



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

From: Caleb Hood, Deputy Director
Topic: Transportation Project Updates

Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

Below is a summary/update on some of the transportation and roadway City Staff has been involved with recently. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather highlights some of the more important activities that have recently transpired (or are about to occur) in the transportation realm. Staff will be at the Transportation Commission meeting to discuss some of these topics in more detail. Please feel free to contact staff should you have any comments, concerns, or questions on any of these projects. New information is in **bold**.

KEY ACHD PROJECTS:

ACHD Integrated Five-Year Work Program: The 2024-2028 IFYWP Draft was adopted by the ACHD Commission on September 27th: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/integrated-five-year-work-plan-ifywp> **The City received notice from ACHD that 2024 priority lists are due by March 15, 2024. The Commission will begin the process of reviewing last year's priorities and starting to compile 2024 priority lists for Council consideration during the January and February meetings. The Prioritization Subcommittee will likely meet to discuss in mid-January.**

Linder, Overland to Franklin (Overpass of I-84): Widen Linder Rd to 5 lanes with a bicycle and pedestrian facility from Overland Rd to Franklin Rd. Project includes a new I-84 overpass, improvements to the Overland intersection, and connection of W Verbena Dr across Linder. The City is funding design; **design should be complete in the next 30 days.** The 2nd public outreach meeting (survey) was held online, closing November 2nd. ROW is programmed at ACHD for 2024-2025 and construction is programmed for 2026-2027 in the IFYWP. The ITD Board unanimously approved the inclusion of this project in the draft FY2024-2030 ITIP, Early Development Program with \$10,000.00 in FY24 for preliminary engineering funding for design. <https://engage.achdidaho.org/linder-road-overpass-franklin-road-to-overland-road> **The City has been awarded \$4.3M from ITD towards completion of this project. Staff is discussing how to best use these funds to get this project constructed as soon as possible.**

City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Eagle Road, Lake Hazel to Amity: Notice to proceed is scheduled for February 2024. Landscaping within the roundabout at Taconic will be included in the Cost Share Permit. 95% design is complete. Widen Eagle to 5 lanes with curb, gutter, sidewalk and a multi-use pathway. Includes a multi-lane roundabout at Eagle Rd and Taconic Dr. Here is the project website: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/eagle-road-lake-hazel-road-to-amity-road> **Notice to proceed is**

February 2024.

City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

Lake Hazel and Eagle Signal: Notice to proceed is scheduled for February 2024. The design includes significant grade changes of the existing intersection and will integrate large retaining walls. Widen and signalize intersection to 4/5 lanes on Eagle and 3/4 lanes on Lake Hazel with multiuse pathway connections. Here is a link to the project website: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/lake-hazel-and-eagle-intersection> **Notice to proceed is February 2024, with Eagle roadway widening north.**

City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

Lake Hazel Road, Locust Grove Road to Meridian Road: Brighton owns multiple parcels of land between S Apex Avenue and S Meridian Road. Per their requirements from the City of Meridian they are required to complete a significant utility upgrade that will require the roadway be reconstructed. ACHD Commission has approved a Cooperative Development Agreement for the reconstruction and widening of E Lake Hazel Road between S Apex Avenue and S Meridian Road to 5-lanes, with 10-foot wide concrete multi-use pathways on both sides of the road. Planning Staff has yet to see the plans for widening Lake Hazel in this segment, however, we understand ACHD and the developer have approved plans; design is complete. This project is planned for ROW in 2023 and CN in FY2024-25 in ACHD's IFYWP. Lake Hazel is currently closed in this section for related improvements **until 5/15/2024.**

Amity Rd and Locust Grove Rd & Amity Road, Meridian to Locust Grove: These projects were presented to the ACHD Commission on September 13th to discuss the projects status, questions and concerns from the public, and the letters the City has submitted. After robust discussion, it was determined this project will be put on a longer hold. Project on hold. <https://engage.achdidaho.org/amity-road-and-locust-grove-road-intersection>

City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

McMillan/Black Cat Roundabout: Multi-lane roundabout with truck apron, curb, gutter, and 10-foot-wide multi-use pathways. Crosswalk at each leg with two stage pedestrian crossings and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at each pedestrian crossing. City is partnering with ACHD on Tier 1 landscape improvements in the RAB (conduit for now, landscape in the future), splitter islands and 4-foot buffer areas. ROW in FY23. Notice to proceed scheduled for Spring 2025. <https://engage.achdidaho.org/mcmillan-and-black-cat-intersection>

City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Franklin, McDermott to Black Cat: Widening Franklin Rd to 5 lanes between McDermott Rd and Black Cat Rd, and improving the intersection of Franklin Rd and McDermott Rd. The Franklin Rd and McDermott Rd intersection is a joint project with Nampa Highway District No. 1. City/ACHD partnership on landscaping in the medians/buffers and a "Welcome to Meridian" signs are still being considered. Stormwater swales envisioned behind curb. 30% design complete with project team meeting on November 20th. Design in FY23-24, Right of Way in FY24-25, notice to proceed scheduled for early 2026.

