



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD – SPECIAL  
MEETING  
February 10, 2026 5:30 pm

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
5. ACTION ITEM
  - A. Resolution and Letter Opposing ITC's Oneida to Sabine Lake Electric Transmission Line Project
6. PRESENTATION
  - A. Recapping 2025 and Reviewing 2026 Goals
7. JOINT MEETING WITH TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
  - A. Reports of Activity in 2025 and Look Ahead to 2026
    - i. Capital Area District Library-Sandy Drake
    - ii. Planning Commission-Alisande Shrewsbury
    - iii. Zoning Board of Appeals-Josh Nahum
    - iv. Corridor Improvement Authority-Bruce Peffers
    - v. Park Commission-Mary Nardo Farris
    - vi. Communications Commission-Lisa Whiting-Dobson
    - vii. Environmental Commission-Bill McConnell
    - viii. Board of Review-Deb Federau
    - ix. Downtown Development Authority-Ron Sdao
    - x. Community Resources Commission-Georgia Styka
    - xi. Lake Lansing Advisory Board-Curt Armbruster
    - xii. Economic Development Corporation-David Fosdick
    - xiii. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority-Tim Dempsey
    - xiv. Local Officials Compensation Commission-Amy Holda
    - xv. Land Preservation Advisory Board-Kris Parnell
    - xvi. Election Commission-Angela Demas
8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
9. ADJOURNMENT

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor.  
Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Tim Dempsey, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



**To:** Township Board

**From:** Tim Dempsey, Township Manager  
Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager and Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Date:** February 6, 2026

**Re:** ITC's Oneida to Sabine Lake Project – Resolution and Letter

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Per the Township's Board discussion at the February 3, 2026 meeting regarding ITC's proposed electric transmission line through Meridian Township, staff have prepared a resolution and letter opposing placement in Meridian Township. We attempted to encapsulate the key concerns expressed by Board members during the meeting and shared by Board members with ITC at their listening sessions. We look forward to discussing this further with the Township Board at the February 10 meeting.

Should the Board wish to take action, the following motion is suggested:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND ASSOCIATED LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO ITC'S PROPOSED ONEIDA TO SABINE LAKE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.**

Attachments: DRAFT Resolution  
DRAFT Letter with Exhibits

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ONEIDA TO SABINE LAKE  
345kV ELECTRIC TRANSMISION LINE ROUTE THROUGH MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP**

At a meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, at 5:30 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator approved a portfolio of high-voltage electric transmission projects throughout the Midwest, including in mid-Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, ITC Michigan intends to construct the Oneida to Sabine Lake project, a 50-mile 345kV electric transmission line requiring a 200-foot-wide right-of-way and structures with heights ranging from 120 to 180 feet; and

**WHEREAS**, ITC Michigan has hosted a series of seven listening sessions throughout mid-Michigan to receive input from individuals and organizations impacted by the proposed transmission line routes and has provided mechanisms to receive written feedback; and

**WHEREAS**, preliminary routing options for this project significantly impact the natural and residential landscape of Meridian Township, including sensitive ecological areas and established neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed route through Meridian Township is the most densely populated of any of the proposed routes, creating many more conflicts than the alternative routes; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed route directly threatens the integrity of Township-owned parks and preserves, specifically Legg Park, Red Cedar Natural Area Park, Ponderosa Land Preserve, as well as the nearby Harris Nature Center, which are vital for local conservation, recreation, and public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and maintenance of such lines would require clear-cutting swaths of forested areas, causing loss of mature canopy cover and loss of important flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, the project poses a direct threat to critical wetlands and riparian zones, risking the alteration of hydrological cycles and negatively impacting biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS**, the imposition of industrial-scale infrastructure in proximity to residential properties is expected to diminish aesthetic character and cause long-term visual impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Board invited ITC to present the project at its February 3, 2026 regular meeting, asked clarifying questions to understand the project’s potential impacts and approval timeline, and expressed significant concerns regarding overall and specific impacts to the Township’s public land, its natural and manmade assets, and private residential properties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**, that Meridian Township formally opposes the proposed Oneida to Sabine Lake 345kV transmission line as currently routed through Meridian Township.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Meridian Township urges ITC and the Michigan Public Service Commission to prioritize alternative routes that avoid residential areas, public parks, and sensitive environmental preserves to minimize negative impacts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be transmitted to ITC Michigan, along with an attached letter detailing the impacts outlined in this resolution, prior to the February 19, 2026 deadline for initial public input on the proposed routes.

