



**Urban Land
Institute**

Advisory Services Program



Meridian Pathways

MERIDIAN, IDAHO

ULI ADVISORY SERVICES

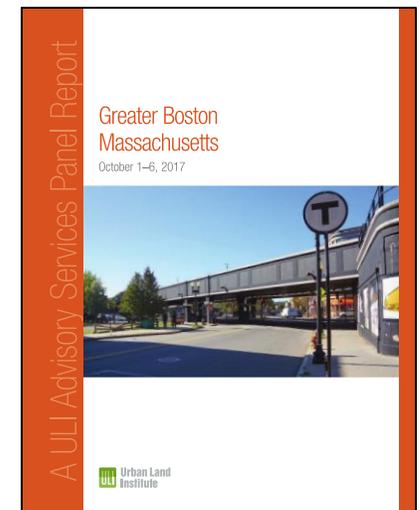
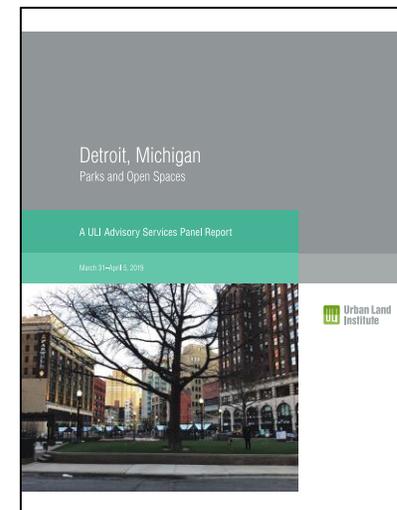
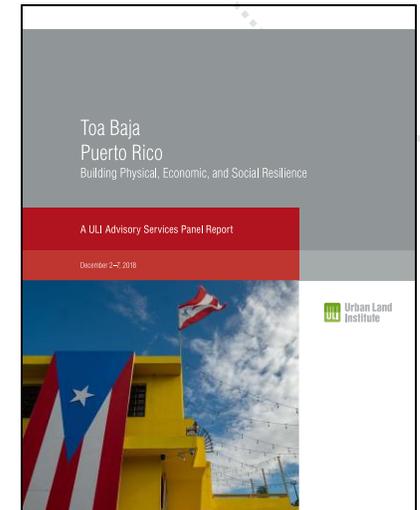
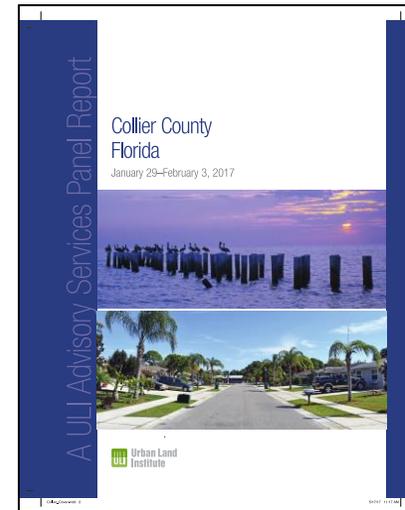
AUGUST 8-11, 2022

About the Urban Land Institute

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ULI Mission: Shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide

- A multi-disciplinary membership organization with more than 45,000 members in private enterprise and public service
- What the Urban Land Institute does:
 - Conducts Research
 - Provides a forum for sharing of **best practices**
 - Writes, edits, and publishes **books and magazines**
 - Organizes and conducts **meetings**
 - Directs outreach programs
 - Conducts **Advisory Service Panels**



ADVISORY SERVICE PANELS

Since 1947, ULI's Advisory Services Program have helped more than 700 communities find independent, strategic, and practical solutions for the most challenging land use issues.

Elements of a Tested Process

Program Essentials – 3.5 Days

- Sponsor briefing of challenge or issue
- Site tour
- Stakeholder interviews
- Panel deliberation and recommendation generation
- Report and presentation production
- Final presentation



Thank you to our Sponsors

City of Meridian, Idaho
Meridian Parks & Recreation
The JPB Foundation

Thank you to those who provided their insight!

Sponsor Team:

* Mayor Robert S. Simison * Meridian City Council: Council Pres. Brad Hoaglun * Council VP Joe Borton * Council Member Liz Strader * Council Member Treg Bernt * Council Member Jessica Perrault * Council Member Luke Cavener * Parks and Recreation Sponsor Team: Steve Siddoway, Parks and Recreation Director * Kim Warren, Pathways, Project Mgr. * Mike Barton Superintendent of Facilities * Shelly Houston Marketing Coor. * Rachel Myers Admin. Asst. * Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners: Commission Pres. Jo D. Greer * Commission VP Keith Bevan * Commissioner Dom Gelsomino * Commissioner John Nesmith * Commissioner Jenifer Bobo * Commissioner Mandi Roberts * Commissioner Brandon Simpson * Commissioner Mike Medellin * Youth Commissioner Camden Hyde *

Stakeholders:

* Amy Fisher * Andy Seal * Bill Truax * Bobby Gaytan * Braden Cervetti * Brian McClure * Cameron Arial * Cassandra Schiffler * Chris Danley * Creg Steel * Cody Swander * Dave Winder * Derrit Turner * Eric Willadsen * Greg Curtis * Greg Hahn * Jennifer Salmonsens * Jeremy Aldrich * Jeremy Malone * Jessica Peters * Jon Breckon * Jon Wardle * Karlee May * Keith Bowhan * Kristy Inselman * Kyle Yorita * Laren Bailey * Larry Fisher * Laura Williams * Leslie Prendiville * Liisa Itkonen * Meg McCarthy * Miranda Carson * Phil Harris * Ramona Anderton * Scott Koberg * Steve Noyes * Trevor Kenser * And many more *

