.org](mailto:Reinhart.David@westada.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Linder Road at Kodiak Crossing

Miranda:

ACHD's Safety Team has put this project on its list to complete. It will likely not occur until next year based on staff capacity to complete the design. That said, it is moving forward.

Ryan

**From:** Miranda Carson <[Carson.Miranda@westada.org](mailto:Carson.Miranda@westada.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:53:52 AM  
**To:** Ryan Head <[RHead@achdidaho.org](mailto:RHead@achdidaho.org)>; John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>  
**Cc:** [hhill@cityofmeridian.org](mailto:hhill@cityofmeridian.org) <[hhill@cityofmeridian.org](mailto:hhill@cityofmeridian.org)>; David Reinhart <[Reinhart.David@westada.org](mailto:Reinhart.David@westada.org)>  
**Subject:** Linder Road at Kodiak Crossing

Ryan,

We (and City of Meridian) have gotten a few requests for a crossing at Linder and Kodiak near Victory Middle. Regardless of where we do or don't bus students are crossing here for school commute and for recreation. I have discussed this crossing with John, and it seems to come down to the programming piece. (Don't they all 😊)

Can one of you help me understand WASD's role if any in getting an enhanced crossing at this location? I will put it on our IFYWP requests list. I think there was some conversation about WASD possibly having put funds toward the crossing when Victory was built, but the details on that conversation are hazy. (John feel free to correct me if I am misremembering.)

Thanks for the assist!

**Miranda Carson**  
Director of Transportation & Planning

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**From:** Tom Ferch <[Tferch@achdidaho.org](mailto:Tferch@achdidaho.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 9:19 AM  
**To:** Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)>  
**Cc:** Kristy Inselman <[Kinselman@achdidaho.org](mailto:Kinselman@achdidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Black Cat RR X-ing

Hi Caleb,

I do not have any information on funding, or a programmed design and construction year for the Black Cat Road and Boise Valley Railroad (BVRR) crossing. Last August, ACHD participated in a scoping of the Black Cat Road and BVRR crossing. Miranda Carson and David Mills were there representing the City of Meridian, along with staff from ITD, the UPRR and the BVRR. From my notes an interim signalized crossing of the existing two lanes would cost \$400,000. The crossing is listed as #21 on ITD's Web Accident Prediction System list for Ada County, which ITD uses to prioritize funding of railroad crossing upgrades. I have included Kristy Inselman on this email in case she has any updated information.

Tom

**From:** Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 8:06 AM  
**To:** Tom Ferch <[Tferch@achdidaho.org](mailto:Tferch@achdidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** Black Cat RR X-ing

Tom,

Ryan mentioned that you had some involvement with UPRR (or someone) on the upgraded crossing at Black Cat. I know there are no programmed funds, but do you have any kind of update on when that crossing may change from stop-controlled? We are working on our priority projects for consideration in the IFYWP and I'm trying to give my elected officials a status update.

Thanks!

Caleb

C. Caleb Hood, AICP | Deputy Director  
City of Meridian | Community Development Department  
33 E. Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho 83642  
Phone: 208.884.5533 | Fax: 208.489.0572 | Email: [chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)

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**From:** Mark Wasdahl <[Mark.Wasdahl@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:Mark.Wasdahl@itd.idaho.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 2:12:53 PM  
**To:** Caleb Hood ([chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)) <[chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** April Meridian TC Meeting

I spoke with our ITD Railroad Coordinator who provided the following information:

I believe Black Cat Road is the only rail-highway crossing project programed within the city of Meridian.

N BLACK CAT RD RRX, UPRR/BVRR, 819582Y, MERIDIAN (Key No. 24294)

- Diagnostic meeting held on site with ACHD, City of Meridian, UPRR and ITD (August 01, 2023)
- Project currently is programed for FY2029
- Project has not made any progress since the diagnostic meeting.

Give me a call or a return email if you have any questions.

