

MEMORANDUM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



May 1, 2024

TO: City of Meridian Transportation Commission
CC: David Miles, Chief of Staff
Caleb Hood, Deputy Director Planning and Development
Hether Hill, Long-Range Associate Coordination Planner
FROM: Brian McClure, Long-Range Planning Supervisor
RE: Locust Grove and Amity Project History and Status

The Locust Grove and Amity intersection project has gone through a variety of status and scope changes since the original design effort was kicked off in January of 2021. Other Integrated Five Year Work Plan (IFYWP) projects north, east, and west of the intersection are identified as “future”, with no planned construction year. There is no project identified south of the intersection in the IFYWP.

Originally scoped and intended as an interim build, the intersection project has struggled with existing conditions such as irrigation, drainage, a large number of high impact trees, and a cell tower in close proximity (approved in the County and which the City strongly opposed). The project has also had to contend with misleading results in long-range transportation modeling (existing entitlements skewed by regional forecast housing distribution), well-intended scope creep, right-of-way acquisition issues, and an inherent struggle balancing needs of the local community while addressing pressure and impacts of regional commuters.

The City has actively advocated for an interim or phased intersection project, and for a design that doesn’t preclude future right-of-way preservation of up to 5-lanes north on Locust Grove. On April 3rd, 2024, Mayor Simison sent a letter again requesting that ACHD advance an interim intersection project and invited ACHD staff to be available for discussion at the May 6th, 2024 Transportation Commission meeting. The City understands that existing conditions will result in a comparatively more expensive interim project, but believe that a phased approach with balanced impacts is more appropriate for the local community, and that more costly existing condition elements of the project would benefit a future ultimate build.

General Intersection Project Timeline:

- 2021/01: City staff invited to interim intersection project kick off.
- 2021/06: After initial design work and site inspection, interim project is shelved.
- 2021/10: City staff invited to a new project to design ultimate configuration.
- 2022/01: Traffic Analysis recommendation and ACHD project team select a phased dual lane roundabout design that accommodates future potential widening north.

- 2022/12: City staff are informed that a new ACHD project team have selected a smaller multi-lane roundabout to move forward (two-lanes east-west and one-lane north-south) with no phased expansion.
- 2023/05: ACHD kicks off an expanded project to include previously selected multi-lane roundabout intersection, along with Amity Road widening west to Meridian Road.
- 2023/08, ACHD staff announce a project pause pending discussion with the ACHD Commission.
- 2023/12, ACHD staff inform City staff of indefinite pause pending direction by the ACHD Commission to restart the project.

Note: timeline only reflects decisions and status updates that the City was involved or informed of.