ULI Panelists and Staff

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Selected for their subject matter expertise to provide **objective, volunteer** recommendations

Christine C. Richman (panel chair)

Economic Analyst - Principal In Charge
GSBS Consulting
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dan Anderton

Senior Associate, Community Design & Planning
Dewberry
Hampton, Virginia

Dan Slone

Attorney and Vision Wallah
Vertical Vision
Author, Speaker, and Advocate
Midlothian, Virginia

ULI Staff

Lauren McKim Callaghan

Director, Advisory Services

Brittney Gilardian

Senior Associate, Advisory Services and Global
Leadership

Barbra Gustis

Director, Advisory Services and Key Leaders

ULI Panel Advisors

Anna Laybourn, Design Workshop

Darla Callaway, Design Workshop

Panel Assignment

- Placemaking, wayfinding, and identity
 - Enhance pathway awareness and brand
 - Improve wayfinding
 - Promote activation
- Improving access and acceleration implementation
 - Procuring easements
 - Fostering community collaboration for connectivity
 - Providing pedestrian access for older parts of Meridian
- Improved access and equity considerations
 - Increase equitable access to the existing trail
 - Connect across existing gaps in the system
 - Address existing barriers



Building on Success

- Creating pathways along irrigation systems throughout the city
- Pathways are paved, facilitating access for a wide variety of users
- Community enthusiasm for the pathways system as an amenity



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Presentation Overview - Key Themes

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- Purpose and equity
- User experience and understanding
- Ongoing implementation



Purpose and Equity

Thinking About Purpose

- Purpose of a cookbook:
 - Enable me to be a better cook?
 - I may use it for recipes or for new ideas for meals, ingredients, or spices
 - Brand is a visual or short text reference to purpose and story
- Why do you have a pathway system?
 - In my community, which is a pathway community, it is so that we can have a more enjoyable and valuable community
 - It is important to be clear on the purpose of your pathway system
- Use is a part of purpose. When there are multiple uses, they may have a hierarchy
- What is the hierarchy of uses in your pathway system?

Hierarchy of Uses

- **Level 1: Major Destination Commuting Routes**
 - Ten Mile, Five Mile, Meridian Loop, path to Greenbelt
- **Level 2: Grid of neighborhood destination routes**
 - Local parks, third places, schools
- **Level 3: Recreation**
 - Walking and jogging, dog walking, play, path parties for neighborhoods, jogging clubs from schools, birding, nature walks, community parades
- **Level 4: Platform**
 - Art, history, place (structures, nature)

But...

- Every path does not have to serve every use
- Even if a path will eventually serve a use, it does not have to happen today
- Every connection does not have to be made immediately or before the purpose of the system is served

It appears to us that completing the connections has become the primary driver of the pathway system. We want to suggest moving purpose and equity to the forefront of your consideration, all while continuing to pursue direct pathway continuity where it serves those elements. This can help you leap forward.

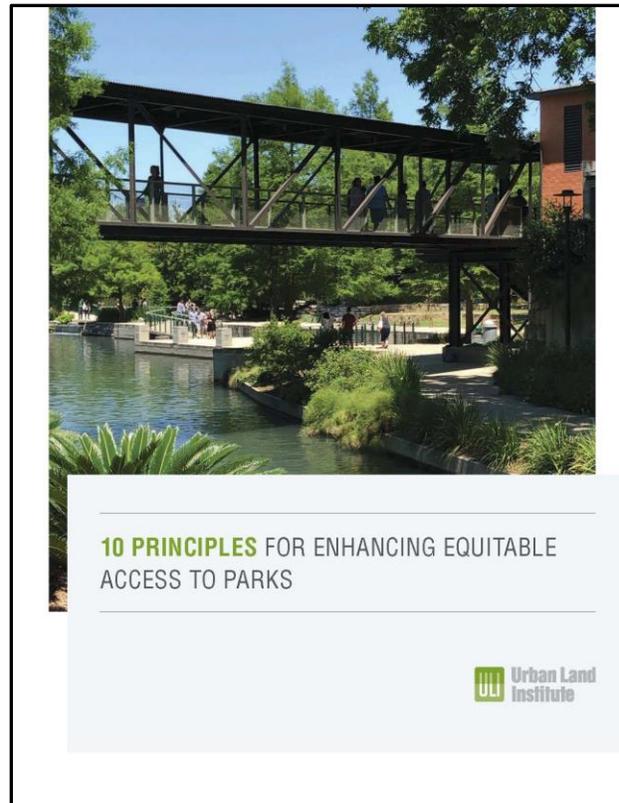


Equity

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Determine a standard for equitable access

- For example, [ULI's 10 Principles for Enhancing Equitable Access to Parks](#)
- Might begin with every resident within a 10-minute walk of access to a path or a path connection route



Identify underserved neighborhoods and populations; assure comparable access to the system

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Connect People to Parks

ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY WITHIN AND AMONG PARKS, DESTINATIONS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY ASSETS

“Physical access to and within park spaces is a core principle of equity. The more interconnected parks are with the community as a whole—including through the lens of true multimodal connectivity—the larger the potential user group of that park.”

—RYAN CAMBRIDGE
Planning Practice Leader
Browning Day

Connecting people to parks and open spaces is about much more than just providing transportation options to get them there. It involves maximizing the reach and impact of parks and open spaces that contribute to a balanced, connected system of public spaces.

