



# MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

---

## Agenda Topic on the Transportation Commission Agenda

**From:** Hether Hill

**Meeting Date:** October 7, 2024

**Topic:** Staff Communications

---

Below are summaries of relevant correspondences received by City Staff since the last TC meeting.

---

### CORRESPONDENCE #1:

From: David Palumbo <davidepalumbo2013@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:50 PM

To: projects@achdidaho.org; Caleb Hood <chood@meridiancity.org>

Cc: Kent Goldthorpe <kgoldthorpe@achdidaho.org>; David Palumbo <davidepalumbo2013@hotmail.com>;

mkeithboise@gmail.com; Tannya Cluff <tcluff@insurancepros.org>; Betty Bermensolo (bsolo6@msn.com)

<Bsolo6@msn.com>; Alan Herzfeld <aherzfeld2847@gmail.com>; carolvidales@gmail.com;

idhunyedew@gmail.com

Subject: Amity Road at Eagle Road

---

Cody Homan:

Thank you for the update on the Eagle; Lake Hazel to Amity Road project start date.

I have communicated with ACHD regarding the need for right turn lanes at Eagle Road and Amity Road for some time, I do not enjoy watching cars, pickups and trucks drive off the asphalt to make right turns from west bound Amity Road to northbound Eagle Road. Given the construction projects in the area, ACHD could/should be able to gain funds from the City of Meridian and the developers to assist in the payment of this very needed/necessary improvement. When IDOT installed the crossing signals at this intersection, it was very obvious that they did not ask my opinion. Those signals would need to be relocated ( a costly mistake on their part).

Additionally, Amity Road from Cloverdale to Eagle Road should be widened to three 12' lanes at minimum or four/five 11' lanes at maximum....NOW. With all of the development, funds could be collected from the City of Meridian and all of the developers to pay for that much need improvement before the newly developed residential and commercial properties create traffic chaos.

City of Meridian: Please seriously consider notifying the Southwest Ada County Alliance neighborhood association when considering development projects within a mile or two of Cloverdale Road. SWACA will provide you valuable information on development projects and other City of Meridian activities that you may not gain from any other sources. Your decision making process and results will be much better with a greater wealth of knowledge. Also, please consider and remember that residents outside the City of Meridian utilize your work, employment and transportation access.

Thank you and Peace,

David Palumbo

11249 West Highlander Road

Boise, Idaho 83709

208-440-1736

---

## CORRESPONDENCE #2:

Mr. Small,

Thank you for the email and sharing the pictures of the situation. I know this isn't a situation that anyone wishes to see or experience and that the driver was cited for reckless driving.

What I can share with you, and you might already know this, is that the roads are under the jurisdiction of the Ada County Highway District. Historically they have had a process that requires signature gathering from a certain percent of the neighborhood before they will install them. ACHD recently hired a new Director and I don't know if they will continue that practice or not. That being said, I wanted to connect you with Hether Hill who is our coordinates transportation issues for the City. Hether can work with you to best determine a path forward – working directly with ACHD, or engaging our Transportation Commission (which is made up of citizens and includes representatives from ACHD). Through these efforts, we can explore options in this area.

Again, I appreciate you reaching out and look forward to seeing what safety improvements can be implemented.

Respectfully,

**Mayor Robert Simison**

City of Meridian

*All e-mail messages sent to or received by City of Meridian e-mail accounts are subject to the Idaho law, in regards to both release and retention, and may be released upon request, unless exempt from disclosure by law.*

---

**From:** Eric Small <[esmall642@gmail.com](mailto:esmall642@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 6:27 PM

**To:** Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Installing speed bumps in the oaks neighborhoods.

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

---

Heather, thanks for your email, much appreciated being added to the agenda. I forwarded you what the ACD told me that they don't want to do it. So here's the letter from them.

Eric small

Idaho 2023

Sent from Gmail Mobile

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>

**Date:** Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 11:06 AM

**Subject:** RE: Installing speed bumps in the oaks neighborhoods.

**To:** Eric Small <[esmall642@gmail.com](mailto:esmall642@gmail.com)>

**CC:** Harold Bloom <[Hbloom@achdidaho.org](mailto:Hbloom@achdidaho.org)>

Dear Mr. Small,

That you for taking the time to contact the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) and sharing your concerns and the photographs. Up to this time, ACHD has not proceeded with traffic calming on Gondola because the neighborhood is not yet fully developed.

