

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Deschaine, Hudson, Kolbasa
and Vaughn

ABSENT: Commissioner Vagnozzi

STAFF: Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Deschaine moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2017

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

3. Presentation

Andrew Brieschke, Director of Operations for Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) gave a presentation on the services provided by CATA:

- Total Passenger Trips Taken on CATA in Fiscal Year (FY) - 10,896,146

Fixed Route System (Large Bus)

- 32 Fixed Route Lines
- Ridership for FY 2016 - 10,388,528
- Route 1 Downtown Lansing to Meridian Mall, Ridership for FY 2016 - 1,646,327
- Routes 22/23 MSU to Haslett to Okemos, Ridership for FY 2016 - 265,847

Paratransit Services (Small Bus)

- Services include Spec-Tran, Redi-Ride, Lot Link (MSU), Night Owl (MSU), CATA Rural Service, Mason Connector and Shopping Bus, Ridership for FY 2016 - 507,618

Meridian Redi-Ride

- An advanced reservation, curb-to-curb service within Meridian Township's service area.
- Primarily funded by a two-tenths (0.2) mil property tax millage approved by Meridian Township voters for additional service
- For FY 2016 the Township millage provided \$320,000 and CATA contributed \$104,500 in unreimbursed service costs to supplement the Redi-Ride service.

- CATA provides Meridian Township with dedicated buses and operators; all maintenance and fuel; management oversight; data collection and reports; ride requests/customer service personnel and technology.
- Ridership for FY 2016 - 19,874

(A copy of the material provided by CATA is available on the Township website)

4. Commission Discussion/Review

The Commission and Representatives of CATA discussed:

- Routes 22 & 23 same streets but buses run in opposite directions
- Route 24 services mostly East Lansing
- Requirements to ride Spec-Tran
- Redi-Ride services in Meridian, Delhi and Delta are same hours
- Fees to ride Fixed Route, Redi-Ride and Spec-Tran
- Redi-Ride capacity denial vs. capacity refusal
- Redi-Ride policy for scheduling rides, canceling rides and no-shows effective August 29, 2016
- Cancellation must be made by 5 p.m. the day before scheduled ride
- First time penalties being applied for no-shows
- Intent of new policy was to reduce the number of no-shows
- New policy had opposite effect, number of no-shows increased
- Increase in no-shows was largely due to last minute changes
- Cancellation policy for Redi-Ride in Meridian, Delhi and Delta is the same
- CATA representative suggested a change in the cancellation policy
- A four (4) hour cancellation notice prior to the ride allows riders to cancel with less notice and still gives CATA time to fill the vacant seat.
- Need to improve and expand the Redi-Ride service with an increase in hours and capacity

Vice-Chair Potter moved to recommend to the Township Board the ready ride policy for cancellations be changed to allow a cancellation to be made at least four (4) hours prior to the ride.

Seconded by Commissioner Vaughn

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

5. Public Remarks

- Donna Rose thanked the commission for supporting the change to the Redi-Ride cancellation policy. She stated it was difficult to schedule a ride in the afternoon on Redi-Ride and asked if it would be possible to have a second bus available in the afternoon.

- Dianna Paiz Engle, stated she had served on the Redi-Ride Review Committee and as a user her experience had been mostly positive. She felt Meridian's millage for Redi-Ride should be used to provide rides only in the Township.

6. Commission Comments

Vice-Chair Potter asked that the Commission receive information on the Township's Local Road Committee.

7. Next Meeting Date

March 23 Meridian Municipal Building-Town Hall Room

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Hackbarth adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.