The more interconnected parks are with the community as a whole and with specific user groups, the greater the opportunities for reasons to use the park. This means geographically locating new spaces strategically—with a particular emphasis on underserved areas—and evaluating existing spaces in these areas to identify solutions that make them more appealing and accessible. This can include co-locating parks with other community assets, such as recreation centers and libraries, to create a hub of destinations. Equally important strategies to connect people to parks reflect social, cultural, and financial—rather than physical—barriers.

Specific steps to connect people with parks will vary according to each community’s needs and challenges. However, all communities can strive to make their parks relevant, well known, and attractive to potential users by adapting the following ideas to their unique contexts.

- ◆ Provide spaces that people can relate to, that reflect the unique identity and characteristics of their community, and that they will be proud of and eager to use frequently.
- ◆ Ensure that community members are aware of what is available to them using a variety of community outreach strategies, with different types of communications targeted to different audiences. In a 2019 survey by the NRPA on park usage, 15 percent of respondents said they have not visited parks in their communities because they were not aware of the programs or facilities offered.⁷
- ◆ Identify and eliminate barriers to park usage by providing safe, affordable, convenient, high-quality places—particularly in underserved communities—that are accessible and activated to entice a diverse group of users.
- ◆ Connecting people to parks also means connecting people to the many co-benefits of parks. Having nearby, accessible parks enables people to take advantage of parks’ health benefits (both mental and physical), environmental benefits (such as reduced local flooding), and economic benefits, improving quality of life across multiple dimensions.



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Equity

Examples of application of equitable principles

- Design for safety and comfort
- Involve neighborhood in design decisions
- Connect to present and future transit
- Share information on health opportunities and support

Equity

Funding

- Prioritize funding with purpose and equity (not with completion of connections)
- Identify long-term capital improvements to access and seek funding through grants and federal sources
 - Linking to purpose and equity opens opportunities for additional funding sources and increases the likelihood of community funding sources from businesses and individuals
 - Equity progress can be illustrated as a simple story in graphics such as the ones used to illustrate Spokane's ParkScore Index developed by Trust for Public Land

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Source: Trust for Public Land ParkScore Index, 2022

Story

Story of the pathway system

- Goals and challenges– all residents:
 - Understand the system as an amenity
 - Understand the challenges of the pathway's creation and operation
 - Understand the importance of the pathway's role in community, place making, and economic development
 - Understand the importance of the pathway's maintenance, beautification, and investment in it as a community asset
- This picture is a story of love, and its consequences. It would be sad if it was an empty can and no sign. Because of the love, it needs maintenance and some sign rules



Story

Story of the Pathway System

- Set community expectations for vision and cooperative use with the stakeholders (such as the irrigation authorities and Homeowners Associations (HOAs))
- Define a shared code of conduct so that newcomers know the protocols rather than importing their own
- Tell the story of the path using physical signage but also through a wayfinding application for the community that ultimately includes augmented reality information systems



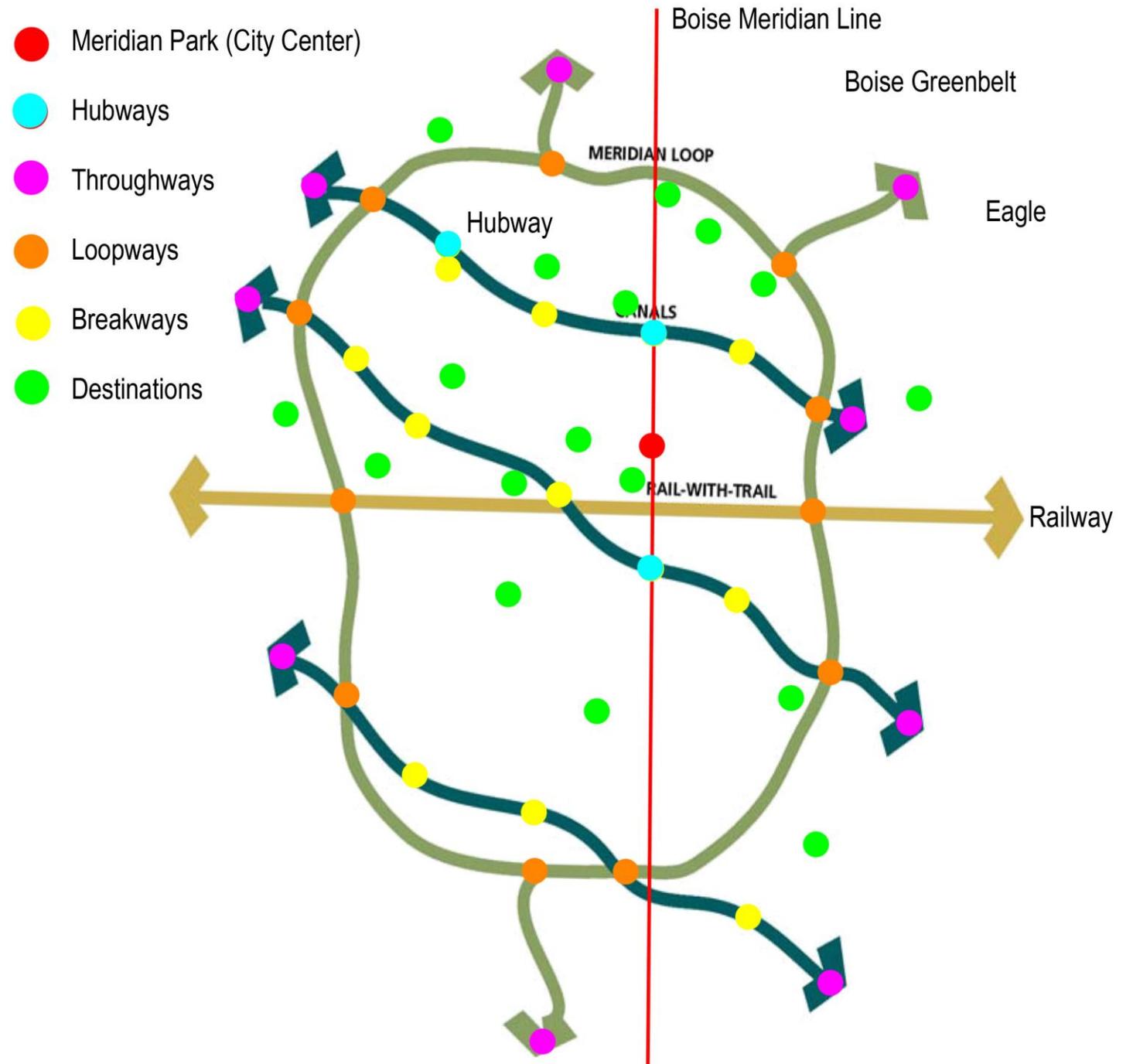
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User Experience

