August 11, 2015

TO: Commission, Director, and Deputy Directors

FROM: Rod Ashby, Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Broadway/Warm Springs/Ave B Concept Design

Staff Report for August 19, 2015 Commission Meeting

Executive Summary
As directed by the Commission, and as requested by Boise City Council, staff advanced the Broadway/Ave B/Warm Springs intersection concept design from FY2016 to FY2015. ACHD and Boise staff identified the following issues for consideration as part of the concept design:

- A lack of bicycle facilities to help bicyclists navigate the intersection and connect to bicycle routes in the area.
- The perceived & real challenges for pedestrians, especially those with disabilities, to navigate the intersection.
- The intersection vehicular Level of Service (LOS) fails to meet agency standards.
- Intersection compatibility with the existing and future land uses including a major regional medical facility.
- Boise City Council requested an analysis of reducing travel lanes to three lanes on Ave B and Fort St between Warm Springs and 1st St.

Facts & Findings
The following is a brief summary of the project status:

- ACHD contracted with Parametrix to conduct the concept design and have met with multiple stakeholders to gather input and help guide the development of alternatives and evaluation criteria (no alternatives have been developed to date).
- The ACHD Commission directed staff to put a scheduled Public Involvement Meeting on hold in June, due to concerns that public would confuse the project with St. Luke’s Master Plan update.
- The Project team has continued with preliminary technical evaluations.
- Staff has developed a public involvement strategy that considers recent City actions on the St. Luke’s Master Plan.
Fiscal Implications
The adopted (and draft) Integrated Five Year Work Plan indicates that design is programmed for 2017, right-of-way acquisition in 2018, and construction in 2019 for this intersection. The City of Boise has encouraged ACHD to advance the project to be constructed sooner.

Policy Implications
Based on stakeholder input and due to the unique urban environment of this intersection the project team is considering evaluation criteria that include context sensitive design principles. Based on these principles it is possible that some of the alternatives developed may not significantly improve the long term vehicular level of service at this intersection.

The purpose of this work session is to review the project status and propose next steps for public involvement and alternative development for Commission consideration and direction.