AHCD does have a robust traffic calming program for residential and neighborhood streets. This program is designed to reduce vehicle speeds by placing speed cushions or other devices in the road. In general, these work well and we do see reductions in speeds and/or volumes in locations where we have installed them.

Traffic calming devices (typically speed cushions) are only installed on residential streets whose residents request them, and only when the street meets the necessary criteria. The initial step is to determine if a street meets either the speed or volume criteria for traffic calming. This is done by placing tube counters across the road at a mutually agreeable location. A street should be over 750 feet in length, should have more than 400 cars per day and have a posted speed of 30 MPH or less to be considered eligible for traffic calming evaluation. If a street has more than 4,000 vehicles per day, it surpasses the upper limit for traffic calming and is typically not eligible as collectors with over 4000 vehicles per day are not generally the appropriate facility for devices that may divert traffic to other streets.

If a street meets either the speed or the volume criteria, then it would meet the basic criteria. If you so desire, we would provide you with petitions, maps and address lists so that you could get neighborhood participation and buy-in for traffic calming. Neighborhoods are not permitted to purchase and install their own speed humps or other traffic calming devices.

If a street meets either the speed or volume criteria, and submits a completed petition, then ACHD would install the speed cushions, signs and pavement markings at no cost to the neighborhood. If the speed or volume criteria is not met, or the petition is not completed, then the neighborhood may not be eligible for speed humps. In either case, we work with the Meridian Police Department (MPD) and share all of the data that we collect and the analysis we do. This will assist MPD in improving enforcement within your neighborhood.

Our current policy requires a petition to be circulated for the streets and/or neighborhood, depending on the classification of the road we are evaluating for traffic calming. Gondola is classified as a collector road, and it has no front on houses. If we do a speed study and it meets either the speed or the volume criteria, then ACHD staff would prepare a petition and we would require a number of signatures to be gathered. Right now, a large number of homes/parcels are still builder/developer owned. While we do allow developers/builders to sign the petitions, they have the potential to have a significant impact if they say no, as some developers/builders own multiple parcels and can easily cause the petition process to fail. For that reason, we wait for a neighborhood to be significantly built out before proceeding with traffic calming.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 208-387-6151 or at [jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org). Once the neighborhood is significantly built out, ACHD will conduct a speed study, but we will need a resident to reach out to us.

Respectfully,

**John Wasson**

Assistant Traffic Engineer | Traffic Engineering

Ada County Highway District (ACHD)

3775 Adams Street, Garden City, Idaho 83714

**Phone:** (208)387-6261

[www.achdidaho.org](http://www.achdidaho.org)

Connect with us on social! **@achdidaho**

---

**From:** Eric Small <[esmall642@gmail.com](mailto:esmall642@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 20, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiacity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiacity.org)>  
**Subject:** Accident on rustic oak 7/20 9:45

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

Hi mayor just saw your email address

Today 7/20 around 9:45 in the Oaks north neighborhood we had a pretty big single car traffic accident. Witnesses said a car was traveling about 50-60 on rustic oaks. Lost control jumped the curb we though the grass and hit a concrete drain barrier.

I'm requesting that the city looks at adding speed bumps on rustic oak and especially gondola. These seem to be speedways. We have lots of children in the neighborhood and I would hate for one of them to get hurt. Today's accident was close to the association swimming pool in the oaks north.

Attached are some photos my neighbor took

Thanks for your consideration.







Sincerely

Eric small

Idaho 2023

Sent from Gmail Mobile

---

### **CORRESPONDENCE #3:**

Good Afternoon Mrs. Roberts,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with our Department. We have been involved these developments over the years and work closely with the school district and Ada County Highway District (ACHD). I will do my best to address your concerns and help you communicate them to the appropriate parties.