Master Plan Evolution

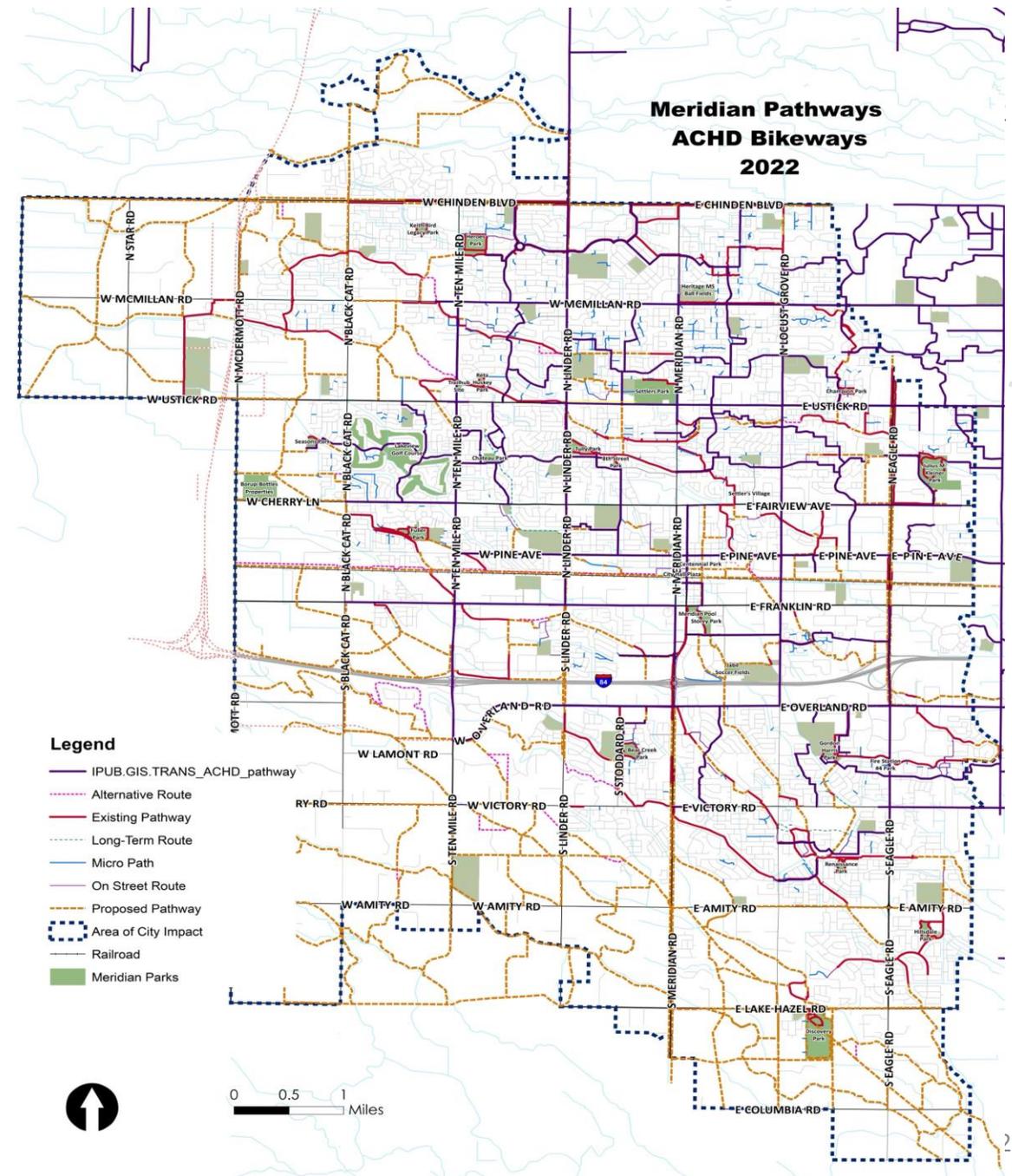
"This is the way"

The Mandalorian



Community Connection

- Public destinations need to connect
 - Parks and memorable places
 - City center, public parks, Greenbelt, restaurant / ice-cream
 - Special places along the ways
 - Schools
- Micro path access identification
- Temporary Routing Alternative Connections (TRACs)
- Dead end waystations



Placemaking

- Destinations, interim places and final
- Hubways at pathway intersections
- Breakways – community gathering places
 - Friend-to-friend meeting places
- Playways – areas both passive and active
 - Trike, scooter, skateboard, etc. ways
- Waterways
- Natureways
- Historyways
- Seniorways
- Community artways
-PLACE YOUR WAY HERE.....