ADOPTED: YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM     )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Demas  
Meridian Township Clerk



**Meridian Township**  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000  
F 517.853.4096

**Township Board:**

**Scott Hendrickson**  
*Township Supervisor*

**Angela Demas**  
*Township Clerk*

**Linda Burghardt**  
*Township Treasurer*

**Kathy Ann Sundland**  
*Township Trustee*

**Marna Wilson**  
*Township Trustee*

**Nickolas Lentz**  
*Township Trustee*

**Peter Trezise**  
*Township Trustee*

**Timothy H. Dempsey**  
*Township Manager*

February XX, 2026

ITC

Attn: Ben Tirrell, Local Government and Community Affairs  
208 N Capital Ave, Suite 200  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Opposition to Proposed Oneida to Sabine Lake 345KV Electric Transmission Line Route through Meridian Township

Dear Mr. Tirrell:

The Meridian Township Board wishes to express its strong opposition to the proposed route through Meridian Township for the Oneida to Sabine Lake project, a 50-mile 345kV electric transmission line requiring a 200-foot-wide right-of-way and structures with heights ranging from 120 to 180 feet.

The imposition of industrial-scale infrastructure in proximity to residential properties is expected to diminish aesthetic character and cause long-term visual impacts. Specifically, the proposed route through Meridian Township is the most densely populated of any of the proposed routes, creating many more conflicts than the alternative routes. The proposed route through Meridian Township would:

1. Disturb 40-49 acres of forested land.
2. Impact 63 parcels within the Township. This equates to 15.6 parcels per mile. To give a comparison, the other proposed routes (not including the I-96 MDOT ROW route) would only impact approximately 6-10 parcels per mile.
3. Cross 15 parcels with private wells and septic systems.

Additionally, the project would have significant impacts on the following established residential neighborhoods within the Township:

- Buttercup Ln
- Property owners along the north and south side of Newman Rd from Meridian Rd to Van Atta Rd. In 2025, the Township paid to reconstruct Newman Rd and replaced the existing asphalt full depth. ITC's construction activity would prematurely degrade this newly reconstructed local road.
- Wellington Estates
- East Pointe (Oak Pointe Ct)

- Property owners along the west side of Van Atta Rd from Grand River Ave to the CSX Railroad crossing
- The Shoals
- Ponderosa Estates
- Ember Oaks
- It would also prevent future phases of the Ember Oaks subdivision from being completed.

Furthermore, the project poses a direct threat to critical wetlands and riparian zones, risking the alteration of hydrological cycles and negatively impacting biodiversity. Specifically, the proposed route through Meridian Township would have to cross many acres of wetlands, as shown in Exhibit A. The proposed route would also have to cross the floodway of the Red Cedar River, as shown in Exhibit B. Additionally, the required tree clearing near wetlands and in the floodway of the Red Cedar River would worsen the drainage in these areas by reducing the amount of water that is absorbed by these existing trees.

The proposed route directly threatens the integrity of Township-owned parks and land preserves. Specifically, the project would negatively impact Legg Park, Red Cedar Natural Area Park, Ponderosa Land Preserve, as well as the nearby Harris Nature Center and Park, in the following manner:

1. Nearly three acres of wooded park or preserve land would be affected.
2. Twenty-four (24) endangered, threatened or special concern wildlife species have been identified within the proposed project route, as shown in Exhibit C.
3. Twenty-three (23) endangered, threatened or special concern plant species have been identified within the proposed project route, as shown in Exhibit D.

