Memo to Mayor and City Council

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From:	Kim Warren, Pathways Project Manager	**Meeting Date:**	August 10, 2021
Presenter:	Kim Warren	**Estimated Time:**	15 minutes
Topic:	Star Road Pedestrian Underpass at Five Mile Creek		

Recommended Council Action:

The City has an opportunity to partner with ACHD on the Star Road Bridge Project to include a pedestrian underpass for the Five Mile Pathway. We are seeking preliminary direction from Council on whether to pursue a cost share agreement for this pathway system amenity.

Background:

Parks and Recreation staff have approached ACHD about the possibility of adding a pedestrian underpass to the Star Road Bridge Project at Five Mile Creek.

The ACHD design process has already begun, with bridge construction scheduled for 2023. (This project will be completed in advance of a future Star Road widening project).

An underpass at Star road, in conjunction with the pedestrian underpass already planned at SH-16 and Five Mile Creek (ITD), would establish three contiguous miles of multi-use pathway along Five Mile Creek (from Black Cat to Can-Ada Roads) that are unimpeded by at-grade crossings with major arterial roadways.

Because Meridian does not have any other grade-separated crossings for pathways, we view this project as a way to further pedestrian connectivity and elevate standards for future connections that integrate with roadway bridge projects moving forward.

It's also important to note that the Star Road Bridge at Five Mile Creek lies at the heart of the Fields District Sub-Area, currently being master planned. A pedestrian underpass would make possible a continuous east-west pedestrian spine through this emerging district, allowing the Five Mile Pathway to connect proposed open space amenities (greenway, regional park) with future commercial-retail and housing uses, as well as downtown Meridian.