

29 September 2022



Re: BoiseDev Article “A neighborhood street? Or busy highway? ACHD, Boise policy disagrees on Warm Springs Avenue”, by Margaret Carmel, BoiseDev Senior Reporter (September 28 2022)

Margaret,

Thank you very much for the article highlighting the process challenges and collaboration disconnects between the City of Boise and ACHD. While the Warm Springs topic is a great example of this, we have raised this as a process concern because it's an issue for all cities in Ada County that have visions of their street network that conflict with ACHD policy. It has taken the recent and astute attention of ACHD Commissioners Pickering and Hansen to get the ACHD staff to reevaluate the Master Street Map process to consider policy changes, or at a minimum, policy waivers.

BVNA is concerned and perplexed about the statements made in the article by Rachel Bjornestad from ACHD. Her comment regarding current talks with Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) about calming are inaccurate - the only communication BVNA received from ACHD regarding traffic calming was from Commission President May in a letter dated 1 July that stated “As to Warm Springs, any discussion about reclassifying the roadway would not be appropriate during the application review process as this is a Master Street Map issue.” Further, Ms. Bjornestad refers to an “upcoming concept study on the road between Broadway Avenue and Windsong Drive”. This statement is intentionally misleading and highlights the lack of communication between ACHD and BVNA. The stretch of Warm Springs to Windsong Drive is not in our neighborhood and is not the stretch of road that we have clearly been focused on between Eckert Road and Highway 21. We are disappointed that ACHD continues to misdirect and mislead the public and obfuscate the issue at hand by not even addressing the actual section of road in question and suggesting current collaboration with our neighborhood association is taking place.

Additionally, Ms. Bjornestad's comment about the reason Warm Springs is classified as an arterial is true but completely ignores the state of the Barber Valley today. The stretch of Warm Springs between Eckert & Highway 21 is a legacy holdover from the prior state highway designation, well before the Barber Valley was developed into a predominately residential neighborhood. We believe there is justification for reclassifying and do not believe the traffic volumes to be a deterrent from doing so. Further, the comment “Changing the classification would not change the amount of traffic on the road” completely misses the intent of our request. BVNA's main goal is to allow traffic calming on Warm Springs to make it act as a neighborhood collector, which is not possible on an arterial without a policy exemption or change in classification. Either of these actions would be acceptable to us.

Despite the ongoing ACHD misinformation, we remain dedicated to making this happen to improve the valley and the safety of our neighbors that drive, ride, cross, and walk on Warm Springs Avenue.

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