Thanks,

*Mark Wasdahl*

Senior Planner  
Idaho Transportation Department, District 3  
Business: (208) 334-8344

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Hi Caleb,

Just an update from the PD side of things. Our SRO Supervisor, Sgt Carter, spoke with the principal at Doral and their current measures to help with these issues are to triple up the drop off line on their property so more cars can funnel in off of Cherry. She has also sent out correspondence to the parents to ask them to use secondary neighborhood streets for drop off when possible rather than Cherry Ln. And finally, she directs most of her staff to be outside monitoring crossing and drop off activity...like bus duty if you will.

**From:** Caleb Hood  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:37 AM  
**To:** John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>; Tara Smith <[tsmith@meridiancity.org](mailto:tsmith@meridiancity.org)>  
**Cc:** Kendall Kemmer <[kkemmer@achdidaho.org](mailto:kkemmer@achdidaho.org)>; Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Doral Academy School Zone / Street Crossing Help Needed

Kendall – Hope you are well! I know this hasn't been in your que for too long, but we have an upcoming Transportation Commission meeting and I've been asked to bring this topic up. So if you have any update prior to Monday, I'd sure appreciate knowing so I can share with my TC. Any information is appreciated.

Caleb

**From:** John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:33 PM  
**To:** Tara Smith <[tsmith@meridiancity.org](mailto:tsmith@meridiancity.org)>

**Cc:** Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)>; Kendall Kemmer <[kkemmer@achdidaho.org](mailto:kkemmer@achdidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Doral Academy School Zone / Street Crossing Help Needed

Tara,

Kendall Kemmer in my shop is working on this issue. I will ask him to include you and Caleb in his response back, so you are in the loop!

*John*

**John Wasson**

Assistant Traffic Engineer | Traffic Engineering

**From:** Tara Smith <[tsmith@meridiancity.org](mailto:tsmith@meridiancity.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:31 PM

**To:** John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>

**Cc:** Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Doral Academy School Zone / Street Crossing Help Needed

In the spirit of teamwork, I just wanted to reach out to you both so we are on the same page with this one. The Police Department will just enforce whatever school zone is decided on, and of course, any crossing guards would have to be provided by the school.

Caleb, I believe this is/would actually be a good issue for the Meridian Intersection Pedestrian Task Force, if they are accepting any new issues for consideration.

Let me know if there is anything you guys need from me

Thanks,

Tara.

On Mar 12, 2024, at 1:30 PM, Luke Cavener <[lcavener@meridiancity.org](mailto:lcavener@meridiancity.org)> wrote:

Good morning/ afternoon friends,

Below is a request from board and administrative leaders from the Doral Academy. Doral is located in the building that previously housed Cherry Lane Christian and Compass School. As the weather begins to improve and pedestrian traffic increased there is ongoing concern for the safety of students walking to and from the school. Unlike Compass, Doral does not currently bus students thus there is greater reliance on both safe access for students as well as an increase in traffic to and from the school.

I'm forwarding to you all as subject matter experts to explore what options can be implemented both in the short and long term. I'm unsure if we/ Doral needs to make a formal request or if this email is sufficient. I'm happy to chat as well but after speaking with both Angela and Mack its clear this is the largest concern amongst parents who send their kids to the school. If I can be kept in the loop on the progress around this request and any direction for future requests it would be appreciated.

Thank you for your help and efforts.

