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Sara M. Baker, President  
John S. Franden, Vice President  
Rebecca W. Arnold, Commissioner  
Mitchell A. Jaurena, Commissioner  
Jim D. Hansen, Commissioner

December 12, 2013

The Honorable Mayor Reynolds  
City of Eagle  
PO Box 1520  
Eagle, Idaho 83616

Dear Mayor Reynolds,

Thank you for your letter of December 10<sup>th</sup>, regarding your thoughts on the Northwest Foothills Study and Beacon Light Road. It has been shared with the ACHD Commission. However, I must address several comments in your letter that are factually not correct.

1. The City claims that ACHD is “over sizing the local roadway system” because of the “underfunding of the State Highway system”. This is not completely accurate. While an expansion of the State System would potentially allow Beacon Light to stay at three-lanes in 2035 at the projected growth, This State System Expansion makes only a marginal reduction in traffic demand on Beacon Light: it will be at the maximum threshold of a 3-lane roadway that year. Even then, it is likely that Beacon Light will need to be widened as the City and region continue to grow after 2035, and as the expanded state system becomes overwhelmed with traffic such growth produces.
2. The City “recommends that ACHD return all excess right-of-way, beyond the three-lane section”. This is not realistic. Any release of any property to adjacent owners would require a vacation process and compensation to ACHD by the landowners (if not the original property owner). We cannot just give it back.
3. The City makes claims that it is unacceptable for the City to have to “accommodate additional regional trips.” Not true. Beacon Light Road is an arterial roadway and serves a regional function. It is the only arterial which connects Ada County with Canyon County and SH 16 with SH 55, besides SH 44, north of the river. While ACHD agrees that the State Highway System best serves regional trips, we do not, nor should we, inhibit the use of arterial roadways especially in such a constrained environment.
4. The City seems to indicate that its Comprehensive Plan was developed to ensure its land uses were compatible with its desired roadway configuration. While this is a laudable practice, there are some issues with some of the assumptions that were included in this effort. The impact of their densities was based on a 2030 land use projection by COMPASS. While the selected densities were adequate when compared against the 2030 regional picture, the region will not stop growing in 2030. As we continue to plan for growth beyond 2030 (as in the case of the

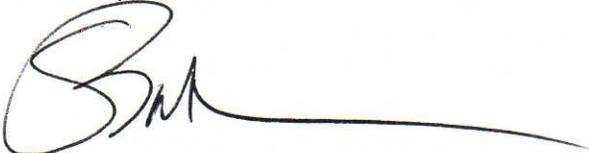
update), the forecasted regional growth will continue to increase the demand on all regional roadways, including Beacon Light.

5. Your claim that Eagle let ACHD be involved in the NWFTS is simply not true. The NWFTS is an ACHD study which Eagle participated in.

Moreover, the 2008 Northwest Foothills Study identified Beacon Light for preservation of 96 feet of right-of-way. The City was involved in that decision. The ACHD Master Street Map, adopted after the City's Comprehensive Plan, identified arterial classifications for Beacon Light Road, with preservation for 5 lanes. The City was involved in that decision. Our models show that the Three Cities River Crossing would not have impacted demand on Beacon Light Road. Finally, the decision of the Stakeholder Committee to recommend expansion of the State Highway system as the top choice was supported by 5 of 9 committee members. Clear direction of no more than 3-lanes was limited to the section between Linder and SH 55. The section of Beacon Light between SH 16 and Linder was left up in the air for additional consideration.

Mr. Mayor, ACHD is committed to partnering with you and all of Ada County in not only solving today's transportation challenges, but proactively planning for Ada County's future transportation requirements. We look forward in continuing this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMB', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sara M. Baker  
Commission President  
Ada County Highway District