



MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Agenda Topic on the Transportation Commission Agenda

From: Hether Hill

Meeting Date: November 4, 2024

Topic: Staff Communications

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

CORRESPONDENCE #1:

Good afternoon Dayna,

Thank you for your email, it has been received by the Mayor's Office, we appreciate you contacting us and sharing your concerns about traffic and speeding vehicles in your neighborhood.

Our Transportation Commission and supporting staff review these types of concerns and issues. I have copied Hether Hill, the Long Range Associate Coordination Planner, and ask that she reach out to you to discuss the issues and get some additional details so she can help determine the best path forward.

Additionally, I have copied our Police Chief, Tracy Basterrechea on this email so he is aware of your experiences and I will ask that he look into traffic enforcement in that area, and what options there may be from an enforcement standpoint, and coordinate with Hether as well.

As the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) regulates the local roads in Meridian and are the lead agency that manages traffic calming measures, I want to be sure you also have their information. There is a link (found [HERE](#)) on ACHD's webpage at the bottom of the Traffic Calming page that allows you to complete a Traffic Investigation Report form their team. I encourage you and Hether to talk first before entering a ticket as Hether can help identify the best first steps as our Transportation Commission and staff regularly engages with ACHD as well.

Again, thank you for reaching out, as we appreciate you sharing your thoughts and bringing this to our attention.

Josh Iverson | Executive Assistant

City of Meridian | Mayor's Office

33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: (208) 489-0529



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From: daynamarie627@gmail.com <daynamarie627@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 3:12 PM

To: Mayor Office Feedback <MayorOfficeFeedback@meridiancity.org>; citycouncil <citycouncil@meridiancity.org>

Subject: Request for Mayor and Council

Name: Dayna Clough

Email: daynamarie627@gmail.com

Address: 3496 North Cooper Ave, , Meridian, Idaho, 83646, United States

Subject: Unsafe Traffic on Ustick

Message: Hello,

I am writing to start a conversation about the stretch of road between Meridian and Linder on Ustick. I live just off this road down Venable and travel multiple times a day on this stretch. I personally have seen 2 car accidents right in front of me from people turning left onto Ustick, multiple close calls, and car speeds of up to 55 mph if I were to guess. My thought is that once people pass Settler's Park heading west they pick up speed and create a very unsafe intersection for people turning left onto Ustick. Not only that, but the increase in housing has created even more traffic on these side streets, and drivers (in my opinion) are feeling pressure to take risks in response to the frequent backups. There are only 2 speed limit signs on this stretch and not very noticeable in my opinion. I have a new driver and 2 soon-to-be drivers and it's scary as a parent to have them on the road with so many distracted and speeding drivers, especially on this road. I hardly ever see it being patrolled either. Perhaps putting up more signage, a speed radar sign, or even a light at Venable to create a safer intersection would be helpful. Thank you for your time and reading my email. You may contact me if you wish.

CORRESPONDENCE #2:

From: Hether Hill
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Greg Agius <greg.agius@gmail.com>
Cc: Liz Strader <lstrader@meridiancity.org>
Subject: RE: Bike Lane Issues

Good afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out. As Councilwoman Strader mentioned, I am the staff liaison to the Meridian Transportation Commission and to partner agencies on transportation related issues. I will present your concerns to the Commission, which also includes representation from our partner agencies (ITD, ACHD, West Ada School District and Police) during November's Transportation Commission Meeting. I will also include your correspondence as part of the agenda packet for their review. This is common practice for correspondence received regarding traffic and/or safety concerns on our local road network.

In response to your question about contacting ACHD, I recommend reaching out them directly at tellus@achdidaho.org or by going to their site: <https://www.achdidaho.org/community-resources/report-an-issue>. ACHD also has several bicycle resources on their website: <https://www.achdidaho.org/my-commute/bicycle-resources> I will coordinate with ITD specific to the concerns with road debris on Chinden.

You are correct in that a roundabout is being designed for McMillan and Black Cat. Construction is currently programmed for 2029 and may be subject to change. ACHD has a webpage specific to this project, including the proposed improvements, which you may find informative: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/mcmillan-and-black-cat-intersection>

I hear you and appreciate you sharing your concerns. I'll be in touch with you following the November 4th meeting. If you don't hear from me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Hether Hill | Long Range Associate Coordination Planner

City of Meridian | Community Development
33 E. Broadway Ave., Suite 102
Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone: 208-489-0319



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From: Greg Agius <greg.agius@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:38 AM
To: Liz Strader <lstrader@meridiancity.org>
Cc: Hether Hill <hhill@meridiancity.org>
Subject: Re: Bike Lane Issues

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Thanks both. Is there a good way to communicate these issues to achd?

I will look at the plans you sent. I know a traffic circle is coming to Black Cat and Mcmillian and hopefully that will include some accommodation for cyclists and pedestrians. Currently it's impassable even for pedestrians.

My my frequent issues for cycling access involves either Ten Mile or Linder. Ten Mile has a bike lane but the area between mcmilliam and Ustick frequently has construction debris.

Linder has an inconsistent bike lane and considerable debris running north into Eagle from Chinden. The closure of Eagle Island has made it impossible to avoid.