1. You are correct that your development currently has only one public street access. During the review process, the Meridian Fire Department required an emergency secondary access to Victory in case your neighborhood needs an additional exit. The primary access to S. Locust Grove Rd. and the secondary emergency access comply with City ordinances. This situation is expected to improve over time as other properties in the area develop and extend the stub streets southeast of your development.
2. Your second concern should be shared with the West Ada School District. They are the ones that set these policies. I would contact Miranda Carson at [Carson.Miranda@westada.org](mailto:Carson.Miranda@westada.org) to discuss this matter further.
3. Your concerns about the lack of sidewalks along Locust Grove and Victory are valid. However, the City does not control these roads; they fall under the jurisdiction of the Ada County Highway District. The gaps in the sidewalks exist because some properties adjacent to these roadways are in the County and not yet annexed into the City. Once properties are annexed, both ACHD and the City require sidewalks to be installed, typically in the first phase of development. The City and ACHD coordinate on various transportation projects, which are mapped by ACHD and accessible to the public. I have provided a link to the ACHD map tool for your review ([ACHD Map](#)) . Additionally, the City meets with the Transportation

Commission once a month. If you wish to bring this concern to their attention, you can coordinate with Hether Hill in our office at [hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org).

I hope the information I provided is helpful. If you have any further questions about development in Meridian, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

**Bill Parsons, AICP | Current Planning Supervisor**

City of Meridian | Community Development Dept.

33 E. Broadway Ave., Ste. 102, Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: 208-884-5533 | Direct: 208-489-0571



*Built for Business, Designed for Living*

*All e-mail messages sent to or received by City of Meridian e-mail accounts are subject to the Idaho law, in regards to both release and retention, and may be released upon request, unless exempt from disclosure by law.*

**From:** Kimberly Roberts <[k\\_c\\_roberts@outlook.com](mailto:k_c_roberts@outlook.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 11:24 AM

**To:** [planninginquiries@meridiancity.org](mailto:planninginquiries@meridiancity.org)

**Subject:** Sidewalk planning

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

---

**Good Afternoon,**

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to express a few concerns regarding our neighborhood, located near the crossroads of Victory and Locust Grove.

Firstly, our neighborhood currently has only one entry and exit point, which serves at least 55 houses. This issue became particularly evident during a recent fire on Locust Grove when police had to block the road for safety reasons. This left many parents unable to enter or leave the neighborhood to pick up their children. With the construction of an additional 16 houses already underway, bringing the total to around 70 homes, the lack of an alternative entry and exit point raises serious safety concerns.

Secondly, I am concerned about the current zoning for our child, who attends Siena Elementary. Due to our location, he is not eligible to ride the bus. However, the distance calculated by the school is based on a route that does not account for the lack of sidewalks on Victory between Locust Grove and Eagle. This route is unsafe for children, as they would have to walk along busy roads without sidewalks. The alternative route through the neighborhood is three times longer, but if this route were used to determine eligibility, my child would qualify for bus transportation.

It is unsafe for any child to walk along either Locust Grove or Victory without sidewalks. I strongly urge the city to consider installing sidewalks along these roads to ensure the safety of our residents, particularly our children, as they travel to and from school.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Roberts  
1184 E. Springloyd St.  
Meridian, Idaho 83642

---

**CORRESPONDENCE #4:**

----- Original message -----

From: Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiacity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiacity.org)>  
Date: 9/6/24 3:16 PM (GMT-08:00)  
To: Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiacity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiacity.org)>  
Subject: RE: Traffic

Just an update – I have heard back from ACHD regarding an interim signal at Black Cat/McMillan. The design team is going to take a look at possibilities (it sounds like there is a history here). I just wanted to keep you in the loop on the progress and will update you as I found out more.

Have a nice weekend!

**Hether Hill**  
[hhill@meridiacity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiacity.org)

----- Original message -----

**From:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiacity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiacity.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 8:44 AM  
**To:** Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiacity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiacity.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Traffic

Thanks Hether and hope you are filling better. With this project being pushed back two years, can you talk to ACHD about a temporary signal at this location?

Mayor Robert Simison  
City of Meridian

-----Original Message-----

Good morning,

I don't have much to add following the Mayor's initial response, as he has addressed the situations well. If you are interested, I've provided additional information below for you to refer to as it pertains to the McMillan and Black Cat Roundabout.