City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

Fairview, Jericho Road to Eagle & Locust Grove/Fairview Signal: Widen intersection to 9 lanes on Fairview and 7 lanes on Locust Grove. Widen Fairview to 7 lanes with curb, gutter, sidewalk and Level 3 bike facility. Currently in ROW phase; construction is expected to start 2028. This project is exceptionally complex with multiple curbs, materials, and elevations. Z-crossing just

west of Fairview/Webb being considered. Here is a link to the project website: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/fairview-avenue-jericho-road-to-eagle-road>
City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Ustick, Ten Mile to Linder: Widen Ustick Rd to 5 lanes with curb, gutter, center medians, and multi-use pathway from Ten Mile Rd to Linder Rd. Right-of-way is scheduled for 2025 in the adopted IFYWP and construction is planned for 2026. Median landscaping is being explored by the project team. Concept includes pedestrian bridge crossing over Five Mile Creek with a signalized crossing at Ustick. Design will include multiuse pathways. A retaining wall will be necessary along Five Mile Creek. No sidewalk/pathways along Five Mile creek where retaining wall to be located; connection will rely on City pathway on north side of creek (in Bridgetower). https://engage.achdidaho.org/ustick_ten_mile_linder
City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Ustick, Black Cat to Ten Mile: Widen to 5-lanes with center medians. Signalized crossing at Naomi (location of new ACHD maintenance facility, south of City wastewater facility). The ACHD consultant has submitted 99% PS&E and documents required for ROW acquisition. ROW acquisition taking the next several months. Construction should begin October or November 2024. https://engage.achdidaho.org/ustick_black_cat_ten_mile
City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Lake Hazel Road, Eagle to Cloverdale: Widen Lake Hazel Rd to five 11' lanes with curb gutter and 10' detached multiuse path on both sides. Bridge improvement included to remove and replace the existing bridge over the Ten Mile Creek. Project will include swales adjacent to the roadway. Design is complete. Design 2022; ROW; 2023; Construction 2026. https://engage.achdidaho.org/lake_hazel_eagle_cloverdale
City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

South Meridian Neighborhood Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan: Plan in hand design meeting was held and 95% design meeting was held for 6/5 for 3 segment improvements in the plan: Stoddard Road, Victory to Overland; Locust Grove Rd at Palermo Dr pedestrian crossing; and bridge #1207 at Locust Grove Rd and Ten Mile creek. Construction is not yet programmed. ACHD and several partners including the City coordinated to develop a plan to help improve walking and bicycling routes in South Meridian neighborhoods. <https://engage.achdidaho.org/neighborhood-plans> Stoddard project webpage <https://engage.achdidaho.org/stoddard-road-victory-road-to-overland-road>

Downtown Meridian Neighborhood Transportation Plan: ACHD is developing a plan to help improve neighborhood streets in the Downtown Meridian area. The purpose of this plan is to update the adopted 2012 Downtown Meridian Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and engage with the community to identify and prioritize future transportation (bicycle, pedestrian, crossing, and roadway) projects in the Downtown Meridian planning area. This plan is scheduled for adoption by the ACHD Commission on Wednesday, January 10th. Staff will provide an overview of the project during the December meeting and is planning to follow-up later in 2024 with more details. https://engage.achdidaho.org/downtown-meridian-neighborhood-transportation-plan?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govDelivery

Linder, Ustick to Pine (concept): The project team met to review concepts recently. Also, the ACHD Pedestrian Advisory Group (PAG), ACHD Commissioners, and City staff did an onsite review of the existing conditions on this stretch of road. In all concepts impacts to some properties would have left substandard conditions for parking and exacerbated backout parking concerns for all users. Based on the feedback from the project team and PAG, ACHD is working with consultants to develop new concepts. New concepts discussed include additional shared roads, roundabout couplets for improved safety/access with turning restrictions, and enhanced speed mitigation features to promote school and park access. **The public survey on the project closed on December 19, 2023. See “Staff Communications” for a brief update; more information anticipated in the Spring of 2024.**

City Staff Contact: Brian McClure, Community Development

Eagle Road Signal Improvements: The consultant implemented the weekend timing plans in July 2023 and is in the process of fine-tuning those plans. ACHD is still working on finalizing the weekday timing plans. It should be complete by winter 2023.

