

August 5, 2024



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

RE: ACHD FY2025-FY2029 Integrated Five Year Work Plan Project Request

President Pickering and Commissioners,

On February 5, 2024, the Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) submitted a letter to ACHD and the City of Boise requesting two important projects be added to the FY2025-FY2029 ACHD Integrated Five Year Work Plan (IFYWP). The BVNA's requests included high- and medium-priority projects identified within the recently completed 2023 Barber Valley Neighborhood Transportation Plan (BVNTP), as follows:

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

Warm Springs Avenue extends the full length of Barber Valley and should be integral to the fabric of this neighborhood, however vehicle speeds are not conducive to safe travel along or crossing by bikes and pedestrians, the wide right-of-way is underutilized, and wildlife collisions are still common. The Warm Springs Avenue corridor effectively bifurcates our community and needs a comprehensive set of interventions to improve travel by all modes, both along and across the corridor, much like ACHD is currently developing for Warm Springs Ave through the historic East End (i.e. Ave C to Windsong).

This project would encompass two high- and medium-priority projects identified in the 2023 BVNTP (projects R1 and R2). 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, low-stress on-street bike infrastructure, including ACHD's Livable Streets Performance Measures. The existing bike lanes are at-grade, unbuffered and unprotected from adjacent vehicles traveling at speeds at (and often above) the posted 35mph speed limit and, thus, not low-stress. This high-priority project is identified in the BVNTP as project B2. By developing a strategy for low-stress bike facilities on this segment of Parkcenter Blvd., it is likely that the pedestrian level of traffic stress will also be improved, which will address the goals of medium-priority project S3 from the BVNTP.

It was frustrating to learn the recently released *draft* ACHD FY2025-FY2029 IFYWP included neither of these important projects, even as future (i.e. unfunded) projects. The Barber Valley appears to be the only neighborhood planning area in the draft plan that includes no future projects, no projects beyond 2025 and no funded capital improvements projects. The only funded projects identified in the draft IFYWP in the Barber Valley constitute pavement maintenance efforts in FY2025. We recognize the budget pressures ACHD deals with and acknowledge the competing priorities across Ada County. However, we respectfully disagree with your staff's decision to not program any future improvements for an area of the ACHD system that could be a shining example of how to successfully blend multi-modal infrastructure such that it encourages fewer single-occupant vehicle trips.

Barber Valley NA Testimony (ACHD 2025-29 IFYWP)
www.BVNABoise.org
Board@BVNABoise.org

The 2023 BVNTP clearly identifies that there are real transportation issues that will require study and capital improvements projects to address. The BVNA respectfully requests that ACHD take advantage of the momentum created in our neighborhood through the 2023 BVNTP and add these important capital improvements projects to the IFYWP—even if added to the future project category—in order to establish these projects are, in fact, a priority for our neighborhood, communicate ACHD’s intention to address these issues and help us achieve our shared vision for the Barber Valley neighborhood.

Thank you for consideration of our concerns on this matter.

Respectfully,

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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