

Mobility

DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN will have a system of connectivity that supports and enhances both motorized and non-motorized, safe, pedestrian movement. A centrally located multi-modal port will be identified to connect the Meridian central business district to the greater Treasure Valley and its suburbs. Adequate parking will be provided for at critical ports, stations etc. to create and attract healthy, vibrant businesses and sustain a cultural community.



Destination: *Downtown*



Mobility Focus Areas

Destination: *Downtown*

FOCUS AREA: TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE

Encouraging transit use requires a three-fold approach. First the downtown area must include a mix of land uses, enabling residents, employees, or visitors to conveniently access a variety of destinations in high enough concentrations that using a car is unnecessary. Second, the downtown must be designed to be attractive and welcoming to pedestrians. Third, convenient and dependable transit options must be available.

An inter- and intra-community transit system will connect downtown Meridian to the Treasure Valley, and provide convenient transportation for residents and visitors within the City. Planning ahead for future rail transit, regional and local bus systems will converge at a new transportation hub located in the heart of downtown. While rail-based public transportation is many years away, a bus loop will connect the new transit hub to existing, and more near-term planned service. A phased site plan for the transit hub would allow the facility to expand over time to accommodate additional busses or trains as needs arise. Additional transit programs and projects include the development of sheltered and accessible bus stops, and secure bicycle storage at transit facilities.

FOCUS AREA: TRANSPORTATION DESTINATION

Downtown Meridian will be a “to place” rather than a “through place.” Ensuring that residents and visitors can easily move through, and within, the downtown area requires accommodating large volumes of vehicles, while still ensuring a harmony between all modes of transportation.

A safe and efficient vehicular transportation system means establishing a balance between moving cars and ensuring the safety and security of pedestrians and bicyclists. Downtown stakeholders envision a busy Main Street with clear, easy movement of cars, while ensuring it is the primary spine of downtown pedestrian activity. Similarly, Meridian

Road is envisioned to be a heavily landscaped boulevard with visible and safe pedestrian crossings, while still providing efficient movement of cars to and from the freeway.

Convenient and secure parking areas throughout the downtown ensure that both employees and visitors have places to park within walking distance of their destination. The Vision encourages focusing on the development of a few consolidated community parking areas, which may be surface lots or structures, in addition to protecting on-street parking and smaller private parking areas.

An efficient system of way finding and signage infrastructure for easy navigation by all modes of transportation is necessary, and the downtown will also provide opportunities for easy transfer from one mode of transportation to another.

FOCUS AREA: PEDESTRIAN/ BICYCLE FRIENDLY

With active storefronts and well-maintained sidewalks, Meridian’s downtown will be an enjoyable place to walk and bike. Wide sidewalks, street trees, and street furniture



Destination: *Downtown*

will be provided to make the walking experience pleasant and comfortable. Store fronts will be built to, and open to the street rather than expansive parking areas. Infill development will increase density without necessarily adding height or requiring major demolition, and will create a continuous street wall along Main and side streets.

Bicycle lanes, bike racks or lockers, and other supporting facilities throughout the downtown will encourage biking in the downtown. Connected multi-use paths will tie the downtown to regional trail systems and a new Meridian greenbelt along the rail line.

Parking areas will include clear pedestrian pathways, to make walking safer even for visitors that arrive by vehicle. Sheltered and accessible transit stops, will make riding transit comfortable in all seasons, and smooth paving materials will increase walkability of the downtown for those who are wheelchair bound or with limited mobility.



Destination: *Downtown*

Priority Actions

- Improve the walkability of downtown
- Plan for a multi-modal transportation hub
- Provide convenient parking opportunities downtown
- Develop signage and wayfinding infrastructure
- Improve the bikeability of downtown
- Ensure vehicular circulation is effective, safe, and efficient