



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Transportation Commission  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, March 18, 2021- Minutes -DRAFT  
Meeting held virtually using the Zoom web conferencing application

**Members**

**Present:** Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners Potter, Opsommer and Robertson

**Members**

**Absent:** Chair Vagnozzi and Commissioner Hudson

**Others**

**Present:** Deputy Manager Derek Perry, Police Chief Ken Plaga, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach and Planning Commission Liaison Christina Snyder

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-JANUARY 21, 2021

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON, MOTION PASSES 4-0.**

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Chair Lovell mentioned receiving the Dangerous By Design 2021 report (copy on file)

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou Drive, stated he was glad the MSU to Lake Lansing pathway project is moving forward. He thought a pedestrian signal for the pathway should be installed near the Hagadorn Road and Shaw Lane intersection.

Lindsey LaForte, 4577 Van Atta Road, stated it was difficult to cross Grand River Avenue at Cornell Road and the need for a pedestrian signal at the intersection

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. MSU to Lake Lansing Pathway Phase III

Deputy Manager Perry outlined the project. He stated Phase I and Phase II will start construction in 2021 and be completed in 2022. The estimated cost for Phase III was \$2.6 million. Funding was being sought from Ingham County Park and Trail millage \$1.95 million, Meridian Pathway millage \$350,000 and the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant program \$300,000. (Material on file)

Vice-Chair Lovell opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m. and asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou Drive, stated he supported the Township's effort to seek the funding.

Vice-Chair Lovell closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

7. COMMISSION ACTION

A. MSU to Lake Lansing Pathway Phase III

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MSU TO LAKE LANSING PATHWAY PHASE III. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.** (A copy of the resolution is on file)

Vice-Chair Lovell stated he had drafted some additional wording in support of the pathway.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD USING VICE-CHAIR LOVELL'S WORDING. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.**

8. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Pathway Master Plan (material on file)

- The Pathway Master Plan was last updated in 2016.
- Deputy Manager Perry will be seeking input from other Boards and Commissions on the update.
- Tentatively a public hearing on the updated plan would be held by the Transportation Commission at its May meeting with a recommendation to the Township Board.
- Staff recommended pathway updates shown in yellow on the map.
  1. Green Road connector
  2. Carlton Road connector
  3. Towner Road connector
  4. Hillbrook Park connector

- 5. Consumers Energy-Haslett to Grand River connector
- 6. Consumers Energy-Grand River to Legg Park connector
- 7. Sturk Land Preserve connector
- Complete the gap on the south side of Lake Lansing Road in front of Donley School. East Lansing Schools is planning on completing the gap.
- The traffic island in the intersection of Lake Lansing Road, Towar Avenue and Birch Row Drive is planned to be removed.
- The north end of the Towar pathway will connect to the East Lansing trail system.
- Pathway millage funding can be used to sign and mark bike lanes.
- Staff is working with Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) on the cost.
- The bike lane was eliminated on Hulett Road when the left turn lane was installed at the intersection of Jolly Road and Hulett Road.
- Consumers Energy right-of-ways used for cross country (off road) pathways.
- Possible mowed off road pathway to the east of the Ingham County care facility on Dobie Road and along the north side of the Hiawatha subdivision.
- Priority in 2024 and 2025 is to complete existing gaps in the pathway system.
- Possible addition to the plan:
  - a pathway south of Haslett Village Square in the vacated right-of-way of Raby Road
  - a looped pathway paved or natural starting and stopping from Hannah Boulevard going east towards Indian Lakes Estates.
- City of East Lansing planning on completing the gap on Saginaw in front of Costco.
- Possible off road pathway, east of Okemos to Dobie Road. Will need to work with Delta Dental to cross their property.
- Signage on the pathways is needed.
- Little data on crime or vandalism related to the pathway system.
- Concern with the speed of cyclists riding on the pathway.

9. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Trustee Opsommer mentioned Supervisor Styka was working on filling the vacant position on the Transportation Commission. The Township Board will be reviewing the Jolly Road rezoning once the Planning Commission has made a recommendation. A possible senior housing project on the former LaFontaine site on Grand River Avenue. The Township Board is considering adding additional Redi-Ride service destinations including Autism Centers of Michigan, Lansing Urgent Care Haslett, Gilden Woods Early Care and Preschool, Monticello's Market, Hope Network Neuro Rehabilitation, Burcham Hills and Pleasantries East Lansing on Merritt Road.

B. Planning Commissioner

Commissioner Christina Snyder reported the Commission would be making a recommendation on the Jolly Road rezoning at its meeting on March 22, 2021. At that meeting the Commission will also vote on a special use permit for work in the floodplain at 2020 Grand River Avenue and hopefully complete its review of the updates to the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development ordinance. The Planning Commission had also recommended approval of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for automobile dealerships.

C. Chair

Vice-Chair Lovell congratulated Deputy Manager Perry on being awarded the Top Assistant Manager in Michigan by the Michigan Municipal Executives.

D. Staff

Deputy Manager Perry stated he would contact Ingham County Road Department regarding the pedestrian signal on Cornell Road.

Director Kieselbach mentioned his retirement from the Township at the end of May.

Other comments:

Commissioner Potter requested the Transportation Commission schedule a joint meeting with the East Lansing Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Potter stated the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Van Atta Road or the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Meridian Road.

Vice-Chair Lovell mentioned the non-motorized crossing at Newton Road and Saginaw may need to be lighted in the future.

10. NEXT MEETING DATES

A. Township Board Meeting April 13, 2021

B. Transportation Commission Meeting May 20, 2021

11. ADJOURNMENT

**VICE-CHAIR LOVELL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER, MOTION PASSES 4-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.