1) McMillan and Black Cat Roundabout: ACHD's website has information about the proposed design, results of public outreach and contact information for ACHD staff: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/mcmillan-and-black-cat-intersection> Please note that the construction date of 2027 on some of the informational materials appears to be out of date. ACHD's current Draft Integrated Five Year Work Plan for FY2025-2029 has this project delayed for construction until 2029. This is one of many that has been delayed.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Hether Hill  
[hhill@meridiacity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiacity.org)

-----Original Message-----

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Thank you for your response and detailed information. It would be amazing to have a light at least on that intersection given 2029 is quite a ways away, but I will wait to see if there are any further responses from Hether.

Thanks again,  
Chris Judkins

-----Original Message-----

Mr. Judkins,

Thank you for reaching out with your questions regarding traffic. Let me give you some quick information, and I will ask Hether to follow-up with anything I miss or additional if necessary.

First, pertaining to Black Cat and McMillan. Your thinking is correct. That intersection is planned to be improved to a roundabout. According to the Ada County Highway Districts plan, the construction year for that project is currently planned for construction in 2029. I understand it is a few years away, but ACHD is focused on improvements to Ustick in years 2025, 2026, and 2027 which is likely why this intersection is out to 2029. There may have been a plan to put in a temporary light during the construction of Ustick, but I'll ask Hether to comment on that.

As for 10 Mile, there aren't any improvements planned for Ten Mile. Rather the investment being made for Highway 16 is the plan to alleviate traffic off of 10 Mile. Once Highway 16 is open and it has off ramps at Franklin, Ustick, and Chinden, traffic will likely redirect to these roadways for people living in north Meridian - or for people driving north to Star, Eagle and Emmett - many of whom currently use 10 Mile to access Chinden before heading to Highway 16. Highway 16 improvements is part of why you see ACHD making improvements to Ustick and potentially other roads in the area as it will change the traffic pattern.

I hope this information helps, and will see if Hether has anything additional to add.

Again, I appreciate you reaching out and sorry for the delay in responding. Have a great week.

Respectfully,

Mayor Robert Simison  
City of Meridian

All e-mail messages sent to or received by City of Meridian e-mail accounts are subject to the Idaho law, in regards to both release and retention, and may be released upon request, unless exempt from disclosure by law.

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Judkins <cjudkins@eml.cc>  
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 10:02 PM  
To: Robert Simison <rsimison@meridiancity.org>  
Subject: Traffic

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.



Hello Mayor,

I have reached out in the past regarding issues, and I appreciate you caring and reaching back out to residents of Meridian.

I wanted to reach out to see what can be done about the traffic issues in Meridian. Since moving here in 2017, we have seen tremendous growth as you know. We live in a sub division off of Black Cat and McMillan. If you count all of the Oaks / CBH new subdivisions, condos and apartments off of Black Cat, I would imagine there has been 2000+ dwellings or more built in the past two years - with more to come.

Which leads me to a couple of areas of main concern:

1. Black Cat road is extremely busy most of the time and completely unbearable during the morning hours and knock off. The main issue that I see and what has been the lynchpin of the congestion on Black Cat road is the 4 way stop at Black Cat and McMillan intersection. This 4 way stop has likely been here for 20+ years I would imagine. Doesn't quite work for residents any longer and adds extreme delays and frustration. A round about would probably work so much better for this intersection.

2. Ten Mile interchange / Scheels area growth. As exciting as it is, this area has also seen tremendous growth and development. With Scheels being added, traffic has increased quite a bit as I am sure you know. I just don't know with the current interchange and it's current bumper to bumper traffic as it is how we will be able to support Chick-fil-A or whatever else is coming. Ten Mile is already very very bad congestion wise near the interchange to go west/east bound on 84, I just dont see how the current infrastructure will support the new development.

Is there anything Meridian residents should know about improvements being made on Ten Mile and or Black Cat / McMillan road?

Thank you,

Christopher Judkins

---

## **CORRESPONDENCE #5:**

Mr. Rogers,

I'm sorry the recent roadway maintenance work done downtown did not meet your expectations. So you are aware, that effort was not borne by the City, but rather the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) who owns and maintains all of the non-highway and interstate public roads in Meridian. I am including the City's Transportation and Utility Coordinator, Micah Bandurraga, on this reply so he is aware of your concerns (we share in your disappointment); Micah has been in communications with ACHD about the quality of the job. You could also reach out to ACHD at [tellus@achdidaho.org](mailto:tellus@achdidaho.org) to express your concerns directly with the Highway District.

