



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Date: October 17, 2023

Presenter: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Topic: Black Cat/McMillan Intersection Cost Share

Per standard coordination with ACHD, the City and the District enter into cost share agreements for certain non-transportation components to be included in roadway projects. The subject project includes the typical cost share elements such as conduit and junction boxes as well as some potential opportunities for landscaping above the ACHD baseline. Staff seeks Council direction on areas to partner with ACHD to improve the project to meet the communities' needs.

History

Staff brought this project to Council on July 25th to discuss potential landscape elements. Council expressed an interest in including some landscaping but wanted to hear more about a consistent palate of materials to be used throughout the City. The City has been working with a consultant and ACHD to develop a matrix that includes landscape concepts (previous 10/17 workshop item.) With the matrix project moving forward, staff has outlined the Black Cat/McMillan intersection landscaping opportunities for Council's consideration.

Black Cat and McMillan Roundabout Design

The proposed design includes constructing a multi-lane roundabout with a truck apron and multi-use pathways with crosswalks and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at each pedestrian crossing/leg. The opportunities to provide landscaping, as opposed to the ACHD baseline stamped concrete treatment, exists in three locations: 1) the center island of the roundabout itself, 2) the splitter islands in the middle of all four legs, and 3) the buffer areas between the curb and the multi-use pathway. NOTE: There is a stormwater basin planned at the southwest corner of this intersection. Staff will request ACHD improve the ROW outside of the fencing, consistent with the rest of the project and not just leave it in dirt. This request should not be subject to the cost share agreement. More information (including project drawings) can be found at this link <https://engage.achdidaho.org/mcmillan-and-black-cat-intersection>.

Center Island

If the City decides not to partner with ACHD, the center island will likely be primarily stamped concrete with some vertical element (wall or mound with rocks). If the City partners we can control what the island looks like and make it consistent with the materials used on the approach legs. For example, boulders and shrubs. Any vegetation will require an irrigation system to at least get the plants established. Staff recommends the City partner with ACHD to design and install the

conduit necessary to improve the center island above the ACHD baseline, similar to Amity/Zaldia (Level 1).

Splitter Islands

Each approach to the center of the roundabout uses curbed islands to direct traffic through the roundabout. If the City decides not to partner with ACHD, the splitter islands will be improved with a stamped concrete. As these islands are not very wide, making it difficult to install landscape materials, Staff does not recommend partnering with ACHD to improve them above the baseline.

Buffer Areas

Design of this project includes a multi-use pathway (MUP) on both sides of all four legs. Between the MUP and curb, is a buffer area. If the City chooses not to partner with ACHD, the buffer area will likely be a mix of stamped concrete (3 legs) and grass (1 leg)(see attachment). For consistency Staff recommends that the City partner with ACHD to design and install landscaping in the buffer areas that includes a mix of stamped concrete, boulders and shrubs (Level 1 (with fencing) or Level 4 (no fences)). This treatment should be consistent and tie-in nicely with future improvements to Black Cat and McMillan.

Conclusion

Staff envisions the treatments outlined above to be low maintenance and relatively low cost to design and install. Further, ACHD has shown a willingness to credit the City with any cost savings they may realize by the City installing improvements instead of them. Staff believes some treatments above the ACHD standard hardscaped concrete treatments are warranted at this intersection in the areas specified.



Black Cat Road & McMillan Road Roundabout

