

August 31, 2023



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**RE: Posted Speed Limits and Centerline Pavement Markings
Warm Springs Avenue/Parkcenter Blvd, Boise River to Highway 21**

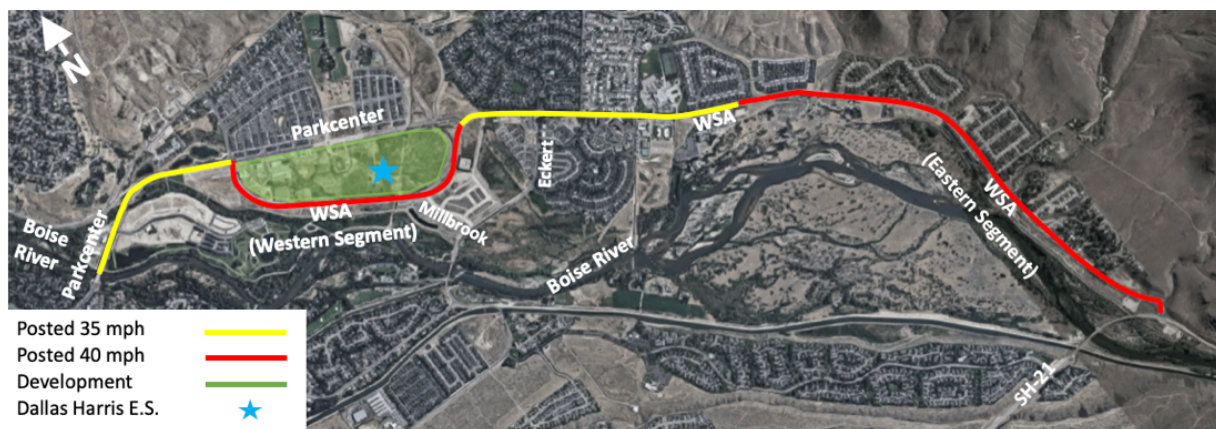
Commissioners,

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) respectfully requests ACHD modify the current posted speed limit on Warm Springs Avenue/Parkcenter Blvd for the entirety of the Barber Valley to 35 mph. BVNA also requests that the centerline pavement markings on Warm Springs Avenue be modified to a solid double yellow centerline to prohibit passing.

Background

Between the Boise River Bridge and SH-21, the Warm Springs Avenue/Parkcenter Blvd corridor currently has two different posted speed limits of 35 mph and 40 mph as illustrated in the image below. Two sections of Warm Springs Avenue within the 40 mph zones also have a dashed centerline, which permits a vehicle to pass slower moving vehicles ahead of it. Neither the 40 mph posted speed limit or the ability of a motorist to legally pass another vehicle are conducive to a safe, neighborhood right-of-way, nor do they support the livability principles that the Barber Valley is being developed around.

Figure 1: Current Posted Speed Limits on Warm Springs Ave/Parkcenter Blvd



Warm Springs Avenue - Western Segment

As you are aware, there is a significant amount of high-density, multi-family residential development occurring within the area highlighted in green in the image above. Approximately 300 dwelling units are

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currently under construction with occupancy by our future neighbors already in progress as of July 2023. Approximately 150 additional dwelling units are in the planning and entitlements process in this area. In addition to hundreds of residents already living in Harris Ranch to the north, the new residents of this area will no doubt commute and recreate on the nearby Boise River Greenbelt located south, across Warm Springs Avenue. Unfortunately, the current highway-like nature of Warm Springs Avenue through this area with high vehicle speeds and limited marked crossings presents a barrier to accessing the River, Marianne Williams Park, the future Alta Harris Park and the Greenbelt.

Dallas Harris Elementary School is also under construction within this area, with a target opening of late fall 2023. This urban-style elementary school will be similar to those constructed in the early 20th Century in Boise's North and East Ends with limited on-site parking and the stated goal of having most students within the attendance area walk or bike to school. A portion of the student body will be crossing Warm Springs Avenue at the Millbrook intersection, as outlined on the proposed walk route map from Boise School District (see attached). While there is an RRFB located at the intersection of Warm Springs/Millbrook to aid pedestrians in crossing Warm Springs Avenue, the fact that there is an RRFB is symptomatic of a larger safety issue: the crossing is located on a curve in Warm Springs Avenue with limited sight distance, high vehicle speeds, and in an area where pedestrians have not historically been encountered.

For these reasons, BVNA desires to calm Warm Springs Avenue traffic adjacent to this new residential development and elementary school so that traveling along and across Warm Springs Avenue is less intimidating and safer for all users (including motorists). We believe that ACHD can take meaningful action now by reducing the posted speed limit to 35 mph and by instituting a double yellow centerline to prohibit passing. Together, these changes will be a message to motorists that they should slow to a neighborhood-friendly speed. Ultimately, BVNA believes that a future dedicated traffic calming project will be required to slow automobile traffic along this section of Warm Springs Avenue.

Warm Springs Avenue – Eastern Segment

Motorists traveling on SH-21 at the east end of the Barber Valley often utilize Warm Springs Avenue as a cut-through to access the destinations in the Barber Valley, East End, SE Boise and Downtown Boise. The posted speed limit on SH-21 is 55 mph and the posted speed limit on the east segment of Warm Springs Avenue is 40 mph (35 mph at night). This section of Warm Springs Avenue is a remnant of the former SH-21 that exhibits wide clear zones and an enormous right-of-way that varies from 80 feet to 300 feet in width. It currently lacks front-on housing or businesses, has minimal cross street intersections and exhibits wide travel lanes as well as broad, superelevated horizontal curves. These physical characteristics of Warm Springs Avenue induce high-speed vehicle travel as motorists navigate off of a truly high-speed SH-21 into a neighborhood.

The safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife as they cross this section of Warm Springs is adversely impacted by the design of the roadway. ACHD recognized this and prioritized (#2) "Enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities with roadway improvements including traffic calming evaluation on Warm Springs Ave from Eckert Rd to SH21" in the recently adopted Barber Valley Neighborhood Transportation Plan. Additionally, Idaho Fish and Game has consistently advocated for wildlife corridors as Barber Valley residential development cuts off river access. The result is six separate wildlife corridors created during sub-

division development to facilitate wildlife passage to/from the Boise River Wildlife Management Area and the Barber Pool Conservation Area on the Boise River.

Figure 2: Warm Springs Avenue Near SH-21



ACHD recently reduced the posted speed limit on this eastern segment of Warm Springs Avenue from 45 mph to 40 mph and revised the classification from Arterial to Collector in support of calming traffic. We applaud these efforts and ask that ACHD continue to take steps to calm traffic on this section of Warm Springs Avenue to improve safety and neighborhood livability. Similar to the western segment of Warm Springs Avenue, BVNA believes that dedicated traffic calming interventions will ultimately be required to slow vehicle speeds. An important first step is messaging to motorists that they are no longer travelling on a high-speed State Highway via reducing of the posted speed limit to 35 mph and instituting a solid double yellow centerline to prohibit passing.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and value our working relationship with ACHD.

Regards.

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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