Thank you for taking the time to write, again, sorry that the contractor did not perform better.

Regards,  
Caleb

C. Caleb Hood, AICP | Deputy Director  
City of Meridian | Community Development Department  
33 E. Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho 83642  
Phone: 208.884.5533 | Fax: 208.489.0572 | Email: [chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Grandwhazoo <[grandwhazoo@gmail.com](mailto:grandwhazoo@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 7:09 PM  
To: [planninginquiries@meridiacity.org](mailto:planninginquiries@meridiacity.org)  
Subject: Meridian paving  
External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Hi Folks,

My name is Dave Rogers and I'm a Meridian resident for 9 years now. I'm sorry to write this to say how disappointed I am in the recent paving work done on Meridian Road. It's terrible and I'd have expected better for the main road going through town. Tire tracks, really rough areas, ridges, surely you could have found a better contractor or demanded better work. Very disappointing job.

Dave Rogers

---

## **CORRESPONDENCE #6:**

Hether,

Thank you for reaching out. Yes, Ms. Lee came before our Commission last week to ask for improvements in this area. We were just made aware of the request in the last few weeks and staff are in the very early stages of discussions with our Rapid Project team regarding what improvements could be made, if any.

We don't have a timeframe yet or even detailed path at this time. It will require outreach to the property owners and evaluation of the existing conditions.

Just to be clear, since this is a new request that will require additional evaluation, this is not something we have on a list to implement this year, but we are definitely looking into it.

I hope this provides a little more clarification. Please let us know if you have any additional questions. Thank you.

**Kristy Inselman (*she/her*)**

Supervisor | Planning  
Ada County Highway District (ACHD)  
**Phone:** (208)387-6252

**From:** Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiacity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiacity.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:51 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Phillips <[Rphillips@achdidaho.org](mailto:Rphillips@achdidaho.org)>  
**Cc:** Matt Degen <[Mdegen@achdidaho.org](mailto:Mdegen@achdidaho.org)>; Kristy Inselman <[Kinselmann@achdidaho.org](mailto:Kinselmann@achdidaho.org)>; Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiacity.org](mailto:chood@meridiacity.org)>; John Wasson <[jwasson@achdidaho.org](mailto:jwasson@achdidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: McMillan & McDermott Pedestrian Safety

Hi Rebecca,

I understand you've spoken with Grace Lee following her public comment to the ACHD Commission last week and recommended she connect with me. I will share her correspondence with the Transportation Commission (TC), as done with all requests/concerns. Ms. Lee mentioned something about this being added to rapid deployment. I don't recall seeing this intersection on the list Matt shared with me a few weeks ago so I'm cc'ing him on this email for any input. The Chair of the TC also raised awareness about this intersection last month and John Wasson was looped in so I'm including him on this email as well.

Is ACHD exploring whether there could be some sort of interim/rapid deployment solution to address some of the pedestrian safety concerns?

**Hether Hill | Long Range Associate Coordination Planner**

City of Meridian | Community Development

33 E. Broadway Ave., Suite 102

Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: 208-489-0319

*All e-mail messages sent to or received by City of Meridian e-mail accounts are subject to the Idaho law, in regards to both release and retention, and may be released upon request, unless exempt from disclosure by law.*

**From:** Grace Lee <[grace.lee212@gmail.com](mailto:grace.lee212@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 12:03 PM

**To:** Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>

**Subject:** McMillan & McDermott Pedestrian Safety

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

---

Hi Hether!

I received your voicemail and will give you a call after I send this email, but wanted to make sure I send it out to you first.

I'm so glad to know you were able to "see" me at the meeting on Wednesday.

Attached is the photo poster I made for the ACHD meeting.

I appreciate you putting this on the radar for the City of Meridian. Our community is eager to get anything in place. Please let me know if there is anything else we can do.