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Placemaking Ideas

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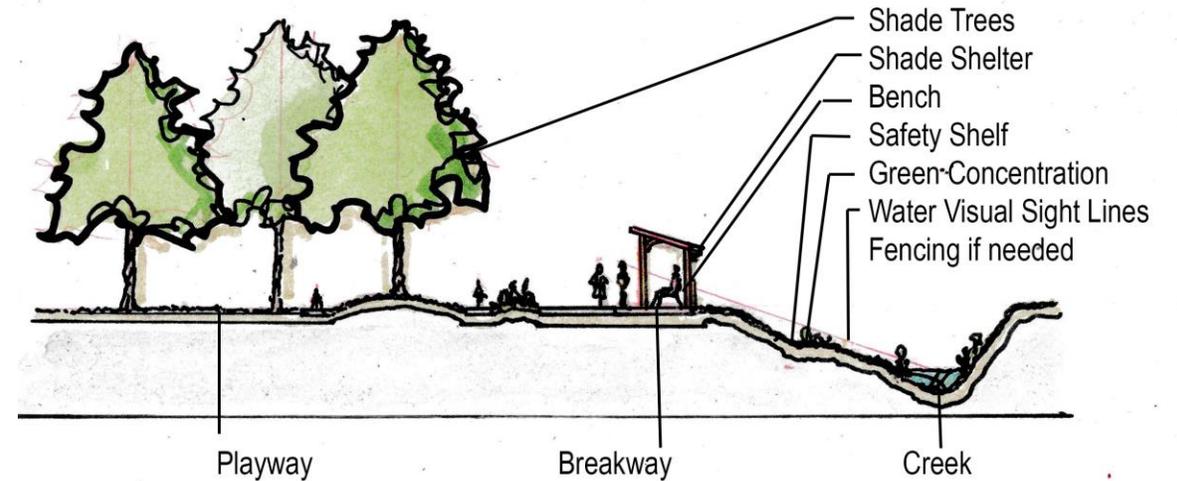
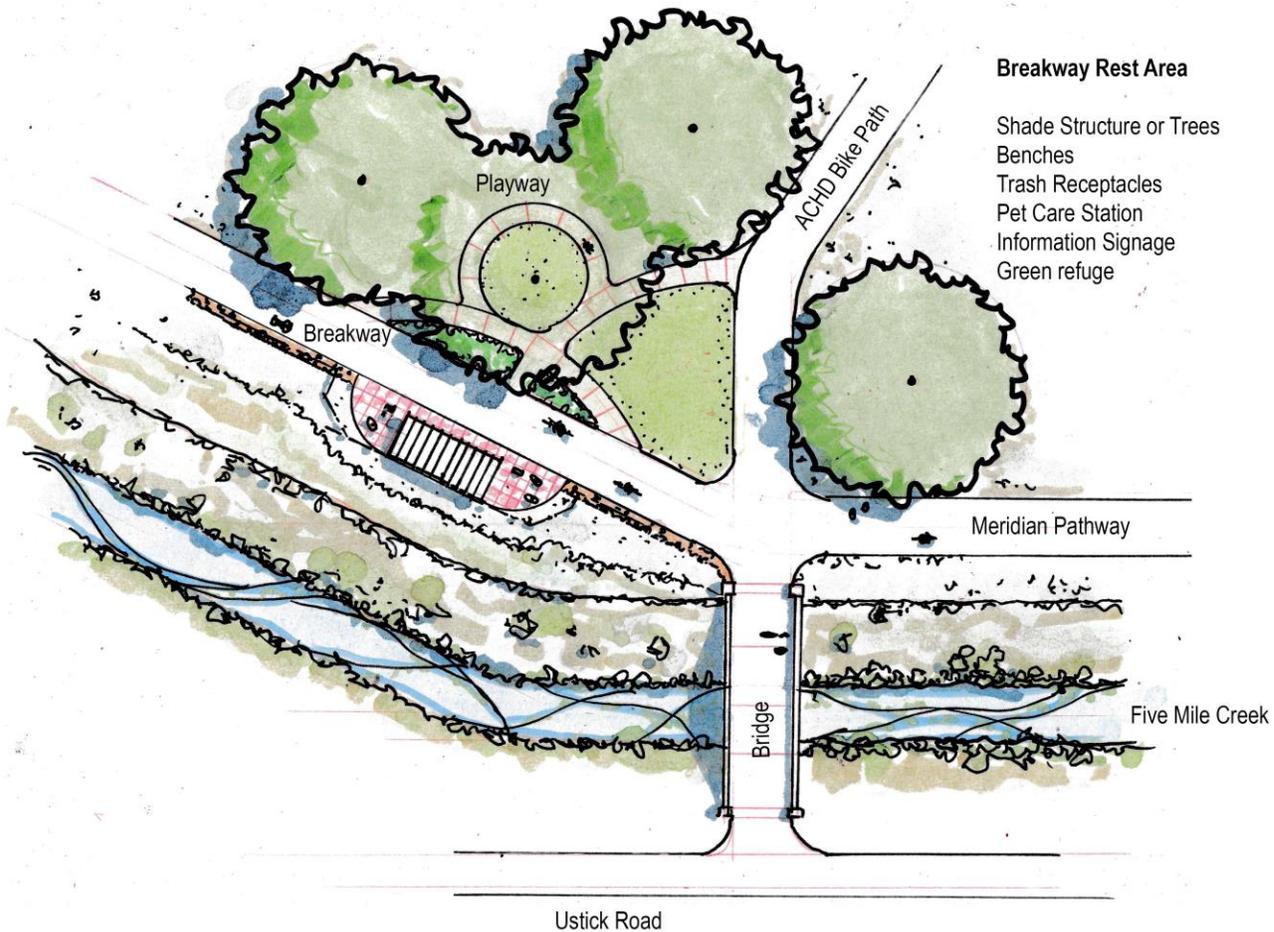


