



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator
Meeting Date: September 9, 2025
Presenter: Cassandra Schiffler
Estimated Time: 20 minutes
Topic: Historic Preservation Plan Goals, Objectives, and Strategies Alignment

Recommended Council Action:

Provide direction on the proposed goals, objectives, and strategies for the drafted Historic Preservation Plan, specifically regarding the potential for changes to the city's development processes regarding historic preservation and the role of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Background:

The Meridian Historic Preservation Commission received a grant from SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) to update the [2014 Meridian Historic Preservation Plan](#). We hired a consultant to conduct a review of current conditions, perform public outreach, draft new goals, objectives, and strategies, and complete a new plan. For more information on the plan, including the public survey results, visit: <https://meridian-historic-preservation-plan-gatewaymapping.hub.arcgis.com/>

Many of the drafted goals and strategies align with the City's current Comprehensive Plan and existing historic preservation programs. However, a significant number of the historic preservation goals relate to the development process, which would impact city code, design guidelines, developer applications, and demolition permits. Implementing these goals would shift the Historic Preservation Commission's role from a primarily educational and celebratory one to a more formal, active part of the development review process.

Request for Council Direction:

Staff seeks direction on three key areas related to the updated Historic Preservation Plan:

1. Is the Council interested in pursuing historic preservation tools such as design guidelines, a historic landmarking program, or conservation overlay historic districts?
2. Is the Council supportive of updating the role of the Historic Preservation Commission to be a more formal part of the development process?
3. If so, is the Council prepared to allocate city resources for the creation of historic building design guidelines and the exploration of necessary zoning mechanisms for historic preservation?