

MEMORANDUM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



September 16, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

CC: Kendall Nagy, Chief of Staff
Dave Miles, Community Development Director
Brian McClure, Long-Range Planning Supervisor
Craig Bergman, Long-Range Associate Coordination Planner

FROM: Caleb Hood, Community Development Deputy Director

RE: East 3rd Street Extension Alignment

East 3rd Street is an important corridor in downtown Meridian. As one of only a few roadways with a railroad crossing, it provides much needed access and connection on the east side of downtown. However, today E. 3rd Street is disconnected between Franklin and Fairview at Carlton Avenue. The City of Meridian has been planning to improve this north-south street alignment through downtown Meridian for many years. The existing preferred alignment originated from the 2008-2009 East 3rd Street Extension Alignment Study and has been reflected in City and ACHD transportation planning documents, including the Comprehensive Plan and Master Street Map.

As part of the Destination: Downtown 2.0 planning effort, Meridian Development Corporation (MDC) consultant Chris Danley revisited the East 3rd Street corridor to determine whether the assumptions used to select the original alignment remain viable. With several conditions changing since the original study was completed, the Meridian Transportation Commission reviewed the previous and one new alignment option.

The Meridian Transportation Commission (TC) first discussed this topic on December 1st, 2025, requesting updated information regarding the alternatives before providing a recommendation to Council. The Commission then reviewed the corridor alternative in July and August 2026. On August 3rd, the Transportation Commission voted to recommend the City pursue a new alignment, using 2 ½ Street north of Carlton Avenue as the preferred north-south connection to Fairview Avenue (instead of E. 3rd Street or the reverse "S" curve toward E. 3rd Street - see attached map).

Staff is bringing the Transportation Commission recommendation to City Council for consideration and direction. MDC's consultant Chris Danley will also be in attendance at Council's workshop to co-present and discuss next steps. If Council concurs with the TC's recommendation, Staff will coordinate with ACHD and begin the process to modify transportation planning documents accordingly.

Original E. 3rd Street Alignment Options (Yellow highlight (new) is TC recommendation)

