TO: Commissioners, Director, and Deputy Directors

FROM: Justin Lucas, Senior Transportation Planner
       Terry Little, Manager

SUBJECT: Front Street / Second Street (Ada County Courthouse) Signalized Intersection
         Staff Report for the July 6, 2011 Commission Meeting

Executive Summary
In 2009 Ada County requested a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Front and Second Streets in Boise adjacent to the Ada County Courthouse and administration building. The request was reviewed by the ACHD Traffic Department which recommended a full signal at this location. ACHD staff briefed the Commission on this issue on June 23, 2009 and the Commission concluded that until outside funding for the project could be secured that ACHD would not solely pursue the new signalized intersection.

In subsequent meetings and communications with both ITD and Ada County the circumstances surrounding the Front and Second signal have changed. The primary changes are:

1. Ada County has taken measures to discourage crossing at this location including, signage, 1 hour free parking in adjacent parking structures, and targeted enforcement by Boise Police. Even with these efforts there are still the issues with pedestrian crossings.
2. ITD is open to the signal based on a study by ACHD showing minimal delay to Front Street traffic if a signal is installed at 2nd Street. ITD has agreed to allow ACHD to install it through a simple permit process.
3. Ada County has indicated a willingness to fund up to $75,000 of the proposed signal. ITD has agreed to split the remaining cost with ACHD.

Facts & Findings
Traffic conditions warrant a controlled crossing in front of the courthouse and, parents with small children, disabled adults and other vulnerable citizens are seen having difficulty crossing Front Street at 2nd Street. The impact of a signal on a one-way street in a progressive signal system will have minimal delay to vehicles. The obstacles to the placement of a signal appear to be resolved and partners will pay for an estimated 75% of the cost of the project. Given these circumstances, staff is seeking Commission approval to proceed with the proposed Front St. and Second St. signal.
Fiscal Implications
The most recent cost estimate for a full signalized intersection at this location is $140,000. This cost assumes in house (ACHD) design and construction. Based upon the commitments of ITD and Ada County the funding partnership would break down as follows:

- Ada County (half of cost): $75,000
- ITD: $32,500
- ACHD: $32,500
- Total: $140,000

If the Commission decides to move forward with this project ACHD Traffic Department will be able to commit the necessary resources to have this project complete in Fiscal Year 2012. This will allow ITD and Ada County to include this item in their respective budget cycles.

The preliminary schedule would have ACHD crews beginning construction in January of 2012 with construction duration of 6-8 weeks depending on weather conditions.

Commission Direction
Staff recommends Commission approval to move forward with the Front and Second signal, subject to funding as outlined above. If approved, funding for the ACHD portion will be included in the 2012 budget and appropriate interagency agreements for funding will be prepared for signature.