

# APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)  
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Vagnozzi, Commissioners Deschaine, Potter, Kolbasa and Lovell (by Phone).

ABSENT: Commissioner Hudson

STAFF: Frank Walsh, Township Manager, Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering, Ken Plaga, Chief of Police and Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development.

## 1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Deschaine moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Vagnozzi moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2019 as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 4. Public Remarks

Vice-Chair Vagnozzi mentioned the communication in the packet regarding Uber and Lyft and cab prices in Chicago were less than what Uber and Lyft charged.

Township Manager Walsh informed the Commission the Township Board had approved the Commission's recommendation to renew and restore the millage for the Redi-Ride service. The Township Board had also instructed the Manager to negotiate a new Service Agreement with CATA prior to the Township Board meeting on May 9, 2019.

Manager Walsh stated he was conducting an investigation on the conflict of interest complaints against Vice-Chair Vagnozzi and Trustee Dan Opsommer. Both complaints will be addressed by the Township Board at its meeting on April 9, 2019.

## 5. Communications

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

6. Public Hearing

A. Central Park Drive (Okemos Road to Grand River Avenue) reduce existing 4 lanes to 3 lanes.

Chair Hackbarth welcomed William Conklin, Managing Director and Kelly Jones, Project Engineer from the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD).

Director Conklin gave an update on proposed primary road resurfacing projects for 2019 which included:

- Towner Road (Saginaw Highway to Marsh Road)
- Hagadorn Road (Lake Lansing Road to North end of Birch Row)
- Lake Lansing Road (Hagadorn Road to Saginaw Highway)
- Lake Lansing Road (Lac Du Mont Drive to Marsh Road)
- Okemos Road (Banyon Trail to Lake Lansing Road)
- Central Park Drive (Okemos Road to Grand River Avenue)
- Newman Road (Marsh Road to Central Park Drive)
- Hamilton Road (Chippewa Drive to Grand River Avenue)
- Dobie Road (Grand River Avenue to Hamilton Road)
- Hamilton Road (Dobie Road to Grand River Avenue)

Chair Hackbarth opened the public hearing at 6:24p.m.

Public Present: Dennis and Karen Rich, 4619 Okemos Road and Doris Schwartz, 2209 Kent Street.

Director Conklin provided a summary of the proposed road diet project as outlined in an email dated March 14, 2019 (Road Plans on file):

- The 4 lanes on Newman Road (Marsh Road to Central Park Drive) will also be reduced to 3 lanes as part of the project.
- Central Park Drive carries less than 8,000 vehicles per day.
- The intersections at Central Park Drive/Okemos Road and Central Park Drive/Grand River Avenue will not change.
- The current outer through lane and right turn lane on Central Park Drive at Marsh Road will become right turn only.
- Reducing the number of lanes on Newman Road will have little net change in capacity at the intersection with Central Park Drive.
- No net change in traffic flow is expected with the reduction in lanes.
- Resurfacing is proposed for 2019.

Public Remarks:

Dennis Rich stated the ICRD should consider reducing the 4 lanes to three lanes on Hamilton Road from Dobie Road to Grand River Avenue.

Doris Schwartz stated she liked the plan to reduce the number of lanes as it would slow traffic and there was a need for bike lanes.

Chair Hackbarth closed the public hearing at 6:50p.m.

## 7. Commission Discussion

### A. Central Park Drive/Newman Road

- Central Park Drive and Newman Road are primary roads.
- ICRD would ask the Township to pay for bike lane markings or signage.
- Bike lane markings cost \$300 to \$400 per marking.
- MDOT will study the signals at Grand River Avenue/Central Park Drive/Dobie Road intersections.
- ICRD thought reducing the number of lanes on the eastern portion of Hamilton Road was a good idea.
- Township would want a pedestrian crossing on Central Park Drive for the new Farmers' Market on the south side of the road.
- Director Perry will work with ICRD to determine the cost for bike lane markings and signage.

Commissioner Deschaine moved the Transportation Commission recommend the Township Board approve the Ingham County Road Department proposed road diet for Central Park Drive and Newman Road and to consider Hamilton Road east of Dobie Road for a road diet.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Okemos Road Bridge Replacement

Director Conklin indicated the primary purpose of the project is to replace the functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridges over the Red Cedar River. There are three alternatives being proposed. (Plans for alternative proposals on file.)

Alternative 1: Construction of a new two-lane southbound bridge and rehabilitation of the existing two-lane northbound (camelback) bridge.

Alternative 2: Construction of a new five-lane bridge for both northbound and southbound traffic. The southbound bridge would be demolished and the northbound (camelback) bridge would be converted for pedestrian use.

Alternative 3: The same as Alternative 2 except the northbound (camelback) bridge would be demolished and five foot bike lanes would be added to the new bridge.

- The ICRD is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will identify potential social, economic and environmental impacts related to the proposed alternatives.
- The ICRD will hold a public meeting in April or May on the bridge replacement.
- The project is funded for 2020 but may be pushed back to 2021.
- Cost to repair the camelback bridge is approximately \$500,000.
- The Township would need to accept responsibility and the maintenance for the camelback bridge if converted for pedestrian use.

#### C. Downtown Okemos Traffic Impact

Chair Hackbart welcomed Will Randle, True North Development, the developer for the proposed Village of Okemos project and Gentjan Hegimi, HRC, consulting engineer for the project.

Mr. Randle went through Phase 1 of the project (Plans on file) which includes Block 1 west of Okemos Road and north of Hamilton Road and Block 2 west of Okemos Road and south of Hamilton Road.

- Mixed use development with commercial, office and residential.
- Approximately 150 residential units in Phase 1.
- Significant environmental cleanup is needed.
- Worked with ICRD on the traffic study.
- Left turns from Okemos Road on to Hamilton Road for northbound and southbound traffic.
- Dual left turn lanes from westbound Hamilton Road to southbound Okemos Road.
- Boulevard on Hamilton Road west of Okemos Road.
- Traffic signal at Okemos Road/Clinton Street and Okemos Road/Methodist Street intersections.
- Clinton Street, Ardmore Avenue and Methodist Street will be rebuilt with on-street parking.
- Utility poles will be raised an additional 40 feet in this area.
- Subsurface parking will be provided in Block 2.

#### 8. Commission Comments

Chair Hackbarth deferred comments to the next meeting.

#### 9. Next Meeting Dates

Transportation Commission next meeting is May 23, 2019 at the Central Fire Station Community Room. Township Board next meeting is April 9, 2019.

#### 10. Adjournment

Hearing no objection Chair Hackbarth adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.