

Leadership by Example, Ada County

Name of Project: Meridian City Hall

Description: The City of Meridian understands how land use decisions can affect the transportation network. That is why the choice to construct the new Meridian City Hall in the core of downtown, next to the rail corridor, and adjacent to transit corridors, was a conscious decision made by the Mayor and City Council. This major civic facility implements the goals outlined in *Communities in Motion* (CIM) by connecting to the heart of the community, reducing environmental impacts and serving as a centralized destination place.

City Hall's location minimizes the impact to the transportation system by providing immediate options for getting to and from the site without total reliance on the automobile. In addition to being within easy walking distance of downtown businesses and services, City Hall was designed to accommodate the City's Alternative Transportation Program. Priority parking spaces are provided for motorcycles, carpool and low emission vehicles. For employees who bicycle to work, there is a dedicated, indoor bicycle storage area and locker/changing rooms. In anticipation of transit service, benches have been provided near City Hall, along Main Street and Meridian Road, both designated transit corridors in the Community Choices scenario of CIM. City Hall was sited adjacent to where BRT and commuter rail are envisioned in CIM, so the public can easily access a more intense use of the rail line in the future.

In addition to being transportation system conscious, the City has committed to being environmentally friendly; certifying City Hall as LEED and constructing downtown where infrastructure exists. City Hall was designed and built for durability with a two hundred year life cycle. Meridian City Hall is an on-the-ground example of a City leading by example, directly implementing the goals of CIM by siting, designing and building a sustainable City Hall.