



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

From: Brian McClure, Community Development **Meeting Date:** October 27, 2020
Presenter: Council Discussion **Estimated Time:** 30 Minutes
Topic: Joint ACHD Meeting Follow-up, Eagle Rd, Victory to Amity Design and Construction

Recommended Council Action:

See memo below.

Background:

The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) has completed the design of the Eagle Road widening improvements, from Victory to Amity, and is preparing to award the contract low-bid selection. This project will include intersection rebuilds, both double-lane roundabouts (RAB), at Zaldia and Amity. The RAB at Amity includes a slip lane on the northwest corner, to facilitate projected traffic demand and congestion heading southwest and west through the intersection.

At the October 22, 2020 joint City Council and ACHD meeting, the ACHD Commission asked City Council to provide a clear request for direction related to the next steps of this project. The project has already gone out to bid and the ACHD is prepared to award a bidder, so that construction related activities can begin next month. From Meridian staff's perspective, there are three options within the context of discussion that occurred during the joint meeting. They are:

- Do nothing, and indicate to the ACHD that the City does not wish to delay the Eagle Road project. While the values of the Meridian City Council may not be fully represented with the design choices selected or requested by Meridian City Council or staff, a great deal of time and money have been invested into this project and the improvements are needed to address and accommodate continued growth in this area.
- Request a redesign of the RAB configuration(s) at either Amity and Eagle, and likely delay the project two-years so the intersection(s) can be re-designed. While a great deal of time and money has been invested into the project already, a redesign of the intersection(s) should not necessitate the entirety of the overall project be wasted or scrapped. It is essential that the ultimate buildout of a very large, and very expensive project reflect the expressed values of the City's residents and stakeholders. City Staff does not know the cost estimates to redesign, but has asked ACHD Staff to provide an estimate.
- Acknowledge the tradeoffs of the RAB configuration(s), and limitations of project timelines and investments to-date, but request that ACHD look at redesign of the multiuse crossings through change-orders, after the project is awarded. The standards used for these crossings are new in Meridian and do not appear to reflect the unique context and site conditions, nor do they appear to account for the demographics and likely behavior and habits of local users, and it is essential that the design does account for these factors. City

Staff believes that a change-order for a limited number of multiuse crossings to be redesigned should not delay the start of this project and would have minimal cost implications (design could likely be done in-house by ACHD Staff). NOTE: This design element could be included as part of a larger redesign request (above), as well.

Staff will be available to answer any questions and share perspectives during this Council agenda discussion. For immediate questions, please feel free to reach out to Brian McClure at bmcclure@meridiancity.org.