

# ACHD Commission amends Master Street Map to accept Quadrant at Eagle Road/State Street intersection, constrain Beacon Light Road to three lanes

By Jeff Kunz, Eagle City Council President

GARDEN CITY – At a hearing held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) Commission adopted the Master Street Map with several amendments requested by Ada County cities, including the reduction of preservation widths on Warm Springs Avenue, Eagle Road and Beacon Light Road.

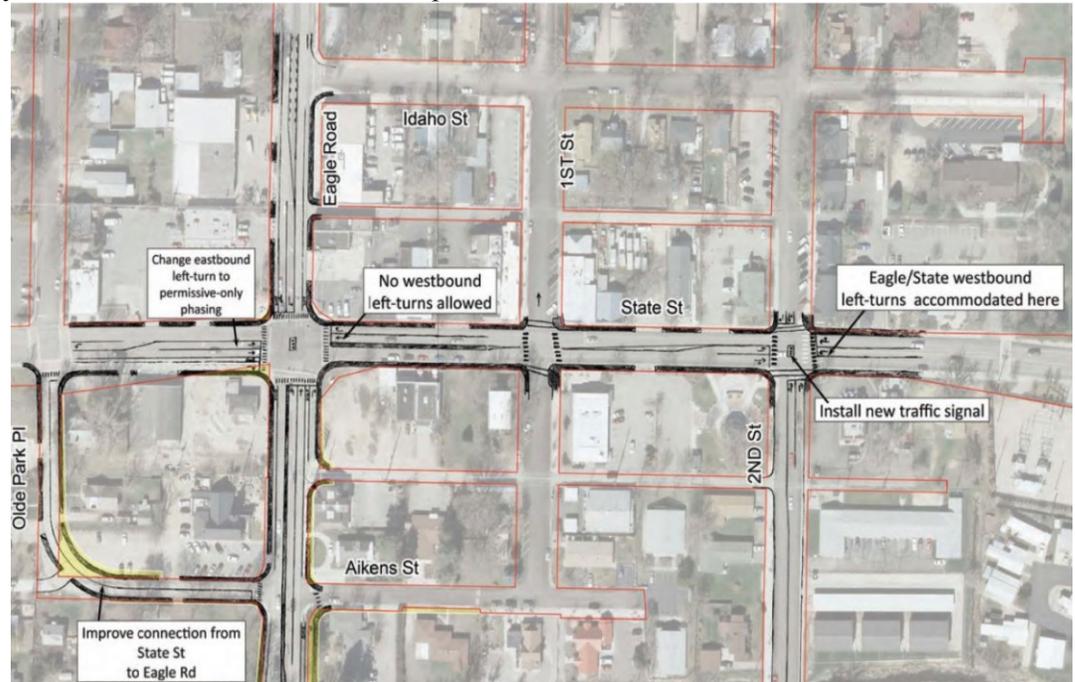
According to a presentation by ACHD Transportation Modeler Mitch Skiles, the Master Street Map establishes the future roadway network and right-of-way preservation needs to aid planning processes. The presentation emphasized early preservation is good public policy.

The presentation highlighted the following amendments:

- Memorialization of important existing and proposed local roads requested by Boise, Garden City and Meridian. The ACHD Commission excluded the Local Roadway Layer from the map.
- Updates to the Roundabout Layer, reducing the number of roundabouts under investigation from 240 to 180.
- Inclusion of Kuna and coverage of its roadway typologies.
- Requests from partner agencies related to roadway preservation widths on Warm Springs Avenue, Eagle Road and Beacon Light Road.

On Warm Springs Avenue, ACHD staff recommended the roadway be reduced from five lanes to three lanes east of Lysted Avenue, as requested by Boise and the Harris Ranch developers. Forecasts showed three lanes would be sufficient.

On Eagle Road, ACHD staff concurred with the City of Eagle's recommendation of the Quadrant alternative at the Eagle Road/State Street intersection and preservation of right-of-way along Eagle Road, including the segment between Plaza Drive and State Street, consistent with the Quadrant alternative, not five lanes. The Quadrant alternative will signalize the 2nd Street/State Street intersection and will improve the connection from State Street to Eagle Road (along S. Olde Park Place and W. Aikens Road).



Map depicting the Quadrant alternative at the Eagle Road/State Street intersection, including signalization of the 2nd Street/State Street intersection and other improvements. (Credit: Ada County Highway District)

On Beacon Light Road, the City of Eagle's recommendation for preservation for a three-lane rural road was not supported by ACHD staff, who recommended preservation for a five-lane roadway from State Highway 16 to State Highway 55. After testimony from city officials and concerned constituents opposed to five-lane preservation, ACHD Commissioner Jim Hansen proposed incorporating a statement of intent into the Master Street Map stating, "Beacon Light Road from State Highway 16 to State Highway 55 shall not exceed three lanes with primarily two travel lanes and appropriate turn lanes." Hansen's statement of intent was narrowly approved for inclusion in the map.

The ACHD Commission also narrowly approved an amendment recognizing the map as a living document not binding on future commissions.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the ACHD Commission voted to adopt Resolution 2132, approving the Master Street Map as amended with Commission-directed changes.