



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
February 8, 2018 5:30 p.m.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 18, 2018

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None

6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

A. Continue Redi-Ride Discussion

B. Climate Sustainability Plan-Transportation Objectives and Strategies

7. COMMISSION COMMENTS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. March 15, 2018 Central Fire Station Community Room

B. Township Board Meeting February 20, 2018

9. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Central Fire St.

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DRAFT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2018

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Dave Hall, Chief of Police
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Potter moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Potter moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2017 as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. Public Remarks

Leonard Provencher stated his concerns with the Michigan Department of Transportation proposed improvements at the Saginaw Highway intersections with Newton Road, Towner Road and Marsh Road. He would like to see a pedestrian and cyclist crossing at Newton Road and Towner Road. He also spoke to the need for a signal pedestrian crossing on Okemos Road at the east off ramp and west on ramp at I-96.

5. Communications

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

6. Presentation/Discussion

A. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)-I-69BL Corridor Improvement Projects

Chair Hackbarth welcomed Will Thompson, Lansing TSC Manager and Tom Fischer, Lansing TSC Operations Engineer. A copy of the presentation is on file.

- Improvement projects include three intersections: Saginaw Highway (I-69BL) at Marsh Road, Newton Road and Towner Road.
- Project goals include safety, congestion mitigation and non-motorized access
- Alternative analysis was done with “J-Turns” being the best choice
- Considerable delay for left turns during morning and afternoon peak periods at Marsh Road
- A total of 80 crashes occurred at Marsh Road
- 32 of the 80 crashes resulted from vehicular movements that will be eliminated with the proposed project
- A total of 10 crashes occurred at Newton Road and a total of 7 crashes occurred at Towner Road
- 13 of the 17 crashes resulted from vehicular movements that will be eliminated with the proposed project
- Completion of plans in 2018 with construction in 2019
- Saginaw can handle the increase in traffic related to new development along the corridor

7. Commission Discussion/Review

A. Continue Redi-Ride Discussion

- Need to identify the areas where service is needed but is outside of the current service area
- Areas such as the Meijers in Bath, Costco, MSU Clinical Center, south side of Jolly Road near the Okemos Road intersection and the 425 areas in the Township

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved the Transportation Commission recommend the Township Board instruct CATA to expand the Redi-Ride service area to include all areas in the Township covered by a 425 agreement, Costco, Michigan State University Clinical Center and the Bath Township Meijer. Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Trustee Dan Opsommer provided additional information on Redi-Ride service expansion grant opportunities. A copy of the material is on file.

- The new proposal for expanded service includes 8-9 a.m. morning service Monday – Friday and 5-7 p.m. evening service Monday-Friday
- Due to the time the Commission was not able to complete its discussion on this item

8. Commission Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Dates

- Commission’s next meeting is February 15, 2018, Central Fire Station Community Room
- Township Board’s next meeting is January 23, 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 8:15 p.m.



To: Transportation Commission
From: 
LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Date: November 21, 2017
Re: Transportation Objectives & Strategies
in Meridian's Climate Sustainability Plan

Last month (Oct 17), Meridian's Township Board past a Climate Sustainability Plan for Meridian. (see press announcement below). We appreciate your comments and potential involvement in achieving the ambitious goals included in the plan.

Your further involvement is invited. On behalf of the Meridian Energy Team, the Transportation Commission is invited to help with the transportation-related objectives and strategies outlined on page 3-4. We are open to any level of involvement you wish:

- overseeing the transportation objectives
- suggesting policies, benchmarks, and other ideas to further these goals
- refining objectives and offering additional advice as desired
- helping report on progress
- suggesting topics for HOMTV/Environmental Commission "Green Theme" presentations and other educational outreach

We realize that progress is already well underway on several of the objectives. Reporting on this progress and helping the Energy Team and others "move forward" might be very helpful as a first step. If you like, I will make myself available to discuss this further with you in January, through e-mail, and/or other times as needed.

Thank you for your efforts in making the township a better place to live, work, and play!



Meridian Township commits to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035

Township passes plan to boost investments in clean energy, energy efficiency

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP – The **Meridian Township** Board on Tuesday (10/17) approved a **Climate Sustainability Plan** that provides a framework for the Township to improve sustainability and reduce climate change. Under the plan, the Township will boost investments in energy efficiency and obtain 50 percent of electricity used for township operations from renewable energy sources by 2025. By 2035, the township plans to obtain 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources.

“Committing to 100 percent clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency will help us reduce pollution in our air and save taxpayer dollars,” said Ron Styka, Township Supervisor. “We are proud to announce this important step in our continued efforts to fight climate change and protect our air, land and water for future generations.”

The Township’s Climate Sustainability Plan includes the following objectives:

- Achieve significant energy and water cost savings in township facilities and the township’s vehicle fleet.
- Obtain 50 percent of electricity used for township operations from renewable energy sources by 2025, and 100 percent by 2035.
- Reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills by 10 percent over five years.

