

Mary May, President
Kent Goldthorpe, Vice-President
Rebecca W. Arnold, Commissioner
Sara M. Baker, Commissioner
Jim D. Hansen, Commissioner

September 11, 2020

Via Email

Honorable Mayor John Evans
City of Garden City
6015 Glenwood Street
Garden City, Idaho 83714
jevans@gardencityidaho.org

RE: September 8, 2020 Letter on Garden City Neighborhood Plan

Honorable Mayor Evans,

Thank you for your letter of September 8, regarding the ACHD's Garden City Neighborhood Plan. ACHD welcomes information and input from individuals and entities affected by our plans so that we can take that information into consideration in our decision-making processes.

Your letter asked several questions. We have addressed each one below:

1. We are interested in understanding the long-term goals and objectives related to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Is there a consensus on the commission?

The bicycle and pedestrian facilities identified in the Neighborhood Plan support ACHD continued efforts to increase safety and convenience of walking and biking, improve facilities for people of all ages and abilities, enhance mobility, and create economic development opportunities. The projects are evaluated and programmed as part of the IFYWP and in coordination with the city and school district. As part of the neighborhood plan process, ACHD will revisit each planning area to identify new needs based on future development.

2. We have provided several projects via the Garden City Transportation Needs List. The Transportation Needs List is reviewed and adopted on an annual basis. It is comprised of needs identified by other agencies, a citizen advisory committee, public comment, and City Council Review. Several of the projects from our list were not included. We would like to know why.

The planning process included a review of all existing planning documents pertaining to the Garden City planning area which includes the Transportation Needs List. In Appendix A, the transportation need plan is listed with its goal and objectives and the most important projects identified in the plan. After further review of the Transportation Needs List projects, all projects applicable to the neighborhood plan process were identified in the recommended project list. Additional projects were identified in the Transportation Needs List that would require further review from ITD before its implementation or are local road extensions, which would be reviewed as the area redevelops. These projects include crossings along Chinden Blvd and Glenwood St

corridors, new roads like Clay St, 37th to VMP and Brown St, 36th St to 41st St and Stockton and Osage. No changes are recommended for the plan.

3. The attractors and anchors should be reflective of reality and the Plan should discuss how they are used to inform the proposed infrastructure. If ACHD staff or the consultant project managers are unfamiliar with the area, I invite them to experience or discuss these items with us before discounting the suggested attractors and anchors. An example of this is that Garden City provided a “First Friday” map as an attractor of bicycles and pedestrian traffic. We noted that there had been numerous requests from the Garden City Artisans™ community for a bike and pedestrian path to connect through the community. Furthermore, there were numerous public comments related to the potential use of Osage Street, which is a link that has been identified as a potential spine for an ‘artisans’ path. The only response received was “I don’t think they are key destinations, let’s use other retail locations at Glenwood.” While I am sure well-intentioned, this indicates an unfamiliarity of the neighborhood for which the plan is being created, and thus the Plan falls short of adequately identifying its context.

The plan will be updated to include the Garden City Artisans Pathway Map, which includes the list of attractors and a custom map of the locations, and a statement regarding the map and events in the Garden City.

4. Please specifically address how schools are used in identifying projects (proximity to a school results in a project receiving a higher ranking, but this does not equate to identifying routes that may be usable). If the sole determinate of whether a safe route to school will be identified is if the school district provides a route; then the Plan should indicate that these are the only routes that will be identified regardless of other comments or concerns raised by other stakeholders or the community.

The following statement will be added to the plan: “ACHD will work with the School District and the City to identify safe route to school projects and review priority of these locations through the Integrated Five-Year Work Plan.”

5. Identified barriers lack an acknowledgment that uncomfortable options and lack of facilities are also barriers. While the lack of facilities is somewhat inherent in the Plan, please identify and prioritize the linkages for low or lower stress pathways.

The plan will be updated to include high traffic volume areas and lack of facilities as part of the identified barriers.

6. The Plan looks at existing needs on existing infrastructure. Based on anticipated future needs and redevelopment, better connections and infrastructure could be identified. Additionally, there should be a wholistic recognition of the current and potential infrastructure. For example, with this Plan, previously identified projects included the utilization of the Settlers Canal as a multiuse path and crossings of Chinden at usable intervals. There was a decision that since the ITD system is not ACHD’s, and because the canal project would be difficult (even though it would not be an ACHD project), that they would not be included.

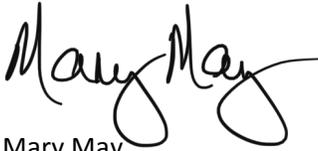
ACHD will update the plan to include the Settlers Canal pathway project. This project will be listed as a Garden City responsibility since it is outside ACHD’s jurisdiction.

7. To no fault of ACHD, the outreach for this plan was 100% electronic. Garden City has an amplified number of residents and service providers for individuals who may not have access to a vehicle. Those same individuals have a decreased likelihood of having access to an in-home computer. In this instance, since the Plan was prepared during Covid-19 closures, the lack of access was further compounded in that the Library and other resources were closed. While all sorts of people use bike and pedestrian paths, those who are wholly dependent upon them really should have extra consideration. Consequently, it is suggested that this Plan please be re-reviewed with priority in a year or two rather than being at the end of the sequence for re-reviews of the neighborhood plans.

ACHD shares the City's desire to ensure all planning efforts are inclusive of public input, especially from those who would be most impacted by any change. As noted, ACHD's outreach efforts were modified due to the pandemic, but we feel input and the resultant projects identified are representative of the needs of the citizens of Garden City. ACHD is committed to continue its robust outreach efforts through the annual update to the Integrated Five-Year Work Plan and as individual projects are developed. These continued opportunities will support individual project prioritization and the design elements of specific project improvements.

Again, we thank you and your staff for providing your comments and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the second "y".

Mary May
ACHD Commission President