Photo Credit: Brandon Huttenlocher



Breakway Concept Design Ideas

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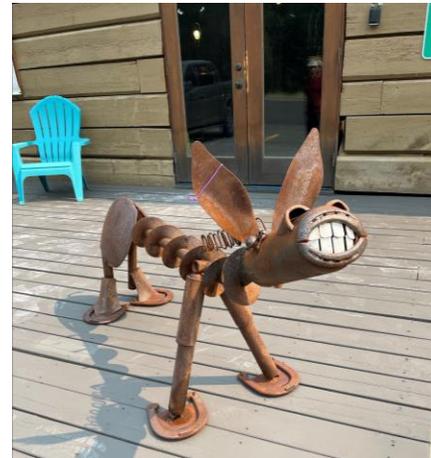
Breakway Ideas



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Pathway Amenities and Engagement

- Fencing
- Information signage
- Wildlife, plant materials, history, education, and story telling boards
- Monument / art / memory piece/ storytelling representing the pathway name



Wayfinding and Identification

- Pathway name identification awareness
- Route identification
- Important places along the route and destinations
- Measure markers
- Next rest area (breakway) identification



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Pathway Safety

- Grade layback areas / grade safety steps / steep fall areas remediation
- Strategic fencing, creative fencing, transparent fencing
- Pokey noxious weeds control
- Path edge safety zones – grass, stone
- Street intersection and mid-block crossings



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Pathway Maintenance

- Large truck vs ATV patrols
- Maintenance schedules
- Temporary closure notification and detour signage
- Designated maintenance routes and shared maintenance routes
- Pathway waystation trash and service



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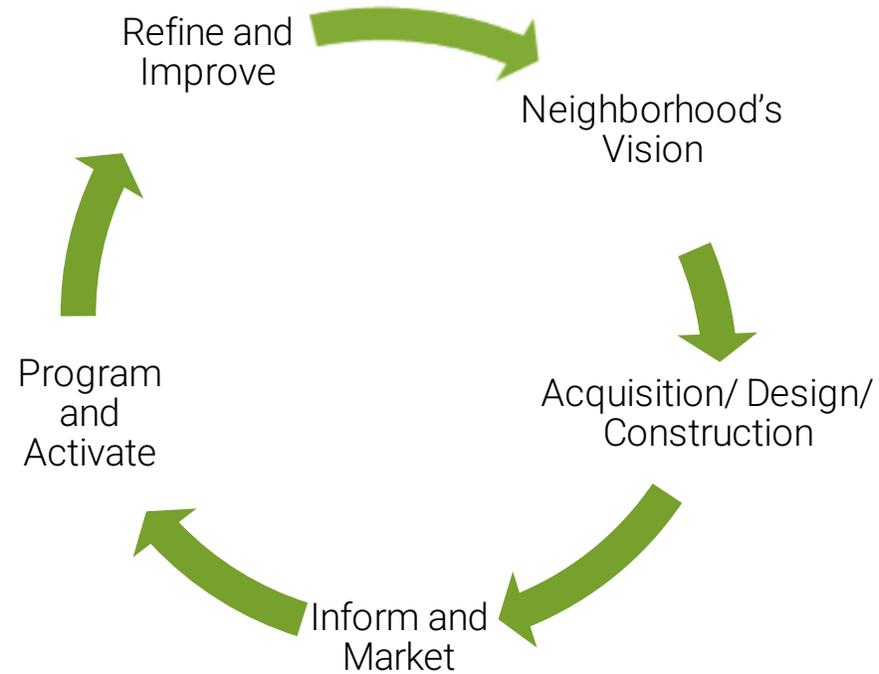
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Implementation and Coordination

Pathway Planning Life Cycle

There is a cycle for each trail section

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Bridging Gaps

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Take an archeologist's approach