--

Grace Lee

208.570.4505

---

## CORRESPONDENCE #7:

**From:** Ryan Head <RHead@achdidaho.org>

**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 11:42 AM

**To:** Tim Herode <timherode@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Robert Simison <rsimison@meridiancity.org>; Caleb Hood <chood@meridiancity.org>; Hether Hill <hhill@meridiancity.org>; David Miles <dmiles@meridiancity.org>; Justin Lucas <Jlucas@achdidaho.org>; Dyan Bevins <DBevins@achdidaho.org>; Alexis Pickering <apickering@achdidaho.org>; Dave McKinney <dmckinney@achdidaho.org>

**Subject:** Re: Fw: Meridian Road Repair/Pavement - VS Motorcyclists

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

---

Tim:

I wanted to close the loop on this. After further review by my team, we will be taking the following actions:

- a. Review the "rutted" areas and apply targeted fixes in the spring when weather improves, and the micro seal has had a longer time to settle in over winter.
- b. Invite a city representative on the final walk-through to ensure we understand the areas they have concerns about and do our best to address those.
- c. Include manhole raising in the FY25 contract run by Lloyd's team to solve that issue.

I just want you to know how much we appreciate your communication with us on this. Public safety and quality workmanship are important to ACHD. Please continue to use caution as you drive and please let us know your thoughts after we make the additional improvements in the Spring.

**Ryan Head, AICP CTP**

Director

Ada County Highway District (ACHD)  
3775 Adams Street, Garden City, Idaho 83714

**Phone:** (208)387-6110

[www.achdidaho.org](http://www.achdidaho.org)

Connect with us on social! [@achdidaho](#)



---

**From:** Tim Herode <[timherode@gmail.com](mailto:timherode@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 1:40 PM

**To:** Ryan Head <[RHead@achdidaho.org](mailto:RHead@achdidaho.org)>

**Cc:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>; Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)>; Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>; David Miles <[dmiles@meridiancity.org](mailto:dmiles@meridiancity.org)>; Justin Lucas <[Jlucas@achdidaho.org](mailto:Jlucas@achdidaho.org)>; Dyan Bevins <[DBevins@achdidaho.org](mailto:DBevins@achdidaho.org)>; Alexis Pickering <[apickering@achdidaho.org](mailto:apickering@achdidaho.org)>; Dave McKinney <[dmckinney@achdidaho.org](mailto:dmckinney@achdidaho.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Fw: Meridian Road Repair/Pavement - VS Motorcyclists

Mr. Head,

Thank you for such a professional and prompt response to addressing this hazardous matter. I truly appreciate and respect you for it.

To be clear, on S. Meridian, shortly after Cherry and Fairview intersection where the new pavement begins, in the right lane, all the way past the bowling alley, there are significant tire-wide grooves, in the center (motorcycle lane) that will grab your wheel and pull right every time. Not to mention where the overlapping of pavement is, it does the same.

I'm very detailed because I watch the road very carefully to stay safe. This is not about "rough pavement". The manholes are just unacceptable and need to be leveled. That will cause tires to become unbalanced real quick. No amount of vehicle activity will wear these down as if it were an over-filled pothole.

I've noticed these other spots that look saturated with oil on N. Meridian and where they were flattened as if the roller operator was attempting to offset the height. That won't take but a light rain to create a very dangerous condition for motorcyclists and other vehicles should they need to break aggressively.

Traffic is too heavy in the mornings to keep my eyes glued only to the road to "map" where these issues are or I would. I even thought about going down there and taking pictures and not to "prove" a point, but give you accurate data. I can tell you that most of the problem seems to be on the South bound right lane before and up to Pine St. just before the railroad tracks. But after that, there's a very long tire track that you have to be aware of or it will pull you as well that is around the bowling alley.

I hope this helps. And just to be clear, I don't want to make life hard on anyone. I've done this work, just out of high school I was working in the middle of a heavy semi-truck traveled highway with a torch and pick removing reflectors. I've shoveled blacktop into the hopper on the back of those trucks in crazy hot temperatures so I understand the work put into this and I respect it.

But I also believe that we should strive for a spirit of "excellence". Not perfectionism - that will never happen. This is not the first time I've noticed so many issues. Again, I can't stress enough that having our first-responders that ride motorcycles should be the ones that set the standard. These heroes are risking their lives to protect us every day while their families are praying they're not in harms way and make it home.

Thank you for your time and efforts. If I get other pertinent data for your such as pictures, which is doubtful and dangerous, I will let you know. But please check out the southbound right-hand lane and work on those manholes.

