



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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September 8, 2020

ACHD Commission President May
ACHD Commission Vice President Goldthorpe
ACHD Commissioner Arnold
ACHD Commissioner Baker
ACHD Commissioner Hansen
Ada County Highway District
3775 Adams Street
Garden City, Idaho 83714

Sent via email to ebautista@achdidaho.org

Re: Garden City Neighborhood Plan

Dear Commissioners,

On August 24th, the Garden City neighborhood plan was presented to the city council. I want to thank Edinson Bautista for the presentation and the effort that went into the creation of the plan.

It is our understanding that funding for community projects follow the adopted neighborhood plans. Therefore, we would like to offer the following comments.

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?
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.
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.

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.
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.
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.
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.

Sincerely,



John G. Evans
Mayor

CC: Garden City City Council