



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

Brad Hoaglund

John Overton

Joe Borton

Jessica Perreault

Luke Cavener

Liz Strader

July 20, 2023

Alexis Pickering, President
Ada County Highway District
3775 Adams Street
Garden City, ID 83714

Dear Commission President Pickering,

We are writing to officially request that all planning efforts of future expansions of the McMillan Road corridor account for the preservation of sufficient right-of-way to accommodate five lanes of travel in the future. Further, we request that a corridor-wide analysis be performed to determine future improvement options for efficiency gains in each segment.

As we understand, ACHD is currently planning McMillan Road to contain three lanes (two travel lanes, a center turn lane and appropriate pedestrian facilities) at final build out. At this time, the City of Meridian does not believe that three lanes at full build-out are adequate to serve the future needs of the community. We believe efficiency gains can be realized with arterial and collector intersection improvements (additional or longer turn lanes), additional through lanes in selective areas that facilitate more effective movements, and selectively with 4-lanes and access restrictions to limit the impacts of deceleration and left-turn backup.

McMillan is overburdened and will likely become even more so over time. This is especially concerning as Owyhee High School and Cole Valley Christian's proposed new school, and the City's new fire station will rely heavily on McMillan for access. While existing transmission and irrigation infrastructure most certainly burden and narrow the range of expansion opportunities on McMillan, the City believes that coordination between our two agencies may yield additional opportunities for future improvements along this corridor, like it does in other locations. For example, ACHD is already planning to utilize the City's pathway network to accommodate portions of bike and pedestrian activity on Ustick between Ten Mile and Linder, in a similarly constrained corridor.

A larger cross-section (more than three lanes) also appears possible at Highway 16. While 80 feet clear is currently planned at Highway 16 over McMillan Road, we urge the Commission to continue to work with ITD to expand the clearance if possible. We believe expanded clearance will provide

better configuration options, and if additional clearance cannot be provided, there are also alternatives to accommodate various configurations to support five lanes along the corridor.

We believe that detailed corridor-wide analysis and alternative analysis would allow our agencies to fully understand any constraints, needs and opportunities for other viable solutions to meet the demand level of service, rather than just accepting now that three lanes are the only and best solution. Preserving for a five-lane width now preserves for future alternatives.

The City appreciates your thoughtful consideration of this request, and looks forward to our staff having continued coordinate between our agencies. Please feel free to contact Caleb Hood at 208-489-0572 regarding any questions you may have on next steps.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Simison
Mayor



Brad Hoaglund
City Council President



Joe Borton
City Council Vice President



Luke Cavener
Council Member



John Overton
Council Member



Jessica Perreault
Council Member



Liz Strader
Council Member

Cc: ACHD Commissioners
Bruce Wong, Director, Ada County Highway District
Caleb Hood, City of Meridian Planning Manager

