MINUTES

Joint Meeting with the City of Eagle, Ada County and ACHD
Ada County Highway District Auditorium
March 12, 2013
12:00 P.M.

City of Eagle:
Mayor Jim Reynolds, Council Member John Grassar, Council Member Mark Butler and Council Member Mary Defayet; Bill Vaughan, Zoning Administrator; and Nichole Baird-Spencer, Planner.

Ada County Attendees:
Commissioner Dave Case, Commissioner Yzaguirre, and Commissioner Tibbs

ACHD Attendees:
Commission President Sara Baker, Commissioner John Franden, Commissioner Rebecca Arnold, Commissioner Jim Hansen, Director Bruce Wong and staff members Dave Wallace, Deputy-Director of Planning and Project Management; Sabrina Anderson, Manager, Planning & Programming; Michael Brokaw, Chief of Staff; Steve Price, General Counsel; Craig Quintana, Chief Information Officer; Paul Daigle, Deputy Director of Maintenance; Gary Inselman, Development Services Manager; Jeff Lowe, Senior Transportation Planner; Justin Lucas, Planning Supervisor; Christy Little, Program Administrator; Ryan Head, Funding Coordinator; and Stephanie Blake, Executive Assistant/Secretary of the Board.

Public Attendee(s):
19 members of the public attended.

At 12:10 PM, ACHD Director Bruce Wong welcomed everyone and turned the floor over to Commission President Sara Baker. Commissioner Baker also welcomed everyone and officially opened the meeting for the Ada County Highway District, noting that all five ACHD Commissioners are present. Mayor Reynolds noted that a quorum of Eagle City Council Members is present. Commissioner Case noted that all three Ada County Commissioners are present. Director Wong introduced Jeff Lowe to give the first presentation.

1. **Northwest Foothills Transportation Study Presentation/Discussion:**

   Jeff Lowe, ACHD Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report (see PowerPoint attached).

   Director Wong provided initial comments.
Commissioner Yzaguirre asked a question about what preservation of right-of-way means for ACHD. Mr. Lowe responded.

Council Member Butler asked if anyone from ITD is present at the meeting. Mr. Lowe responded that Mr. Szplett is present. Council Member Butler asked a question about shifting funding within ITD from Beacon Light/HW-16 to increase capacity on SHW-44. He added that adding extra lanes on Beacon Light Road that will diminish the rural character of the neighborhoods in the vicinity. Director Wong responded.

Council Member Grasser provided comments about the perceived flaws in the ACHD analysis that lead to the recommendation to increase capacity on Beacon Light Road rather than increasing the lanes in an already-established neighborhood. Council Member Grasser encouraged ACHD to look at using Highway 44 more extensively, rather than seeking to alter Beacon Light Road. He expressed his and the Council’s objection to widening Beacon Light to five lanes and asked to have this change included in the adopted plan. He and the Council agree that Beacon Light should be a three lane roadway, not any larger.

Council President Defayate provided comments to express her concern with the way a future widening of Beacon Light Road would impact the roadway and community and provide a way for people to bypass the city. She expressed her interest in a better way to bring people back and forth from Boise to Eagle, such as rejuvenating the Three Rivers Crossing project.

Mayor Reynolds thanked ACHD for hosting the joint meeting and asked for clarification of the high growth rates that ACHD used in the projections for Beacon Light Road. Mr. Lowe responded, explaining the manner in which the growth rates were derived. Director Wong added additional comments.

Mayor Reynolds asked for further clarification between the two organizations’ projected growth rates. Mr. Lowe provided comments in response. Nichole Baird-Spencer also provided clarification.

Commissioner Franden asked a question of Mr. Lowe about ITD’s participation. Mr. Lowe responded. Commissioner Franden provided comments about future growth and challenges with ITD’s funding. He recommended that ACHD and the City of Eagle work to support ITD in finding additional revenue to improve their State systems, such as HW-16 and HW-44.

Council Member Butler asked a question of the Ada County Commissioners about planned communities. Commissioner Yzaguirre responded.

Commissioner Jaurena provided comments about the value of the plan allowing ACHD to preserve right-of-way so that future leaders have it available if it is deemed necessary down the road.

Council President Defayette asked for clarification about ACHD’s population growth projections. Mr. Lowe responded.

Council Member Grasser asked why Highway 44 being widened is not an option in the plan. Mr. Lowe responded, and further explained some of the details of the State Street Traffic and Transit Operations Plan. Mr. Grasser provided follow-up remarks.

Commissioner Baker commented on the need for additional funding for ITD, and the need for ACHD and the City of Eagle to work to try to influence ITD to address these issues.

Commissioner Hansen provided comment on the need for transit infrastructure within this context.
Commissioner Baker asked whether anyone else wished to comment on this topic.

Council Member Butler asked several questions about the widening of State Street and also asked that ACHD provide an alternative model based on its expansion to six lanes. Mr. Lowe responded.

2. **Impact Fee Presentation/Discussion:**

Gary Inselman, ACHD Development Services Manager, presented the staff report.

Council Member Butler commented on his history with impact fees and individual assessments. He also asked whether there is a downtown specialty retail classification for more urbanized areas that rely more heavily on foot traffic than large franchises do. Mr. Inselman responded that those categories do not currently exist, however data can be compiled over time to assess businesses of similar use.

Commissioner Baker expressed ACHD’s acknowledgement that often it is the smaller businesses that are challenged by impact fees, rather than larger businesses such as Wal-Mart.

Mayor Reynolds provided comments about the value of the staff members asking questions to learn the true impact fees owed. Commissioner Baker agreed that staff would be encouraged to ask more questions.

Council Member Defayette asked if ACHD could send an electronic copy of the Impact Fee presentation to them. Mr. Inselman agreed.

Commissioner Baker asked if anyone else wished to provide comments. Hearing no one wishing to speak, Commissioner Baker adjourned the meeting at 1:06PM.