

Meridian residents get say on pathways

The first of two open-house meetings on city's plans to develop a path network will be Wednesday

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Meridian residents will have their first chance this week to comment on the city's plans for a future pathway network that would create a way to get around town without hopping into the driver's seat.

The first of two public open house meetings is today from 6-8 p.m. at the Meridian Police Department; the second meetings is slated for Nov. 1.

Maps depicting current and planned pathways will be on display, and the public will be given a chance to ask specific questions about how the plans will affect their neighborhoods.

"This is the first public meeting, so we're eager to get people out there and see what they have to say to help us shape things as we move forward," said Matt Ellsworth, Meridian's associate city planner.

Parks and Recreation Director Doug Strong said the city is aiming to complete a final draft plan by December.

Right now the city has a limited number of pathways for recreational use, but no interconnected system that people can take from one end of the growing city to the other.

The city has run into problems when it comes to pathways crossing major roadways, Strong said, and is looking to Portland planning group Alta Planning and Design to solve such problems.

Meridian paid \$55,000 this summer to Alta Planning and Design to assess the city's existing pathways and to determine how to best incorporate future segments, said George Hudson, a landscape architect with the company. Representatives from Alta will present their findings at today's meeting.

If you go

Meridian will hold two public meetings for residents to give input on the city's future pathway network. The meetings will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today and on Wednesday,

Nov. 1 in the Meridian Police Department's Main Floor Conference Room, 1401 E. Watertower Ave. in Meridian. For more information contact the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department at 888-3579.