Star Road Bridges: Replace two bridges over the Five Mile Creek and Five Mile Feeder. Bridge width will support future widening to 5-lanes and a type 3 bike facility (MUP). Project on 90 day bid list.

ACHD CAPITAL MAINTENANCE

Residential Capital Maintenance includes conducting field reconnaissance and collecting survey data to determine an improvement strategy for deteriorated/non-compliant facilities such as: pavement, drainage, pipes, sidewalks, ramps. ACHD aims for bringing the segments up to Complete Streets standards where possible. Existing non-compliant pedestrian ramp and driveway access points located along each roadway segment will be identified to be upgraded to meet ADA compliance. Reasonable attempts will be made to improve each pedestrian ramp as directional, not diagonal.

Meridian Downtown Pavement and Pedestrian Improvements (2024): Notice to proceed is scheduled for spring 2024. Formerly named: “FY2022 Residential Capital Maintenance”. The project goal is to rehabilitate pavement and add pedestrian improvements including sidewalk and bulb-outs. Segments include: W 3rd St, W Pine to north end; E Broadway Ave, E 3rd to E 6th; W Cherry Ave, NW 4th St to Meridian Rd; W Idaho Ave, W 8th St to N Meridian Rd; W Maple Ave, W 1st St to N Meridian Rd; W 2nd St, W Cherry Ave to W Cherry Ln; NW 4th S, W Broadway Ave to Maple Ave. <https://engage.achdidaho.org/2022-residential-capital-maintenance> Segments E Washington Ave, NW 7th to Meridian Rd; NW 7th St, W Washington St to middle school micro-path (currently adding sidewalk, no pavement rehab, could change); and W 6th St, W Washington St to W Carlton Ave are also part of this project, but have a separate web page: <https://engage.achdidaho.org/washington-street-and-6th-street>

City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

Residential Pavement and Pedestrian Improvements (2026): Segments included: 1st St W, south end to Franklin Road; Rose Circle; Country Terrace Way S, south end to Overland Road; Blossom Pl, south end to W McGlinchey Ave; McGlinchey Ave, Blossom Pl to NW 8th St; Interlachen Ct, west end to Interlachen Way; Laurel Ct, south end to Verbena Dr; Tobago Ct. E., west end to SE 5th Way; Larkspur Ct, south end to Verbena Dr; Lilac St, south end to Waltman St; Lavender Ct, south end to Verbena Dr; Sugar Creek, south end to Sugar Creek Dr; Lawndale Dr, McGlinchey Ave to Crestmont Dr; Crusier Dr, west end to Five Mile Rd; and Francine Pl S,

Victory Rd to S Francine Ln. ACHD project number: 521060
City Staff Contact: **Caleb Hood**, Community Development

ITD PROJECTS (Updated by ITD Staff January 2024)

ChindenWest Corridor: Four uninterrupted lanes of traffic, two-in-each-direction, from ID-16 to Eagle, is complete. Project website: <https://itdprojects.org/projects/chindenwest/>

Star Road to ID-16: Improvements include re-aligning and reconstructing US-20/26, constructing pathways, and relocating nearby irrigation infrastructure. Anticipated completion in spring 2024. Crews are currently finishing the final stage of the Phyllis Canal Bridge. Final paving and completion of the bridge should be early summer 2024.

Middleton Road to Star Road: Final design for east and west sections were completed in September and October 2023, respectively. PS&E is scheduled for May 2024 for the east package and for October 2024 for the west package. Construction expected to start in either Fall of 2024 or Spring of 2025 depending upon right-of-way acquisition. Project website: <https://chindenwest.com/middletontostar/>.

City Staff Contact: **Caleb Hood**, Community Development

Idaho Highway 16 extension, I-84 to U.S. 20/26

Crews continue building new ramps to connect US-20/26 and SH-16 and will continue through spring of 2024. The new bridge over Five Mile Creek is complete. A new pedestrian bridge over Five Mile Creek east of McDermott Road is complete. The north abutment of the McMillan Overpass will be under construction this winter. Construction on the US 20/26 and SH 16 interchange should start this summer. Construction on several irrigation structures such as the Purdam Drain, & Husky Drain will continue throughout this winter. Foundation work is also starting on bridges over Ten Mile Creek. On the south end of the project, work is continuing on the center pier of the new I-84 interchange and ramps between Franklin Road and I-84. Construction is anticipated to be complete 2025 and will include: Approximately 4.5 miles of highway between U.S. 20/26 and I-84; an interchange at I-84; signalized intersections at Franklin Road and Ustick Road; reconstruction of the U.S. 20/26 intersection; overpasses at Cherry Lane, McMillan Road, and the railroad; and minor adjustments to local roads near SH-16. Project website: itdprojects.idaho.gov/pages/sh16corridor

