

## Policy 3.5 Connections

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Multiple points of access will be required to most developments. Additionally, safe, functional connections between neighborhoods, and within residential and commercial areas and public places, will be required for new development.

Benefits of safe, functional connections between neighborhoods between neighborhoods via roads and sidewalks, paths, and trails include the following:

- Having multiple points of access to a neighborhood is important for provision of emergency services;
- Facilitating movement from one part of the community to another via local roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails can reduce congestion on arterial roads and major connectors. It also encourages walking and cycling;
- Connecting neighborhoods promotes a sense of community throughout town;
- Providing multiple connections, including sidewalks and paths, can facilitate safe movement of school children to either of the two schools in the community.

**3.5.1 Require Connectivity as a Condition of Development Approval.** Commercial and residential developments must have safe, functional access for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists through the site. They should also be designed with enough right-of-way to have safe, functional connections with adjoining developments.

**3.5.2 Commit to exploring ways to provide a new sidewalk along Churchill Road, Amsterdam Road, and Camp Creek Road, as well as trail and sidewalk options throughout the Town Core as needs are identified.** There are two schools and three churches within the heart of the Town Core. This policy commits the community of Amsterdam/Churchill and Gallatin County to exploring ways to provide a new sidewalk along Churchill Road, Amsterdam Road, and Camp Creek to increase pedestrian safety between these public buildings and residential neighborhoods.

Additionally, as the planning process proceeds, new connections and pedestrian needs may be identified. This policy commits the community and Gallatin County to explore opportunities to provide any future trail and/or other pedestrian connections that are identified.

**3.5.3 Require a connection between Godfrey Canyon Estates and the rest of the Churchill Community to the north.** The Godfrey Canyon Estates subdivision is physically separated from the rest of the Churchill community to the north. The Windmill Acres subdivision was granted preliminary plat approval in January 2009 and provides a trail connection between Godfrey Canyon Estates and the rest of the Churchill community to the north. If development plans change in the future, a road connection

should also be provided in order to better connect areas within the Town Core.

- 3.5.4 Commit to exploring opportunities for a “rails to trails” project along the old railroad right-of-way west of Camp Creek Road.** A “rails-to-trails” project along this old right-of-way could provide a designated pedestrian pathway along Camp Creek Road that serves both as a recreational trail and also as a way for students to get to the Amsterdam School. This policy commits the community of Amsterdam/Churchill to working with landowners along these roads to potentially designate them through the rails-to-trails program.
- 3.5.6 Require extension of Kunje Road to the east and south along the edge of the Town Core boundary.** Extending Kunje Road to the east and south along the edge of the Town Core boundary provides a road routing traffic around the Churchill Town Core for both general traffic and emergency service vehicles that does not use the interior subdivision roads of the Churchill North subdivision. Also, extension of Kunje Road allows appropriate access to Phase II property designated to the north and east of the Town Core boundary.
- 3.5.7 Require a connection between Churchill Road and Camp Creek Road across the Ecton Property.** As discussed in Policy 3.1, the Ecton property has an approved preliminary plat. If development plans change, however, this policy requires a connection to be designed with any future development that would connect Churchill Road to Camp Creek Road and provide an alternative east/west route.
- 3.5.8 Create connections, when and where possible, between Land Use Categories A, C, and G through to Churchill Road.** There is a general lack of connections between Godfrey Canyon Estates, the majority of the Churchill community to the north, and the Ecton Ranch. Because there are two approved preliminary plats for both the Ecton Ranch (Category C) and the Windmill Acres project (Category G), obtaining connections for all of these areas will only happen if development plans change. Should plans change for these two approved developments, new connections should be made between Category G and Category C, as well as south into Godfrey Canyon Estates to the south and Category A to the north.