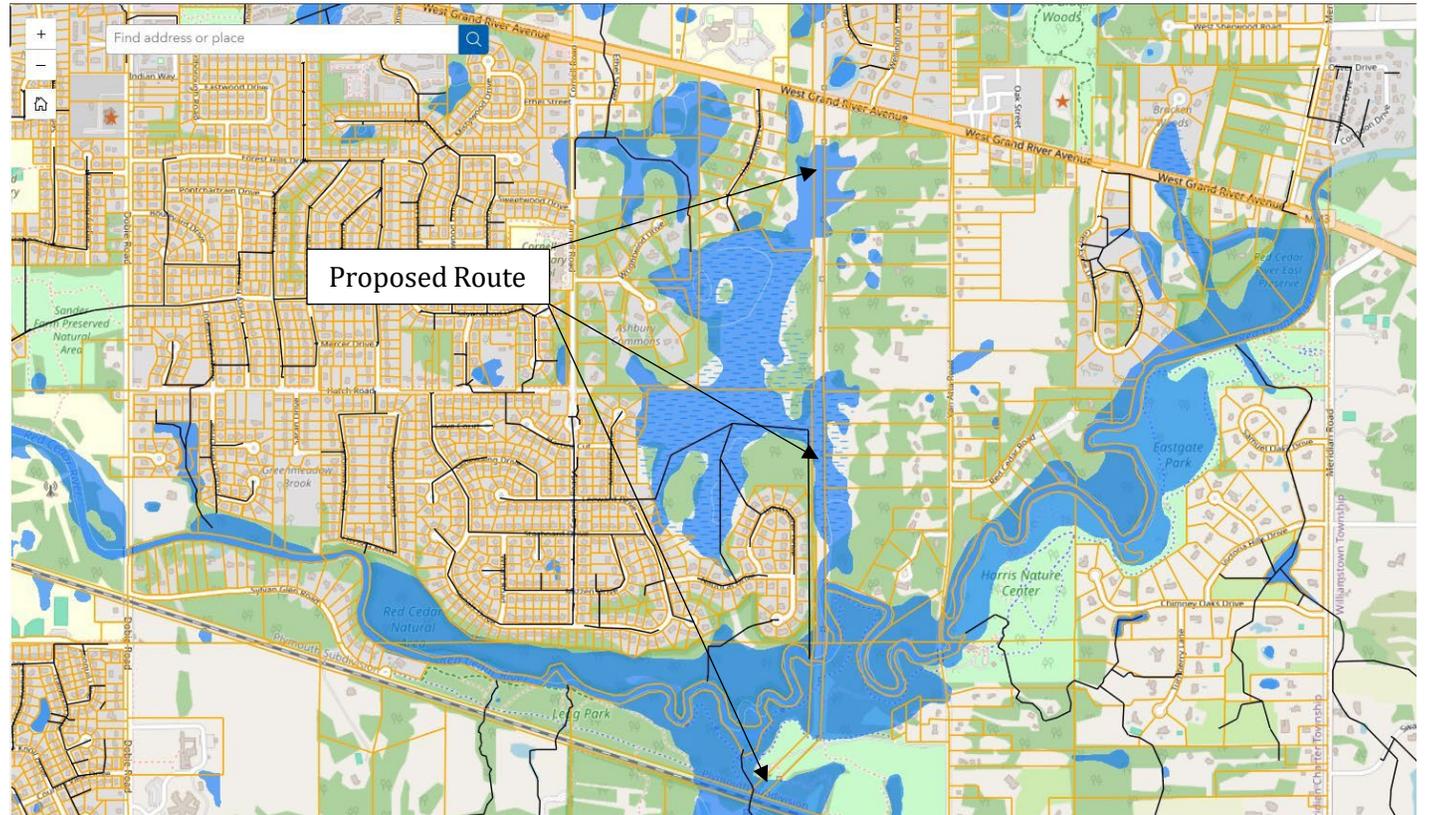
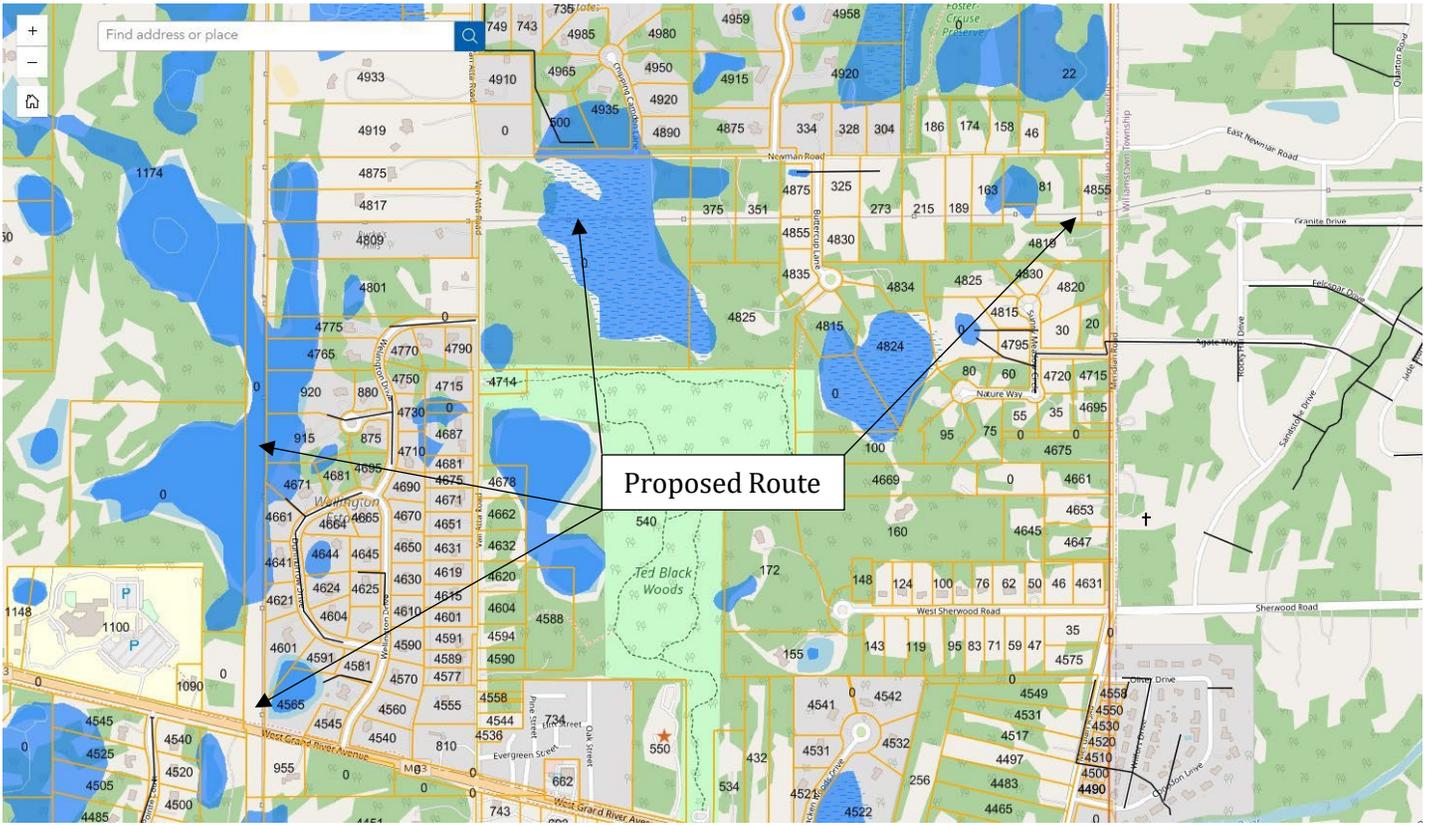
The Township Board firmly supports utilizing MDOT right-of-way (ROW) to the greatest extent possible. To help achieve this, the Township Board intends to adopt and transmit resolutions to the appropriate state lawmakers in support of pending legislation that would allow for transmission lines to be constructed and placed within MDOT ROW.

