



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
January 24, 2019 6:00 p.m.

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 15, 2018

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Received and on file

- Donna Rose- Redi-Ride
- Commissioner Hudson- Uber+

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Redi-Ride Millage

8. COMMISSION COMMENTS

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. February 21, 2019 Central Fire Station Community Room

B. Township Board Meeting February 5, 2019

10. ADJOURNMENT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)  
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2018

PRESENT: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Commissioners Deschaine, Hudson (6:10 p.m.) and Vagnozzi.

ABSENT: Commissioners Beavers and Kolbasa

STAFF: Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vagnozzi offered a correction to minutes on page 2 the next to the last bullet point to change "downtown" to "down."

Vice-Chair Potter requested on page 2, item 8 the last sentence be amended to read "He added he had conducted an informal poll of residents in the area for support."

Commissioner Deschaine moved to approve the minutes of October 18, 2018 as amended.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Remarks

None.

5. Communication

The Commission accepted the communications that had been received and placed on file.

6. Approval of 2019 Schedule

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the 2019 meeting schedule with the following changes: move the meeting in June to the 27<sup>th</sup> and no meeting in September.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### 7. Commission Discussion

#### A. Redi-Ride Millage

- Instead of a 10 year millage should consider 5 years.
- Is there support for continuing the service.
- The millage should not list a specific provider.
- CATA is a known entity as a transportation provider.
- What type of services should be provided.
- Predictable and reliable scheduling.
- On demand does not mean same day service.
- Should be able to schedule and receive the ride on the same day.
- A better method is needed to handle cancellations.
- Capacity issues need to be addressed.
- A more efficient means is needed to handle the demand for rides.
- Need for progressive and interactive technology.
- If the millage is increased how will the additional money be used.
- New ideas could be tested in the Township.
- Need to have performance standards.
- January meeting will be dedicated to discussing the key points for a recommendation.

### 8. Commission Comments

Commissioner Deschaine noted the increase in ridership from the extended hours of Redi-Ride.

Vice-Chair Potter asked staff to check if there were any plans for improving the safety of the pedestrian crossing at Hagadorn and Shaw intersection.

### 9. Next Meeting Dates

Transportation Commission's next meeting is January 24, 2019 at the Central Fire Station Community Room.

Township Board's next meeting is December 4, 2018.

### 10. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Deschaine moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

## Mark Kieselbach

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**From:** Donna Rose <wild-rose@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 1:50 AM  
**To:** Mark Kieselbach  
**Cc:** Ronald Styka; Frank Walsh; Derek Perry; hudson.kc@live.com  
**Subject:** For Transportation Commission Meeting

Greetings Commissioners,

I am unable to appear before you to voice my concerns due to my afternoon work schedule. I did send the following questions to CATA because I feel some things needed clarification prior to you making final decisions regarding both a millage amount for the next CATA Redi Ride Millage, as well as the next contract. However, I received a message from Brad Funkhouser saying he would prefer to deal with township officials on this matter. I wasn't trying to circumvent anyone's authority, just attempting to get answers to questions I would think might be helpful to you. I am sending them to you in hopes you will consider the tax payers and riders of this service and make inquiries yourselves prior to deciding anything in stone regarding future Redi Ride services. I believe in CATA, but I am attempting to be the best representative I can be for our entire township. Redi Ride is a popular and needed service; however we have to know if we raise the millage the increase can be properly justified, and we know what we are getting in advance of deciding to raise it. As a tax-payer and user of the service, I want to know my township is raising the millage because some improvements for capacity will occur.

