



Mayor Tammy de Weerd

City Council Members:

Keith Bird
Brad Hoaglund
Charles Rountree
David Zaremba

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Sherry Huber
Commission President
Ada County Highway District
3775 Adams Street
Garden City, ID 83714

Dear Commissioner Huber:

We are writing today to express our concerns over the process by which HB 583 was brought before the Idaho Legislature. Our understanding of HB 583 is that it deletes references to ACHD's funding responsibilities for projects in an urban renewal area, among other things. We were first made aware of this legislation just prior to the Committee hearing on the bill.

We do not wish to address the merits of the legislation at this time. It is our understanding that this legislation is intended to eliminate concerns that have been raised over ACHD being required to fund projects in an urban renewal area with little to no input from those the legislation would impact. In this regard we understand the need of ACHD to advocate for public policy that is in the best interest of all the citizens of Ada County.

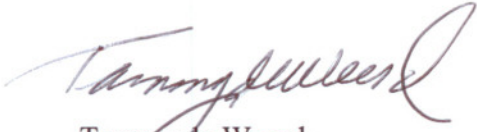
The City is troubled that neither ACHD nor its representatives mentioned or sought comment from the City of Meridian on this issue before taking it to the Legislature. If this legislation is meant to address an issue involving our community, it should have been discussed between our two entities through a joint meeting or in another format where we can talk about the problem and other potential solutions. If it was not, it still should have been clear to ACHD and its representatives that this legislation impacts six cities as it relates to requiring funds to be expended and four cities that currently have urban renewal areas. For this reason we believe we should have been approached to discuss this legislation prior to the bill being introduced in the House.

It is our belief that the City of Meridian and ACHD have worked hard to be partners to improve the transportation infrastructure for the residents of Meridian and Ada County. We are committed to continue those efforts but believe that in order for us to be effective, it is imperative that we discuss issues of concern. Working together we can find ways to resolve problems rather than have the legislature do it for us.

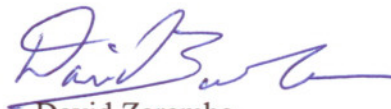
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We would like to thank you for your attention to this matter and would appreciate the commitment of ACHD to work with us on these issues as they arise in the future.

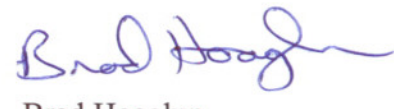
Sincerely,



Tammy de Weerd
Mayor



David Zarembo
Council President



Brad Hoaglund
Council Vice President



Keith Bird



Charles Rountree

cc: ACHD Commissioners