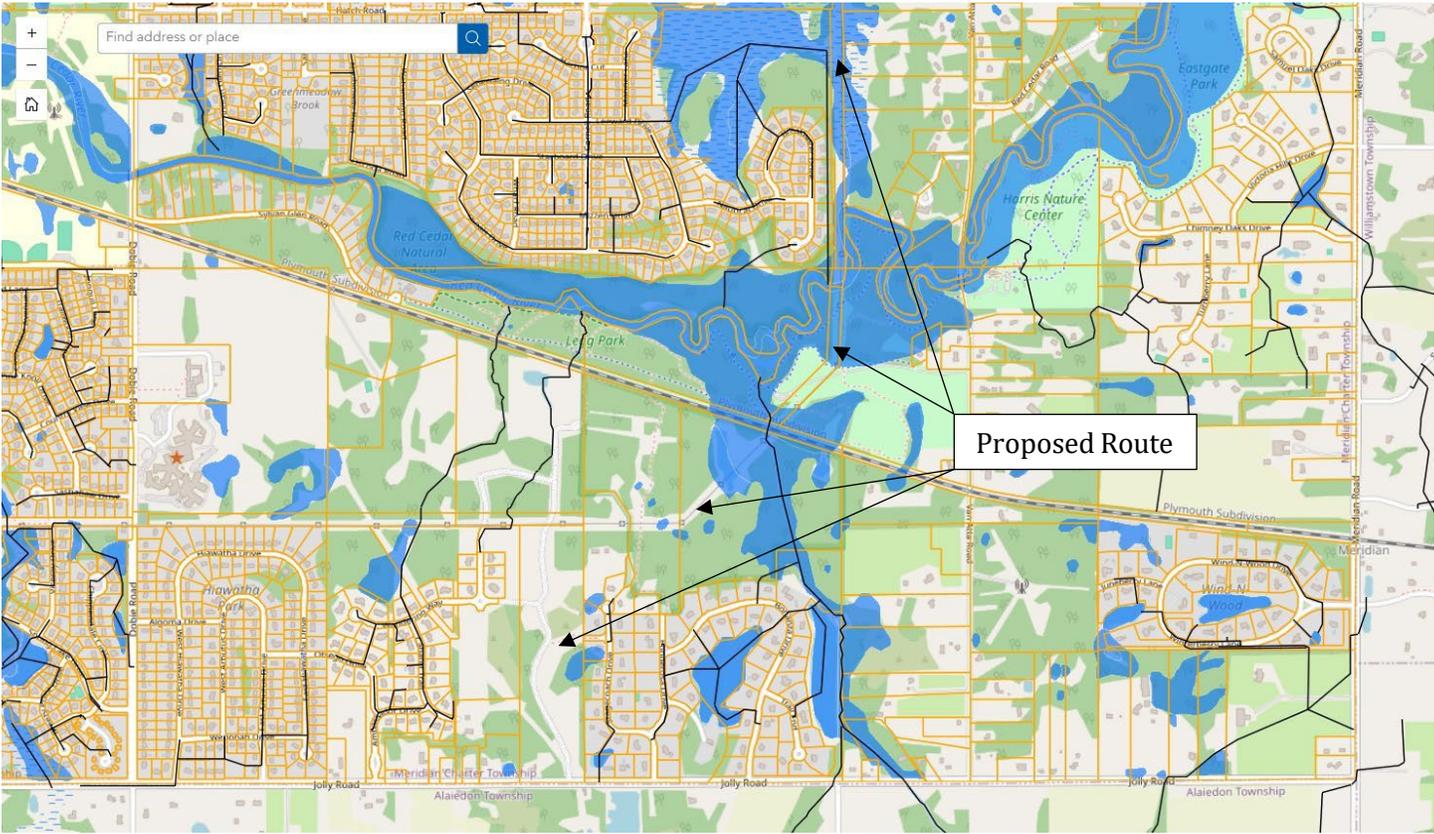
We appreciate your attention to this matter. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

