

December 9, 2024



TO (via email):

Ada County Commission via bdanielson@adacounty.id.gov

CC:

ACHD: DVS (Ky Corder) - dvs@achdidaho.org; Matt Pak - mpak@achdidaho.org

City of Boise: Bre Brush - bbrush@cityofboise.org

Applicants: Everardo Santillan - everardo02@hotmail.com; Courtney Santillan - clester777@hotmail.com

BVNA Directors under separate cover

RE: Application 202402388-V: 6439 E. Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83702 (Parcel S0928438800)

Commissioners,

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) has reviewed the proposed development application and associated variance requests for a single-family residence with accessory dwelling unit on parcel located at 6439 E. Warm Springs Avenue in the Barber Valley and appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

BVNA has no objections to the proposed development or variances and is excited to see development being proposed on this uniquely shaped property along the south side of Warm Springs Avenue in our neighborhood.

As you're likely aware, this section of Warm Springs was designed and operated as a high-speed state highway (SH-21) for decades before being transferred from ITD to ACHD in 1997. Unfortunately, due to the roadway's design, it continues to function as a high-speed route which bifurcates our neighborhood. Speeding vehicles present a safety hazard to all users, including children walking/biking to school, people in other vehicles and wildlife crossing at any one of several natural draws intersecting Warm Springs.

BVNA is actively engaged in improving safety for all users of Warm Springs Ave, primarily through coordination with local agencies—including the City of Boise and ACHD—to implement crossing enhancements and traffic calming treatments which will slow vehicles to an appropriate neighborhood speed. BVNA is also coordinating with private developers in this effort. In addition to working with ACHD to set a neighborhood-appropriate speed limit on the corridor, another recent BVNA success involved bringing together the City of Boise, ACHD and another private developer just east of the subject property to plant over 60 street trees within the ACHD right-of-way approximately 16 feet from the edge of the vehicle travel lanes (striping) along both sides of Warm Springs. These trees—which are irrigated and maintained by the adjacent property owner through an ACHD license agreement—will mature to provide traffic calming benefits as well as other obvious environmental and aesthetic benefits for the adjacent property, the neighborhood and our community. Trees placed at an appropriate distance from the vehicle travel lanes create visual friction for drivers, causing drivers to pay closer attention to the road ahead, slowing their vehicle speed. BVNA is currently working with the City of Boise and the Home Owner's Association to add similar street trees on the north side of Warm Springs at the River Heights Subdivision immediately across from the subject property and will continue to pursue street trees and other traffic calming elements with partner agencies and future redevelopment efforts anticipated on other nearby properties along Warm Springs.

We strongly encourage the Commission to place a requirement on this applicant to install, irrigate and maintain similar street trees in the ACHD right-of-way for the full frontage of the subject property. Specifically, Class III trees at an offset and spacing that matches the street trees recently planted at the East Valley subdivision to the east of the subject property on Warm Springs. Doing so will increase the value of this property in the long run and will provide other community benefits, including traffic calming.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Barber Valley NA Testimony (application 202402388-V)

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