



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, February 17, 2022 – Minutes – DRAFT

Members Present: Chair Vagnozzi, Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners VanCoevering, Potter and Planning Commissioner Snyder

Members Absent: Commissioners Hudson and Trustee Sundland

Others Present: Community Planning & Development Director Tim Schmitt, Senior Planner Brian Shorkey, Meridian Township Chief of Police Ken Plaga, Planning Commissioner Bill McConnell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 6:04PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 18, 2021

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VANCOEVERING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were received since the last meeting.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Planning Commissioner Bill McConnell spoke about the MDOT M-43 reconstruction project and the proposed service drive near the intersection of Grand River and Okemos Road.

6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Pathway User Safety During Construction Projects

Commissioner Potter began the discussion of user safety for pathway users during construction. He shared a series of pictures of the pathways adjacent to the Daniels Drain project that were taken in

summer and fall of 2021 while the project was in full construction mode. The Commission noted a series of concerns about the general lack of signage and advanced notice that the sidewalk or pathway was closed. The project appears to have not met MDOT's standards and rules for closures.

There was further discussion about the feasibility of using a lane of Grand River for non-motorized users during construction like this. Staff agreed to continue to work with all projects to ensure they are properly signed and detours noted.

B. MDOT M-43 Project Update

Staff began by outlining the current status of the project. Specifically, the closure of north/south movements at Okemos Road and Grand River Avenue that is going to occur. The Commission discussed at length options to keep that intersection open. Ideas included the use of the existing traffic lights for pedestrian traffic only and the potential use of a moving temporary trailer setup. The main issue is that the intersection will always be open to east/west vehicular traffic, with no traffic lights.

Further discussion about the project occurred around signal timing, especially as it relates to Dobie Road. The corridor will have limited signalization during construction, so turning movements will be difficult.

The Commission discussed CATA operations during the construction. Some bus stops would be impacted during construction and there was general consensus that plans need to be in place to address this. Additionally, was there a possibility for jitney type service in the area, to address the detour. Staff agreed to follow up with CATA on the mass transit issues raised by construction.

Chair Vagnozzi brought up the communications strategy, specifically how do we get the message to the people that need it? Staff will continue to work with our internal communications team and push MDOT for information throughout the project.

Commissioner Potter brought up pedestrian safety in the island design and if there was a way to make them safer. It was noted that these islands have been used elsewhere along Grand River. Staff agreed to follow up with MDOT. It was discussed that tampered rumble strips may be a good application for this area adjacent to the island.

C. Okemos Road Project update

Staff provided an update on the Okemos Road construction project. The bridge replacement is slightly behind schedule due to AT&T, but the contractor was working hard to catch up and get southbound traffic opened again.

D. General Commission Comments

Vice Chair Lovell brought up certification with the League of American Bicyclists and the possibility of getting certified. Staff agreed to look into it.

7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Director Schmitt updated the Commission the Township Board's process for filling the vacancies on the Board.

B. Planning Commission

Commissioner Snyder updated the Commission on the Planning Commission's recent work and the potential ordinance amendments that are being worked on.

C. Chair

Chair Vagnozzi spoke very highly of the late Supervisor Styka.

D. Staff

Director Schmitt had no update.

8. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for May 19, 2022. It was requested that the annual CATA update occur at that meeting, if possible. Additionally, it was discussed as to whether or not the meetings could be moved to the Town Hall room for better access and A/V capabilities. A joint EL/MT Transportation Commission meeting followup was requested for summer. Lastly, there was discussion of going back to monthly meetings given the amount of work that is occurring. All items will be followed up on.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Cahir Vagnozzi adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.