

MEMORANDUM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



August 20, 2020

TO: Mayor Robert Simison
City Council

CC: David Miles, Chief of Staff
Cameron Arial, Community Development Director
Caleb Hood, Planning Division Manager

FROM: Brian McClure, Comprehensive Associate Planner

RE: Community Development: Eagle Road, Amity to Victory Design Update

The Eagle Road, Victory to Amity expansion project is proposed as a five-lane roadway, including center turn lane, with multi-use sidewalks on both sides of the street. The existing roadway has a two and three-lane rural cross-section, with numerous bike and pedestrian gaps. The project includes a pathway crossing north of Zaldia Drive and a roundabout (RAB) at Eagle and Zaldia.

This mile corridor is Meridian's #5 priority project in ACHD's draft 2021-2025 Integrated Five Year Work Plan. Initial preliminary scope and design work began in 2018, and included two public open houses. Design and right-of-way acquisition has been occurring since, and construction is set to begin later this year. The project is included on ACHD's 90 day bid list.

Recently, ACHD expanded this project to include intersection improvements at Eagle and Amity, which is an existing single-lane roundabout (RAB). The Firenze Plaza project, approved in 2017 and located on the northwest corner of the Eagle/Amity intersection, had originally agreed to complete expansion of this single-lane RAB into a dual-lane configuration, in coordination with ACHD. Development has yet to occur however, and ACHD determined that they would need to complete the intersection to retain benefits of the roadway expansion to the north. ACHD's engineering consultant has updated the design of this RAB to include a bypass lane on the northwest section of the RAB, intended to address projected travel demand for motorists traveling south to westbound. The complexity of this design and in relation to concept designs of the adjacent property (Firenze), may necessitate revisions either to adjacent property access or to the intersection design.

On August 3rd, a Tuscany Subdivision resident addressed the Meridian Transportation Commission with concerns related to design of the multiuse crossings with the roadway widening, at the local streets, and with the proposed RAB at Zaldia. The Transportation Commission ultimately requested that City Council consider addressing the multiuse pathway concern with ACHD. During the public review and design process, Meridian staff raised similar concerns with the multiuse crossings, and discussed a similar treatment with City Council on an earlier version of the Locust Grove widening project. While ACHD went a different direction with the design of Locust Grove project (no multiuse pathways), ACHD staff ultimately felt that this crossing treatment was in the public's best interest on Eagle Road.

On August 18th, the Mayor and City Council requested this project be discussed in more depth at the August 25th City Council workshop. Staff will be available and happy to answer any questions about either of the proposed RAB designs and the multiuse crossing design.

Lastly, and related to this project, City Council has previously supported a Parks and Recreation budget request of \$10,000 to develop landscape concepts for the center area of the RAB islands. ACHD is aware of this design effort, but as part of cost share discussions has requested the city install an interim treatment of bark mulch, to ensure the center areas are not left bare. If this pending cost share is approved, Parks and Recreation will bring forward a budget amendment of \$9,000 to pay for this interim treatment.