

Dear Road Wizard: Are there any plans to widen 36th Street near Shasta Street? G.S., Boise

No. Barring delays, a roundabout could be installed in 2008 at Hill Road and 36th. The alignment might shift slightly, but three lanes only is the plan. That's what you have now. Design is just beginning, so details will be available later.

Dear Road Wizard: Ever since the light was installed at Locust Grove Road and Chinden Boulevard, it is next to impossible to exit from Shandee Drive. Can this light be timed differently during the morning rush hour circa 6:50 a.m. to 7 a.m.? Z.L.@

The signal appeared in November 2003, but it isn't what's causing your problem. It's the exuberant over-abundance of new neighbors to your west. To the wave sweeping down Chinden is now added the cross-current pouring into Chinden from Locust Grove.

The signal is independent, not communicating with other signals in progression plans. It "rests in green" for Chinden and responds when someone shows up from Locust Grove. The maximum green for Chinden is 80 seconds. In the morning, the Chinden crowd uses all of it while demand builds south on Locust Grove.

When Locust Grove gets the green, traffic turns right, primed like a spring. For you, this means that any gaps that appeared when the light changed fills up as cars accelerate on Chinden. No change in timing would cure this. Your slim hope is for slow-accelerating trucks to create gaps.

When your subdivision was created, traffic planners recommended two exits. Your developer did not or could not provide this. However, when the 31-acre parcel just south of Shandee is developed, its streets probably will connect to Shandee, Dunwoody Court, and Barclay Street.

If these connections are perfected, you'll be able to wend your way west to Locust Grove or east to Eagle Road. Meanwhile, tinker with your schedule. That's my least favorite answer to a problem, but you are in the odd position of requiring more development in order to solve a problem caused both by too much development and not enough development.

Dear Road Wizard: Division Street (25 mph) between Beacon Street and Boise Avenue is basically a cut-thru speed street for people avoiding Broadway Avenue, which usually goes slower than its 35 mph speed limit would allow. ACHD won't install speed humps on Division, but what about more STOP signs? The single one at Highland Street just isn't enough. T.H.@

Someone at ACHD has been assigned to examine conditions on Division Street. He ordered fresh traffic counts, the first step in the study. His desk is piled so high, I couldn't extract a coherent reply to my question, "When can I give T.H. a yes or no

answer?"

Bugging him isn't a productive strategy, but I'll inquire discreetly from time to time. If I don't keep you posted, please bug me.

Dear Road Wizard: I wrote a few months ago about getting some "no parking" signs on Elder Street where cars blocked the view at parking lot exits. You came through! Visibility and safety have improved. Most people comply graciously, but others are so fit they don't need to burn calories walking across their parking lot. Will the parking restrictions be enforced anytime soon? A.@

I'm glad I came through, but a citizen's work is never done. Now you have to consolidate your gains. You need a new member on your team: Boise traffic patrol, accessible at 577-3857. I filed a "traffic concern request" on this. Now you should call dispatch (377-6790) when you notice an illegally parked car. If patrol is available, tickets could happen.