Sincerely,

Tim Herode  
208-860-1916

---

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 12:25 PM Ryan Head <[RHead@achdidaho.org](mailto:RHead@achdidaho.org)> wrote:  
Mr. Mayor and Mr. Herode:

Just wanted to get back to you to close the loop. I have had my team review the microseal done on Meridian Rd, including asking four of my team members who ride motorcycles to drive it to give a detailed analysis from that perspective.



To begin with, we want to acknowledge that the surface left after the microseal is not a smooth surface. The microseal process places the treatment down and then anticipates the traffic over the next few months providing additional compaction and smoothing of the surface. As such, the initial treatment does not look as smooth as some would expect. ACHD uses this treatment in downtown areas, where it provides a much cleaner treatment resulting in less dust and disruption than our standard chip seal preventative maintenance approach.

When it comes to impacts to motorcycles in particular, the team did recognize that there may be a lip created at the manhole covers that could feel abrupt if not anticipated. If there are specific locations that are bothersome to you, Mr. Herode, we would be happy to address those further. Please let us know if there are specific manhole covers you would like us to look at. The team did note that the fresh microseal treatment may require additional slowing at turns and could be more slick when it rains. This again should smooth out over time with more vehicle usage of the corridor. We are exploring some possible supplemental signage for motorcyclists for future applications.

While we are sorry the treatment did not result in an outcome everyone was pleased with, we believe that much of the concerns will be addressed through additional usage of the roadway. We do keep our contractors on the hook for a warranty period of 1-2 years after construction to ensure any issues that do not resolve with more use are able to be fixed at their expense.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

**Ryan Head, AICP CTP**

Director

Ada County Highway District (ACHD)  
3775 Adams Street, Garden City, Idaho 83714

**Phone:** (208)387-6110

[www.achdidaho.org](http://www.achdidaho.org)

*Connect with us on social! @achdidaho*



---

**From:** Tim Herode <[timherode@gmail.com](mailto:timherode@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:32 PM

**To:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>

**Cc:** Ryan Head <[RHead@achdidaho.org](mailto:RHead@achdidaho.org)>; Caleb Hood <[chood@meridiancity.org](mailto:chood@meridiancity.org)>; Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>; David Miles <[dmiles@meridiancity.org](mailto:dmiles@meridiancity.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Meridian Road Repair/Pavement - VS Motorcyclists

Mayor Simison,

Thank you for the quick response and clarity on who maintains our roadways.

With any effective leadership training, one learns that if you come with a complaint, it is best to bring a resolution to the table with you.

Our amazing law enforcement utilize motorcycles as well and are extensively trained. What a demonstration of respect it would be to have them travel resurfaced areas to inspect and approve as those who at times will be traveling at high speeds with the intent to protect the public. By all means, their safety should be taken very serious as well.

Sincerely,  
Tim Herode  
208-860-1916

On Wed, Sep 11, 2024 at 1:22 PM Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)> wrote:  
Mr. Herode,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. I'm copying the Director of the Ada County Highway District so he is aware of your concerns – concerns I very much share.

ACHD is a separate entity from the City and they are responsible for all the local roads in Ada County (except private lanes) and the City does not oversight/sign-off for the projects they complete. If we did, I would not have signed off on this work as I too believe the work completed doesn't meet expectations from the portion of the road I drive each morning coming to work. When I shared that viewpoint I was informed that the imperfections will even out from this process. To this point, I haven't yet seen improvements.

I will ask Director Head to provide any additional comments or expectations from the work that has been performed and if it does or does not meet ACHD's expectations.

Again, I appreciate you reaching out and expressing this concern.

**Mayor Robert Simison**  
City of Meridian

*All e-mail messages sent to or received by City of Meridian e-mail accounts are subject to the Idaho law, in regards to both release and retention, and may be released upon request, unless exempt from disclosure by law.*

**From:** Tim Herode <[timherode@gmail.com](mailto:timherode@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 1:04 PM  
**To:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** Meridian Road Repair/Pavement - VS Motorcyclists

**External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.**

---

Dear Mayor Simison,

I hope this email finds you doing well. Thank you for stepping up to serve the residence of our ever growing city.

I love this community so much that I too decided to step up where I could and what made sense as well by supporting my district as PC.

