

February 5, 2024



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

Lauren McLean, Mayor
City of Boise
150 N. Capitol Blvd.
Boise, ID 83702

RE: ACHD FY2025-FY2029 Integrated Five Year Work Plan

President Pickering and Mayor McLean,

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) would like to thank the City of Boise and the Ada County Highway District for recent collaboration on transportation initiatives to improve livability for and safety of Barber Valley residents and visitors. Over the last several years we have worked hard together on various efforts listed below, making significant strides towards improving the safety of students who walk and bike to school, connecting neighborhoods which are currently bifurcated by a former high-speed state highway, and creating the multi-modal community that the Barber Valley was destined to be:

- 2020-2022
 - Through two separate actions, ACHD modifies the ultimate configuration of Warm Springs Avenue between Parkcenter (west) and SH21 in the Master Street Map from five lanes to three lanes.
- 2022 - 2023
 - ACHD reclassifies Warm Springs Avenue (east of Eckert) from an Arterial to a Collector
 - ACHD completes the Barber Valley Neighborhood Transportation Plan (BVNTP), identifying several low-, medium- and high-priority mobility projects to improve safety
 - ACHD reduces posted speed limits for the full length of Warm Springs Avenue to a consistent 35mph and eliminates passing zones
 - ACHD installs RRFBs at the existing Warm Springs/Parkcenter roundabout
 - ACHD works with Boise School District to establish an enhanced pedestrian crossing with RRFB on Parkcenter near Dallas Harris Elementary School
 - ACHD installs two new enhanced pedestrian crossings with RRFBs at Warm Springs/Maynard and Warm Springs/Sky Bar

These efforts are much appreciated and illustrate what can happen when residents and local government have a common goal of improving mobility for everyone.

As identified in the 2023 BVNTP, there is still more work for us to do. BVNA urges the City of Boise and ACHD to take advantage of the momentum generated through previous efforts and take the next steps towards achieving the vision for Barber Valley. We respectfully request the following projects be elevated on the City's annual prioritized IFYWP project request list and programmed into the ACHD FY2025-FY2029 Integrated Five Year Work Plan (IFYWP):

1) Warm Springs Avenue Traffic Calming and Complete Street, Parkcenter Roundabout to SH21

This project would encompass two high- and medium-priority projects identified in the 2023 BVNTP (projects R1 and R2). Warm Springs Avenue extends the full length of Barber Valley and should be integral to the fabric of this community. While important steps have been taken to begin calming automobile traffic and improving safety, vehicle speeds are still not conducive to safe travel by bikes and pedestrians, the wide right-of-way is underutilized, wildlife collisions are still common, and the corridor effectively splits the neighborhood into two parts.

The corridor needs a comprehensive set of interventions to improve travel by all modes, both along and across the corridor. Although the construction of improvements may ultimately need to be phased, it makes sense to develop a strategy for the full length of the corridor under a single effort.

2) Parkcenter Bike Facilities, Bown Way to Warm Springs Ave Roundabout

The existing bike facilities on this section of Parkcenter were designed and implemented prior to current best practices for safe on-street bike infrastructure, including ACHD's Livable Streets Performance Measures. The existing bike lanes are at-grade, unbuffered and unprotected and, thus, not low-stress. This project is identified in the BVNTP as project B2. By developing a strategy for low-stress bike facilities on this segment, it is likely that the pedestrian level of traffic stress will also be improved, which will address project S3 in the BVNTP.

Additionally, BVNA supports the Eckert Bridge project (Eckert Rd Bridge #2147 and #2148, Boise River / Ridenbaugh Canal) that is currently shown on ACHDs map of proposed projects. The new bridge with green belt underpass will provide safety and connectivity improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists which will be necessary when the new Alta Harris Park is constructed.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposed additions to the IFYWP.

Respectfully,

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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