Greg Agius
310-923-5313

On Mon, Oct 14, 2024 at 10:24 PM Liz Strader <lstrader@meridiancity.org> wrote:
Hi Mr. Agius,

The pedestrian and bike facilities on Black Cat have been a huge source of frustration for us, so I share in your comments!

The ACHD controls our roads and bike lanes, but thank you for reaching out because these are all important comments for us! While the City of Meridian doesn't control the bike lanes directly, we do have a liason who works closely with ACHD. We also have a Meridian Task Force that is focused on these crossings and so forth and elevating the highest priority items.

I am cc'ing Heather our liason for transportation issues to see if she can follow up on this feedback. Heather - let us know please if we can make sure to get some remediation of Chinden going as well as feedback on this crossing issue as soon as possible.

My other suggestion which I'm not sure if it will help or not, is to make sure you have a copy of the master pathways plan for the City of Meridian. The connectivity isn't perfect, but we are adding to it all the time and there are some great routes where you can avoid the roads almost entirely on the multi-use pathways along the canals. The master pathways plan is located here, but if you have a specific way you are trying to go we can probably find someone to advise...

https://meridiancity.org/media/xtbi4402/mpmp_chapter_4_revised_optimized_1-10.pdf

Thank you again, we hope to have some feedback on these items soon.

Liz

From: Greg Agius <greg.agius@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 1:26 PM
To: Liz Strader <lstrader@meridiancity.org>
Subject: Bike Lane Issues

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Hi Liz - I could use help figuring out whom to address some bike lane issues with. I have a few issues:

1) The debris left in the bike lanes (and sidewalks) on Chinden from the sealing is a hazard to both cyclists and motorists. There are piles of small rocks now in the bike lanes and the work was done weeks ago.

2) There are now bike paths in the neighborhoods along Black Cat between McMillian and Ustick. However, the crossing point on black cat is a hazard. That is a 40 mph road and there isn't even a sign calling out the bike crossing. One of the paths has poles to block cars, but they are down, the other side has no protection.

3) I also wanted to revisit the general haphazard nature of bike lanes in Meridian, which is still a persistent problem. The bike paths I mentioned above are great, but one thing that is frustrating is that unless you live in those areas, you can't get there safely on a bike. Black Cat has no bike lane and not even a sidewalk. Between Mcmillan and Chinden there is some bike lane on part of Black Cat, but not the whole road and seemingly without reason.

As you may be aware a cyclist was recently killed on Black Cat in South Meridian last month in an area with no bike lane.

--

Greg Agius
310-923-5313

CORRESPONDENCE #3

5207 S Cheyenne
Boise, ID 83709
October 7, 2024

Mayor Simison
33. E. Broadway Ave.
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Mayor Simison:

My name is Grace I am an 11-year-old girl and my family just moved to Boise from Meridian. My sister and I always went to the park, but crossing the street was hard since cars always flew by. It is a blind corner so one day I was walking and a car flew in front of me and screamed curse words. Most people speed through that street. It is right by a park so kids are usually walking on this street. This is a huge hazard for anyone going to that park. That is why I think a crosswalk should be placed there. Even though I do not live there anymore I am still concerned about the kids going to the park. The park is located at 2640 W Chateau Dr. Meridian, ID 83646, and is called Chateau Park. Thank you for reading this letter. I hope you take these concerns into action and put a crosswalk there.

Sincerely,
Grace McSherry



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

Luke Cavener, President
Liz Strader, Vice President
Brian Whitlock
Doug Taylor
John Overton
Anne Little Roberts

October 14, 2024

Grace McSherry
5207 S. Cheyenne Avenue
Boise, ID 83709

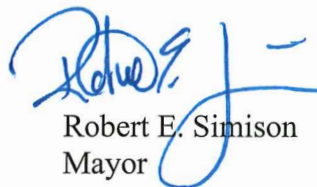
Dear Grace,

Thank you very much for reaching out and identifying an area of concern you have with crossing Chateau Drive to access Chateau Park. First, I am happy to know that you and your sister frequented the park and enjoyed its use! Second, I appreciate you reaching out and letting me know of your concern and perspective about crossing the road and how you felt unsafe. While I am sad to see your family leave Meridian, I am invested in safe pathways and walkability for families and students.

As a City, I have asked that our staff develop an intersection and pedestrian safety task force (MIPS). That group was formed back in 2023 and identifies roadways, intersections and crossings that could be made safer, and then works to implement changes to those areas. While I have not seen this specific location that you made me aware of on those lists, I will ask that Hether Hill, our Long-Range Associate Planner work with you to get a better understanding of the concern, and whether it should be part of that MIPS effort.

To that, please feel free to call (or have your parents call) Hether at 208-489-0319 to further discuss and identify the area and possible solutions. Again, thank you for bringing this to our attention and while we will miss you as Meridian residents, I appreciate you keeping safety of all Meridian residents in mind with your communication.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Simison
Mayor

cc: Hether Hill, Long Range Associate Coordination Planner, City of Meridian
Caleb Hood, Deputy Director of Planning, City of Meridian
David Miles, Chief of Staff, City of Meridian