1. If the millage is raised and Meridian Township asks for more buses, will this happen, and how much more service will each 1/10th of a mill buy? Or, put a different way, how much more money do we need to raise to add one more Redi Ride bus?
2. What has CATA done or will CATA do to try and reduce the cost per trip so the millage dollars can serve more riders?
3. Does CATA have a plan in place to maximize routing efficiency so more riders can be served?
4. The current Meridian Redi Ride contract calls for CATA to explore other ride share options. Has CATA been investigating other ride alternatives for those who wish to use them, such as ride share services? This would be less expensive for the township and could reduce demand on the Redi Ride buses significantly. It would not be in any way discriminatory since lift equipped buses would still be available for those who need them. Many ambulatory individuals might be willing to choose to use a ride share or cab system plan as they do in so many other communities in Michigan.
5. What is CATA currently doing to make sure school children don't have priority rides over other passengers? When Redi Ride buses sit outside schools 1/2 hours or more before school lets out, this is lost time other riders could be transported. Also, there has been a pattern of long-term standing rides for the school kids, but when the rules changed for only seven day in advance scheduling of rides, were these standing rides for the entire year cancelled? If this is truly public transit, everyone should have an equal opportunity to book these rides. When the school children get out of school they seem to consume all of the resources. I often wonder if they are ever denied a ride like other adult customers are.
6. If an increase in the Redi Ride millage passes, will CATA reduce the dollars it adds into the service (the approximately \$110K)?
7. Would it be possible to have dedicated phone lines for Redi Ride appointments?
8. Do you foresee a time when Redi Ride could be the same day service voters thought they were getting when they voted yes to the service 18 years ago? Except for the price, the Redi Ride service can be an even more difficult service to book a ride on than Spectran and doesn't offer anything else different to riders. If voters are going to be asked to pay for this service and Spectran, there should be something improved about this service for the extra funding they will provide for Meridian Redi Ride.

I would not approve another 10 year millage, because when we did that the service was forgotten by township officials and was pretty much running on autopilot without much communication from CATA. This prompted citizens to come

before the Board of Trustees and ask for the original Redi Ride committee. I would be more inclined to say 5 years. A lot can change in five years, and I feel we need to leave our options open.

I am hoping you will put your hearts into how this service will be spelled out for the next millage period. It concerns me greatly that Commissioner Hudson is the only user of the service on the Commission at this time. Many of us must depend on services like Redi Ride. Even at its best, it won't ever be as convenient as driving one's own vehicle. It is up to you to actively make sure we are getting the best service for the price and the service is as efficient as possible so it can adequately carry the amount of riders who need it everyday. You need to do this despite the fact you do not need the service yourselves, do not experience the pitfalls of trying to run your lives using public transit, and are unfamiliar the day to day frustrations when such service doesn't operate as planned. I feel this will take a lot of consideration on your part due to this void. I further hope you will not rely on your own understanding and allow Commissioner Hudson to fill in the blanks for you. Her experience is irreplaceable. and the stakes are higher for people in her shoes than any of you sitting at the table with her. Having to plan your life days in advance to schedule a ride, and not being able to get the ride you might need when you need it are large drawbacks with this particular service. I would also request that CATA allow us to make reservations for Monday on Sunday. There are people at CATA answering phones on Sundays, but for some reason a few years back they no longer took calls on Sundays for Monday Redi Rides.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely  
Donna Rose  
6207 Cobblers Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48823

## Mark Kieselbach

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**From:** Karla Hudson <hudson.kc@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 9:25 AM  
**To:** Mark Kieselbach  
**Subject:** Developing partnerships

Hi, Mark please distribute to the rest of the transportation commission.

Thanks.

Karla Hudson

Engadget - Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 1:26 PM

## Uber enlists outside help to improve wheelchair-accessible rides

SIPA USA/PA Images

Uber has found itself in [hot water](#) multiple times over its lack of wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAVs), and now it's teaming up with another company in order to better serve passengers with disabilities. It's partnering with MV Transportation, a company that provides paratransit services across the US and Canada, and is bringing MV Transportation's WAV fleet to eight cities.

Uber riders needing a WAV in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Toronto and Washington, DC will be able to book one through Uber in 15 minutes or less on average. And over the next year, Uber aims to provide WAV transportation with similar wait times in San Francisco and Los Angeles as well. The company says that these eight cities account for half of all Uber trips in North America.

Uber has [been sued multiple times](#) for failing to accommodate passengers with disabilities. Rival Lyft [has faced](#) lawsuits as well.

Uber says that MV's WAVs are operated by drivers who have been trained in safe wheelchair securement and it's working to ensure WAV trips don't cost more than a comparable UberX trip. "We're committed to making accessibility a meaningful part of what we do, and we're proud to be doing our part to enable improved access to transportation for people with disabilities," Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi [said](#). "We know there is still a long way to go -- and that we're at the beginning, not the end, of this journey."

150 Shares

<https://www.engadget.com/2018/11/20/uber-enlists-help-improve-wheelchair-accessible-rides/>