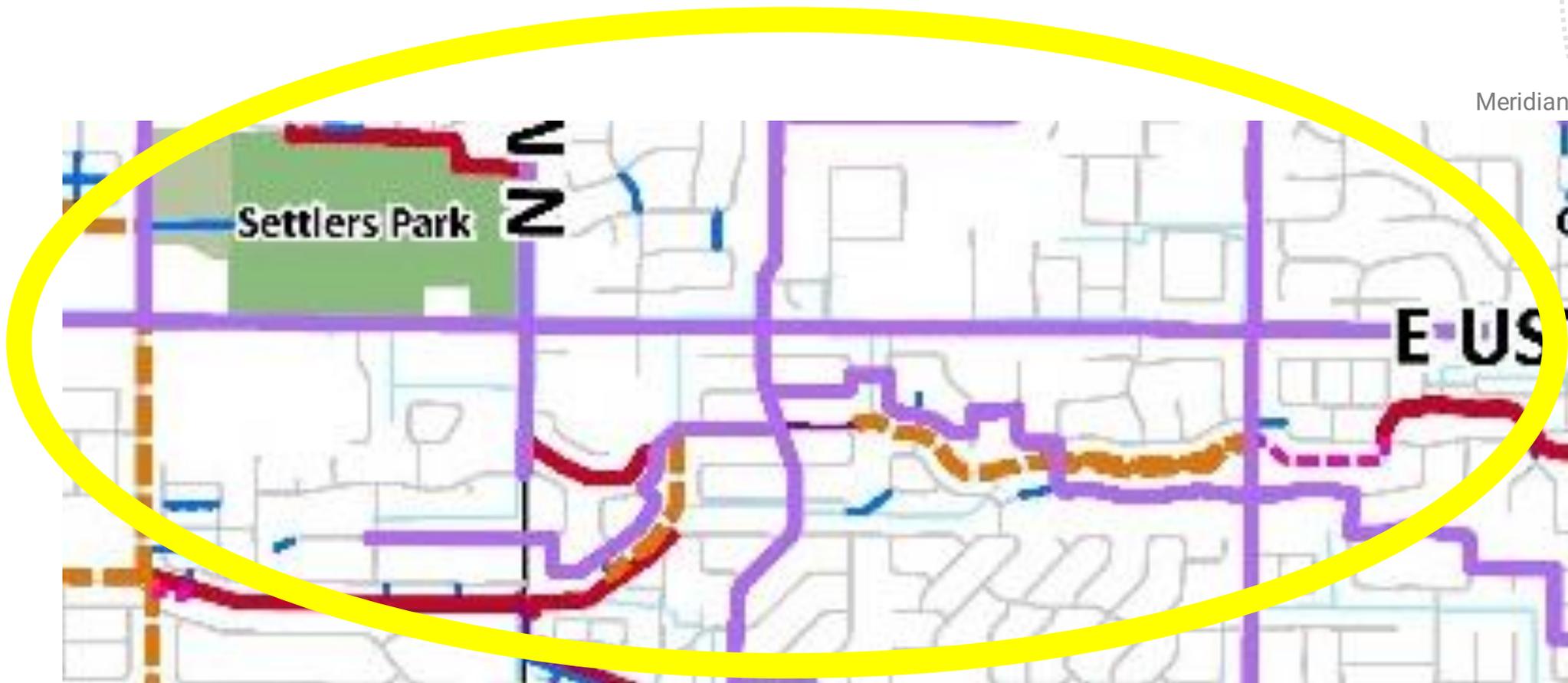
- TRACs
- Neighborhood empowerment
- Continuous improvements



Temporary Routing Alternative Connections

Alternative connections identify routes until the permanent trail is constructed:

- Sidewalks for pedestrians
- Bike lanes for bikes
- Neighborhood level trail connections



Legend

- I PUB.GIS.TRANS_ACHD_pathway
- Alternative Route
- Existing Pathway
- Long-Term Route

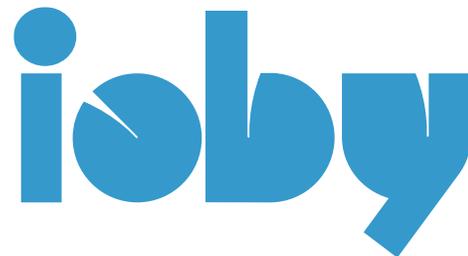
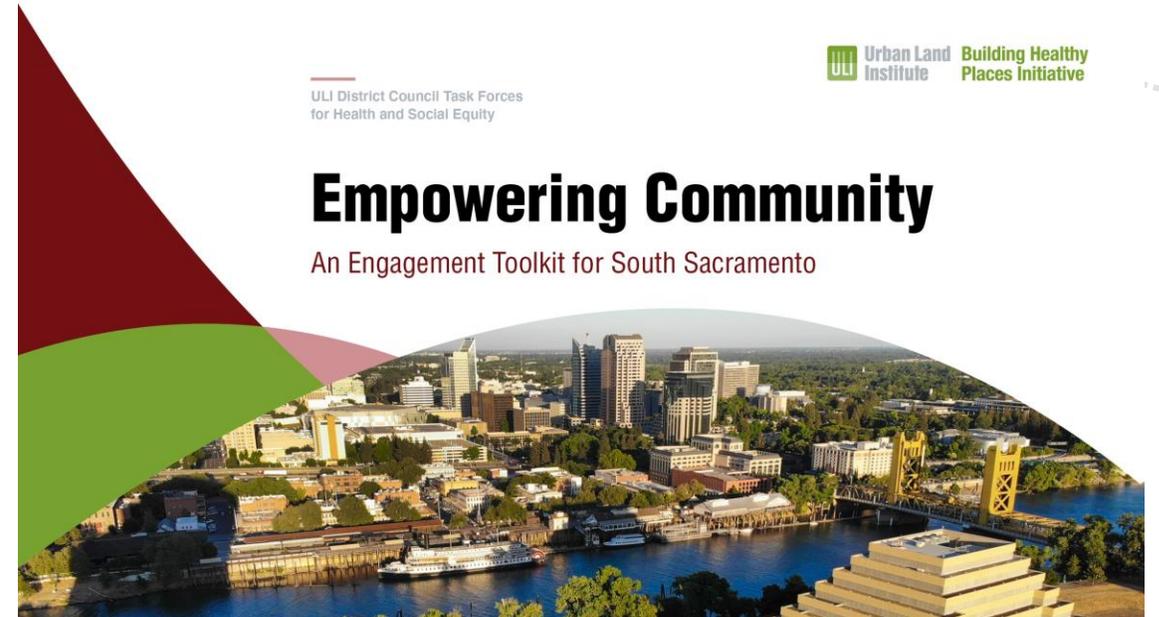
- Micro Path
- On Street Route
- Proposed Pathway
- Area of City Impact
- Railroad
- Meridian Parks

