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May 28, 2025

To: Meridian Transportation Committee

From: Christy Little, Development Services Manager

Subject: Queueing Analysis

During the review of development applications for high volume drive-thru establishments such as fast-food restaurants and coffee shops, ACHD may require a queueing analysis. The purpose of the queueing analysis is to determine if the drive-thru has been designed with enough on-site vehicle storage to prevent vehicles from stacking on a public street while waiting to access the site.

Depending on the location and type of the proposed drive-thru, and the site-specific design; or prior actions, like a commercial center/subdivision, there are instances when ACHD won't require a queueing analysis. Most land use agencies also have policies related to requirements for a queueing analysis. If the land use agency requires an applicant to provide an analysis, ACHD will conduct a formal review, if requested by the land use agency.

A queueing analysis will typically include a trip generation estimate, based on the peak hour of the specific use; a site analysis; and potential mitigation that may be necessary to accommodate the queue length.

If mitigation is required, ACHD is often limited to the construction of turn lanes on public streets, although that is not the preferred method of mitigation. ACHD cannot require on-site mitigation but provides recommendations to the land use agencies regarding impacts and site design. On-site mitigation may include changes to site access, drive aisles, relocation of a building, or relocation of a drive-thru window, for example. ACHD depends on the land use agencies to require adequate on-site mitigation to ensure that there is enough on-site vehicle storage to accommodate vehicle queues.

Attached is a thorough example of a queueing analysis prepared by Kittelson and Associates for a Black Rock Coffee shop located on south Eagle Road in Meridian.

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