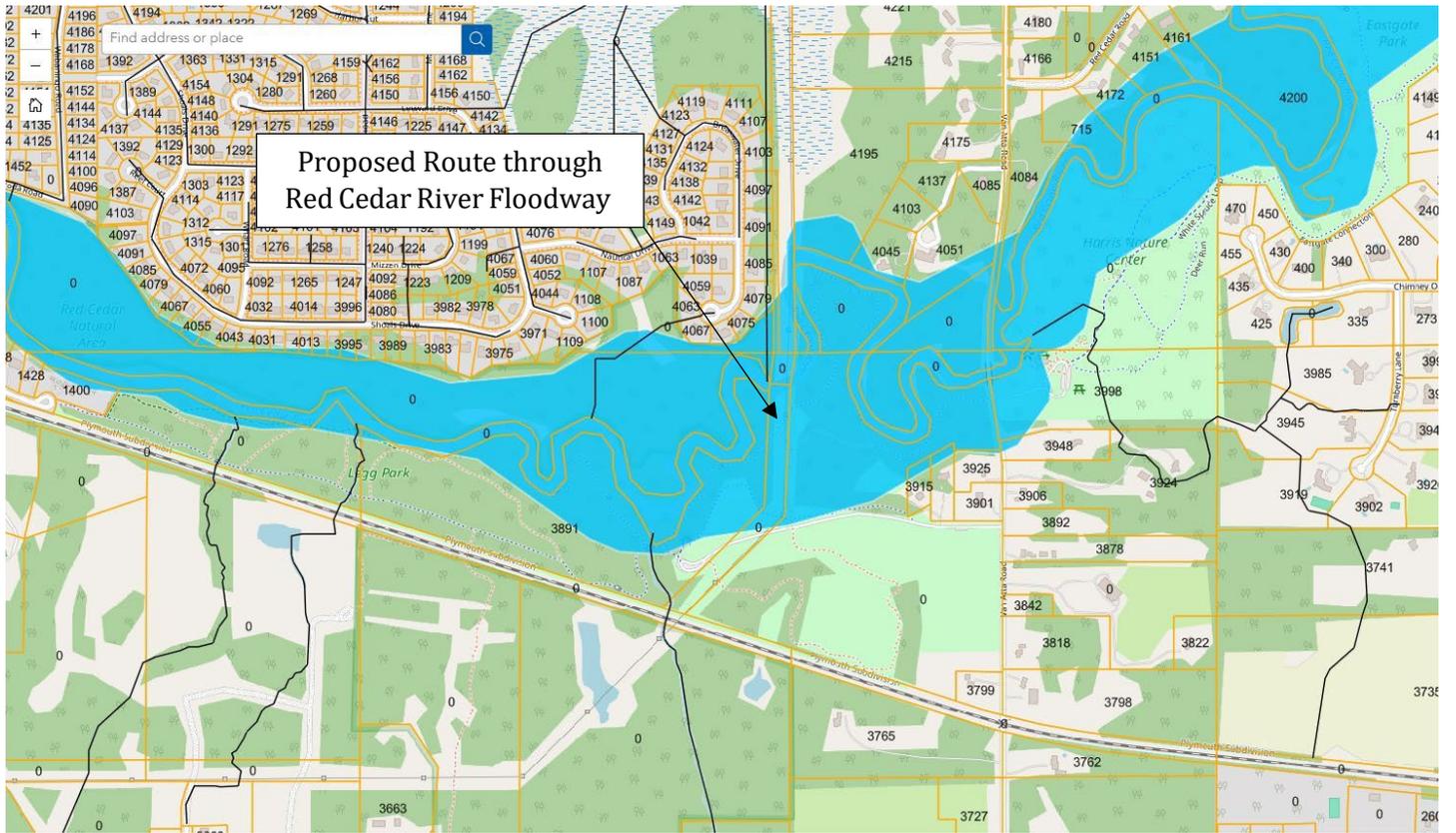
Scott Hendrickson  
Supervisor

# **EXHIBIT A**





# **EXHIBIT B**



# **EXHIBIT C**

**List of Endangered/Threatened/Special Concern Wildlife**

**Species Locations Found:**

**Legg Park, Ponderosa Preserve, Harris Nature Center, Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Eastgate, Red Cedar Natural Area**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>Threatened</b>	<b>Special Concern</b>
American Bittern			X
American Bumblebee	X		
Bald Eagle			X
Blanchard's Cricket Frog		X	
Blanding's Turtle			X
Cerulean Warbler		X	
Common Nighthawk			X
Eastern Box Turtle		X	
Eastern Massasauga		X	
Hooded Warbler			X
Indiana Bat	X		
Least Shrew		X	
Little Brown Bat		X	
Long-eared Owl	X		
Louisiana Waterthrush		X	
Marsh Wren			X
Merlin			X
Prairie Warbler			X
Prothonotary Warbler			X
Red-headed Woodpecker			X
Red-shouldered Hawk			X
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	X		
Short-eared Owl	X		
Spotted Turtle		X	

# **EXHIBIT D**

**List of Endangered/Threatened/Special Concern Plant Species**

**Locations Found:**

**Legg Park, Ponderosa Preserve, Harris Nature Center, Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Eastgate, Red Cedar Natural Area**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Endangered</b>	<b>Threatened</b>	<b>Special Concern</b>
Arrowhead		X	
Blue-eyed Grass		X	
Broadleaf Puccoon			X
Compass Plant	X		
Cup Plant		X	
Eastern few-fruited Sedge		X	
Ginseng		X	
Gray Birch			X
Jacob's Ladder		X	
Large-flowered Trillium	Protected by Michigan Christmas Greens Act of 1962		
Leadplant			X
Prairie Coreopsis	X		
Purple Coneflower	Extirpated - but has been reintroduced at HNC		
Queen-of-the-Prairie		X	
Rattlesnake Master	X		
Red Mulberry		X	
River Birch			X
Rock Cress		X	
Shooting Star	X		
Sideoats Grama	X		
Virginia Bluebells		X	
Virginia Water-horehound			X
Wild Rice		X	