Interstate 84 Eastbound Auxiliary Lane, Meridian Interchange to Eagle Interchange: Design is anticipated to be complete in March 2024. Construction timeline is dependent on funding availability. This project will add a second on-ramp lane eastbound at Meridian Interchange, an auxiliary (fifth) lane between Meridian Interchange to Eagle Interchange, and a second off-ramp lane at Eagle Interchange:

<https://itdprojects.org/projects/i-84-meridian-interchange-to-eagle-interchange-auxiliary-lane/>

FY24 Surface Treatments US 20/26 & SH 44: Sealcoat approximately 107 lane miles of US 20/26 and SH-44 this summer. This will improve ride quality and extend the pavement lifespan. Project will start no later than June 14, 2024. A typical sealcoat uses oil heated to 150-185F, but this time we will heat it to 275-325F. In addition to the increase in oil temperature, the aggregate is also heated and pre-coated with oil. This new technology makes it possible to do all the work at nighttime, thus greatly reducing the impact to the traveling public.

SH-55 Eagle Road Safety Review: An inter-agency team was assembled to discuss a safety review of Eagle Road, I-84 to SH-44. The safety review, which included a speed study, was completed at the end of February 2023. ITD has presented to City Council several times, the last time was on September 5, 2023. ITD shared what was found in the safety review and showed what sign and striping improvements were made as a result. They also shared that the speed study showed that no change to the enforceable speed limits on Eagle Rd were recommended. ITD recognizes the city's concerns regarding the daily congestion on Eagle Rd and proposed implementing advisory speed limit signage with flashing beacons. These would be activated during the busiest times of the day. The purpose would be to alert the public of times when congestion is most likely. After the presentation there were concerns from the mayor and at least one council member due to advisory speeds not being enforceable. ITD and the city continue to engage to find the best solution for the traveling public on Eagle Rd. An additional inter-agency team with law enforcement, the city, ITD, and other agencies will be put together in the coming months to continue discussions. While different agencies may have different goals, the main goal we all agree on is keeping the public safe and ensuring drivers can get to where they need to go as efficiently and safely as possible.

PATHWAYS

Nine Mile Creek, Linder to Meridian: The Parks Department is moving forward with a land trade to obtain the final access (on 3rd Street) that will make the Rail with Trail (RWT) segment from 3rd Street to 8th Street possible. The engineering consultant is currently preparing legal exhibits for the parcels to be traded. Goal is now construction in 24/25. The path is proposed to run from Linder to Meridian along the Nine Mile Creek drain just north of the railroad. Some segments are complete.

Five Mile Creek Pathway: The City has entered an agreement with ACHD to construct the pathway across their property and be reimbursed after construction is complete. Construction is currently underway. The western half of the project is paved and we are now working on infrastructural elements that will allow the rest of the route to be paved. Bridge delivery is expected late Sept/early October of this year. Project completion is expected this fall. The City will build a run of pathway along the south side of the Five Mile Creek from the Quartet Subdivision, to the Nine Mile Creek, which will culminate in a pedestrian bridge crossing of the Nine Mile Creek and a connection to the existing McNelis Pathway.

Mary McPherson Pathway: The City developed a concept for a pathway between Crest Ridge Drive and Mary McPherson Elementary along the Farr Lateral. Parks requested an engineering proposal to complete a site survey and easements, per the preliminary concept layout. Easements, both permanent pedestrian and construction access, have been agreed to. **As of mid-December, grading and pathway paving work had been complete. It is likely the pathway is now complete.**

OTHER PROJECTS

West Ada School District: Black Cat at Gondola HAWK signal construction is complete.

Valley Regional Transit: VRT held a public open house in Downtown Meridian for residents to review service change proposals in September. A Better Bus presentation is available online detailing proposed service change scenarios:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d9f2c9e1f8c3495a8421eb89e947b7d7>.

<https://www.valleyregionaltransit.org/>

City Staff Contact: Caleb Hood, Community Development

MDC, Downtown Parking Efforts: MDC is working on an update to Destination Downtown. Part of this is parking analysis. The MDC consultant is wrapping-up the Parking Management Strategies & Implementation Guide. **More information will be shared in February or March.**