



## City of Eagle

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Mayor  
James D. Reynolds

Council Members  
Mark Butler  
Mary Defayette  
John Grasser  
Jason Pierce

Ada County Highway District  
3775 Adams St.  
Garden City, ID 83714

December 10, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

The City would like to thank Commissioner Franden and ACHD staff for their continued efforts to work through the issues associated with Beacon Light Road. At the November 14, 2013, Beacon Light Stakeholder Committee meeting, the committee recommended to limit the expansion of Beacon Light Road from State Highway 16 to State Highway 55 and improve and expand the state highway system to accommodate future growth. On November 26, 2013, the Eagle City Council voted to endorse this position.

In association with the City's November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City received significant written testimony and concerns from its citizenry about the expansion of Beacon Light Road to 5 lanes. While the City understands ACHD's concerns about LOS and congestion in 2035 on the local roadway system, the City of Eagle cannot support the expansion of the local system to offset the lack of planning and investment on the state highway system.

The City has worked proactively with ACHD to plan for our community's transportation needs, including but not limited to, including ACHD staff on the foothills comprehensive plan transportation committee, working with ACHD and COMPASS staff to model various densities and intensities of uses within the foothills before choosing a land use option, conditioning development within the foothills on the completion the 2008 Northwest Foothills Transportation Plan, and finally, requesting ACHD's staff to review master TIS documents for compliance with the plan before moving forward in the entitlement process. All of this was done to ensure decisions were being made by an informed and mindful Council. The City's land use decisions were made with the best data available at the time and with special consideration that Beacon Light Road be retained as a 3 lane facility.

Since 2008, a lot has occurred within the region:

- The Treasure Valley has continued to grow, even during the recession;
- The regional growth projections were extended for an additional 5 years to 2035 thus increasing the regional population to over 1.02 million in 2035;
- The ACHD Commission, contrary to the request of the City, has chosen to not proceed with federal funding of the Three Cities River Crossing; and
- ITD has completed very limited, and forecasts to complete even fewer, State Highway System expansion projects.

But, the densities and land uses within the City's comprehensive plan have gone unchanged and now the City of Eagle is being requested to accommodate additional regional trips to a rural road - the City of Eagle finds this request unacceptable.

The Eagle City Council on November 26, 2013, formally voted to recommend to the ACHD Commission that Beacon Light Road be retained and planned for a maximum of 3 lanes from State Highway 16 to State Highway 55. Further, the Council recommends that ACHD return all excess right-of-way, beyond the three lane section, to the adjacent land owners.

While the City understands the demands being placed on the ACHD roadway system due to the underfunded state highway system the City feels that over sizing the local roadway systems with 5 lane arterials is inappropriate and it does not resolve the larger issue at hand. As a region and as a State we need to be working together to find solutions to properly fund the state highway system so it can accommodate the forecasted growth within the region and State and serve as an economic driver for our State by efficiently and effectively moving people and goods between communities.

The City continues to see ACHD as a proactive partner in the implementation of our community's vision and we look forward to working together for a bright future.

Sincerely,



James D. Reynolds, Mayor

CC: Council  
Zoning Administrator  
Ryan Head