“We’re proud to join communities throughout Michigan that are leading the way to reduce pollution and fight climate change by boosting investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy,” said Styka. “We look forward to working with residents to make Meridian Township even more sustainable.”

Meridian Township joins a growing list of Michigan cities and towns that are passing resolutions and plans to reduce pollution and obtain 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources. The Meridian Township Board also adopted a resolution of support for the Paris Climate Accord on June 20, 2017.

“In 2007 we joined the US Mayor’s Climate Protection agreement and today, it’s more important than ever to work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions” said Julie Brixie, Township Treasurer. “Implementation of the sustainability plan will ultimately save money in addition to saving the planet.” The full Climate Sustainability Plan can be found [here](#).

Meridian Climate Sustainability Plan (transportation section)

Transportation produced 26% of greenhouse gases in 2014¹. Public and non-motorized alternatives can reduce the impacts from these greenhouse gases. The most accessible alternative to petroleum is often overlooked -- walking and biking. Transportation fuel use reduction measures decrease emissions, save the Township and residents money, enhance environmental quality, and promote public health. The Township will focus on its own fleet, walking and biking, and land use decisions. Land use decisions that lead to infill development and a greater use of public and non-motorized transportation can significantly impact petroleum use.

Past and Current Progress:

A Complete Streets Ordinance was adopted by the Meridian Township Board on Sept. 18, 2012. The ordinance is intended to provide safe, convenient, and comfortable routes for multiple modes of transportation including but not limited to walking, bicycling, personal vehicles and public transportation.

The Township has 20 miles of trails and 80 miles of pedestrian/bicycle paths. The development and maintenance of the trails and pathways are funded through the Park Millage and Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Millage. They are maintained by Township Parks and Grounds Maintenance Staff. The purpose of the pedestrian/bicycle pathway system is to provide a network of interconnected pathways throughout Meridian Township that connect destination points including schools; libraries; parks; public buildings; commercial areas; and connecting routes outside the Township.

Smart Commute competitions, coordinated by the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, encourage trips involving alternatives to single-occupancy motor vehicles. Meridian Township staff has participated in the competitions for a number of years and in 2015 placed first among 23 teams participating. The 34-member Primed Meridian team won with 1,083 smart commutes, up from the previous year when the team had 927 trips. The Township has also offered bikes and bike helmets to employees and volunteers for the past three years.

The Meridian Energy Team partnered with the Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities Coalition and ChargePoint to purchase and install an electric vehicle charging station at Studio C in 2012. The Township has also explored clean diesel technology and experimented with biodiesel in its vehicles.

The Meridian Transportation Commission began meeting in January 2017. The purpose of the commission is to review transportation services, both public and private, within the township as to their efficiency, sufficiency, and costs and make recommendations, if necessary, for improvements.

Objective d.1: Encourage employee and citizen participation in Smart Commute competitions and encourage Township employees and citizens to be smart commuters year round.

Strategies

1. Continue to expand the bike and pedestrian pathways network throughout the Township.
2. Incentivize employee participation in Clean Commute competitions and encourage employees to be smart commuters year round.
3. Partner with Capital Area Transportation Authority and others to promote "Clean Commute" options and identify efficient paratransit and Redi-Ride efficiency improvements.

¹ Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, December 1, 2016

Objective d.2: Decrease the use of petroleum in the Township vehicle fleet.

Strategies

1. Choose the cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets the department's needs.
2. Use electric or hybrid vehicles whenever possible.
3. Use efficient trip-planning to reduce the use of fuel.
4. Conduct an efficiency inventory and audit of the Township vehicle fleet.
5. Adopt a fuel efficiency target for the Township vehicle fleet, including an implementation plan for reaching this target. The plan should incorporate vehicle efficiency and life cycle cost analysis as well as highlight opportunities for purchasing or converting vehicles to be more efficient.
6. Review and update the idling policy for the government fleet and/or a community-wide policy.
7. Identify and seek funding for alternative fuel vehicles and electric charging infrastructure.

Objective d.3: Use land-use planning to reduce vehicle miles traveled and petroleum use.

Strategies

1. Accelerate implementation of the Township's Complete Streets policy to ensure that entire roadways are designed and operated with all users in mind - including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
2. Use the Urban Services Boundary to reduce vehicle miles traveled and encourage infill and redevelopment.
3. Encourage cluster developments, mixed use and other compact residential choices closer to shopping, public transit and other services.
4. Offer fast tracking and technical assistance for sustainable developments.

Objective d.4: Provide educational opportunities on transportation alternatives that can reduce petroleum use.

Strategies

1. Provide educational opportunities concerning public transit, car sharing, smart commuting, and transportation-efficient communities.
2. Provide educational opportunities on biking, walking, and driving safely, especially around bikers and walkers.
3. Continue membership in and partnerships with Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities (<http://michigancleancities.org>) and providers of efficient vehicles, equipment, and fuels.
4. Provide web sites and apps that identify charging stations for electric vehicles. Identify funding and opportunities for electric car charging stations.
5. Promote the employee and volunteer bike-sharing program.