Neighborhood Empowerment

Based on neighborhood specific needs

- Neighborhood toolkit:
 - Organizing for decision-making
 - Identifying the preferred solution
 - Working with the city and/or irrigation district
 - Facilitating easements
 - Participating in design decisions
- Neighborhood crowdfunding to supplement other sources (example: ioby.org)
- “Friends of” programs

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Continuous Improvement

Improve, streamline and clarify creation, and maintenance process

- Information sharing with neighboring jurisdictions
- Template to address recurring issues
- Maintenance agreements for developers and HOAs
- Partial and full open space credits for high levels of design
- Work with additional irrigation districts to extend “recreational use” immunity



Economic Development

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Pathways are an economic development tool

- Connect existing centers
 - Downtown
 - The Village
 - Ten Mile
- Identify opportunities for pathway adjacent development
 - Trailhub [hubway]
 - Others?
- Create zoning and other tools to encourage development at key locations
 - Restaurants
 - Shops
 - Mixed Use



Coordination

Leverage your relationships with other entities

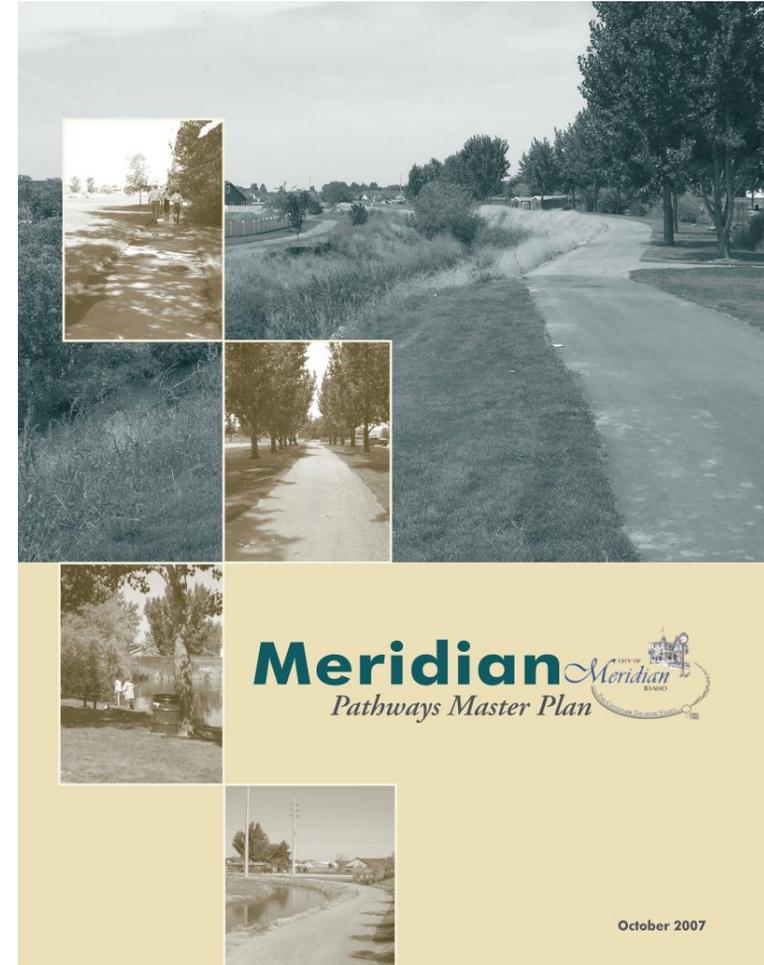
- Celebrate successes to date and on a regular basis
- Convene a meeting of interested groups
 - NMID (Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District)
 - Other irrigation districts
 - ACHD (Ada County Highway District)
 - ITD (Idaho Transportation Department)
 - COMPASS (Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho)
- Update agreement with NMID to reflect experience
- Seek agreements with other irrigation districts
- Coordinate bike and pedestrian related activities with ACHD and ITD
- Further clarify developer process

Implementation Capacity

The right resources – vision and commitment

- Community priorities
- Vision for the future of the city
- Leverage your investments

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Implementation Capacity

The right resources - funding

- Capital funding to achieve vision
- Possible additional funding sources
 - Federal funding
 - State funding
 - Corporations
 - Foundations

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Implementation Capacity

The right resources - people

- Develop and coordinate neighborhood empowerment process
- Oversee Pathways Master Plan update and implementation
- Coordinate with partner agencies and adjacent jurisdictions
- Participate in development review process
- Maintain and coordinate pathways GIS and mapping information
- Manage right of way (ROW) acquisition and design of new pathways
- Program foodways, playways, waterways, artways and other activities and amenities
- Coordinate maintenance and upkeep through city and agreements
- Manage special projects
 - Artways
 - Wayfinding
 - Branding

Next Steps (First Six Months)

- Determine a standard for equitable access
- Identify underserved neighborhoods and populations and assure access to the system
- Start the process of updating the Pathways Master Plan to incorporate intentional user experience and storytelling elements
 - Identify locations and priorities for breakways
 - Identify community partners for artways
 - Use the art selection for the Trailhub as a first step in renaming pathways to reflect their identifiable character and purpose
- Design first breakway in study area segment
- Add grading and assess other safety measures to recently completed pathways alongside irrigation waterways
- Develop and coordinate neighborhood empowerment program
- Coordinate across all entities engaged in connectivity

Capitalize on a Strong Foundation

Q&A

Thank you!

<http://www.uli.org/advisoryservices>