\*\*Please forgive my directness from this point on. It is not directed to you but rather to express my frustration with the recent Meridian Road poor resurfacing project\*\*

Operating a motorcycle is one of my favorite things to do and I'm a daily rider/commuter.

Recently, Meridian Road was re-surfaced from Cherry/Fairview to just before I-84 overpass.

Motorcyclists unlike four-wheeled motorists, are more vulnerable to the imperfections of the road surface.

Prior to the recent repairs, the material used to seal the cracks in our roads produce a hazard to motorcyclists in high temperatures creating surface to tire slippage as if you hit a patch of ice when in a curve or stopping. You can feel the lack of integrity in the material just by putting your shoe on it. (Very sticky)

When the construction was taking place for the road repairs I was very glad. But when I drove my bike over it, I couldn't believe what I was riding over. The grooves in the road now are horrendous. This morning, it caused my bike to jump nearly a foot to the right of where my front wheel was pointed. There are so many uneven, disruptive spots in the road that I can't help but to believe that this contractor was who the California DOT uses.

Lastly, whoever is the final say over such projects from the city, I would highly recommend having a serious conversation with them regarding oversight. Because it doesn't exist. I would stop payment and have that contractor back onsite ASAP, set the existing person in charge behind a desk to learn more about road construction and get someone that considers ALL motorists when repairing our roads.

I really hope resolve comes from a letter of concern like this one. So please hear the voice of , "WE THE PEOPLE", and take action on this embarrassment of a project. And to be clear, I do not think you are the problem. But I'm hoping you can create a better culture of oversight within heads of departments.

My suggestion besides a "redo", and I'm not joking, is to literally have motorcyclist survey the roads once resurfaces have taken place. The man hole offsets are ridiculous as well.

Thank you for your time and again, PLEASE excuse my directness which is intended for those that created this hazard.

Sincerely

Tim Herode  
208-860-1916

---

## CORRESPONDENCE #8:

**From:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 4:31 PM  
**To:** Rob S <[rkscsmith@msn.com](mailto:rkscsmith@msn.com)>  
**Cc:** Tracy Basterrechea <[tbasterrechea@meridiancity.org](mailto:tbasterrechea@meridiancity.org)>; Hether Hill <[hhill@meridiancity.org](mailto:hhill@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Traffic

Mr. Smith,

Thank you for the email and sorry for my delay in responding. I'm copying Chief Basterrechea so he is aware of your concerns/suggestions, as well as Hether Hill who works with ACHD and ITD. Hopefully Hether can get some immediate action with ITD and I will let Chief respond with any specific comments.

Respectfully,  
**Mayor Robert Simison**  
City of Meridian

**From:** Rob S <[rkscsmith@msn.com](mailto:rkscsmith@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Robert Simison <[rsimison@meridiancity.org](mailto:rsimison@meridiancity.org)>  
**Subject:** Traffic

---

Good Evening

It's 5:35 pm on Friday 9/27. My wife and I just got back from walking from Meridian Greens to the Jacksons at Overland and Meridian and back. We passed through that intersection twice, crossing the street twice to get back on the south side of overland. We came very close to being hit three times while in the crosswalk. People are in too big a hurry, they are on their cell phones or just do not care. I counted 13 vehicles running the either the red light for left turn or right turn, including a west ada school bus. Four of those vehicles ran the left turn red light and came to a stop blocking the intersection. I also counted 8 vehicles that ran the red light passing straight through the intersection. One was a large pickup that was accelerating at a high rate of speed through the intersection. I observed 9 people with their phones in their hands while driving in the right turn lane, while we were waiting for the pedestrian traffic light to turn white. All this occurred over a less than a 10-minute period. So how many violations occur every day at this intersection? Traffic in Meridian just keeps getting worse. This intersection, like many in Meridian, is not safe for pedestrians and bikes during rush hour. My only suggestion to Chief Basterechea would be to encourage his motors and patrol officers to make as many contacts as possible for traffic violations when not assigned to a call. And I would strongly encourage those officers to write citations as appropriate.

FYI: I have contacted ACHD about the lack of crosswalk marking at Meridian and Overland. They marked Meridian north and south but said ITD is responsible for Overland east and west. I contacted ITD and have not received a response. During my bike rides I try to keep track of crosswalks that need remarking and routinely notify ACHD.

Rob Smith

---