Best,

Luke

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**From:** Angela Perez <[Angela.Perez@doralidaho.org](mailto:Angela.Perez@doralidaho.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:24 AM

**To:** [lcavener@meridiancity.org](mailto:lcavener@meridiancity.org) <[lcavener@meridiancity.org](mailto:lcavener@meridiancity.org)>

**Cc:** Mack Allred <[Mack.Allred@doralidaho.org](mailto:Mack.Allred@doralidaho.org)>; Kendal Fleshman <[Kendal.Fleshman@doralidaho.org](mailto:Kendal.Fleshman@doralidaho.org)>; Jackie Collins <[Jackie.Collins@academicaidaho.com](mailto:Jackie.Collins@academicaidaho.com)>

**Subject:** Doral Academy School Zone / Street Crossing Help Needed

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Good Morning Luke,

My name is Angela Perez and I am a member of the Doral Academy Board of Directors. As a board member and grandparent of Doral students, I would like to request your help as the Meridian City Counsel - Seat 6 representative with adjusting the school zone and assist with the Cherry Lane crossing challenges that are being experienced and risking the safety of the children.

1. **Increase Doral School Zone** – The school zone is very short and causes unexpected slowdowns through the zone and backs up the traffic during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. This causes an increased safety risk to drivers and students. The request is to increase the length of the school zone designation so that it will provide adequate time and duration for drivers to stop and for students /parents to remain safe during the drop-off/pick-up times.
2. **Cherry Lane Crossing** - This poses a safety risk to students/parents at the time they are walking across the road to the school. It is a combination of the School Zone being so short, cars not having enough time to stop when the light turns red, and the absence of a crossing guard during the start and release times of the school. The request is to lengthen the zone, provide more time for the light to turn red, and for crossing guard assistance.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if additional information is needed to provide help with the above challenges.

Thank You,

Angela Perez

Treasurer - Doral Academy of Idaho

Cell: 208-600-2824

Email: [Angela.Perez@doralidaho.org](mailto:Angela.Perez@doralidaho.org)

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On Mar 26, 2024, at 4:29 PM, John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)> wrote:

Renny and Walter,

Here are the maps with locations. The locations are VERY CLOSE to the exact installation points.

*John*

**John Wasson**  
Assistant Traffic Engineer | Traffic Engineering

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Renny,

Based upon the policy that I discussed with you and Walter on Tuesday, and the lack of crash history at that location. ACHD is not planning on installing a stop sign on N. Gertie Place at the entrance into the shopping center.

Additionally, we are unable to provide the signs or poles that you requested. Unfortunately, we can't provide you with materials purchased using public funds for a private enterprise.

I do appreciate you taking the time to discuss the options for your shopping center.

Respectfully,

**John**

**John Wasson**  
Assistant Traffic Engineer | Traffic Engineering

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**From:** Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** [renwylie@aol.com](mailto:renwylie@aol.com)  
**Cc:** John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>; Walter Steed <[wmsted@aol.com](mailto:wmsted@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** Knighthill Center Stop Signs

Renny,

I trust your new year is off to a great start. I wanted to follow-up with you after our phone conversation in December when we spoke about the potential to install some STOP (or other) signs within Knighthill Center. It sounded like you were pretty open to "planting" some signs within your complex if it helps address motorist safety. However, you also mentioned some concerns with where signs might go, due to turnaround easements, irrigation facilities and stacking/blocking issues. You stated you might talk to John Wasson to get his unofficial recommendation on what might help the current situation. (John is generally familiar, but as most/all of the issues are private, I don't think he's really studied the situation. I've copied him on this email.) I know a couple of other Traffic Engineers that may be willing to volunteer some assistance. If you want, I can ask them?

Please let me know if you've thought about this more since our conversation; maybe you even have a plan?

Thank you!

Caleb

**From:** David Miles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:25 PM  
**To:** Bruce Wong <[bwong@achdidaho.org](mailto:bwong@achdidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Washington street

Thank you Director. The City continues to look at what long-term parking enforcement might look like and we are grateful for your support as we make those efforts.

Dave

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**From:** Bruce Wong <[bwong@achdidaho.org](mailto:bwong@achdidaho.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:06 PM  
**To:** Dave Miles <[dmiles@meridiancity.org](mailto:dmiles@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** Washington street

Dave I understand that the residents have requested no parking signs to ACHD. I also understand that the city does not supports this I have directed my team to deny the request and support the city