

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Hackbarth (6:15 p.m.), Vice-Chair Vagnozzi, Commissioners Deschaine (6:35 p.m.), Potter, Lovell and Kolbasa.

ABSENT: Commissioner Hudson.

STAFF: Derek Perry, Director of Public Works and Engineering, Ken Plaga, Chief of Police, Jerry Richards, Planning Commission Representative and Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development.

OTHER: Kelly Jones, Director of Engineering, Ingham County Road Department (ICRD), Will Randle, True North Development and Genti Hegimi, HRC

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice-Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Potter moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Kolbasa.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the minutes of June 27, 2019 as written.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Remarks

None

5. Communications

None

6. Commission Discussion

A. Okemos Road bridge replacement.

Kelly Jones outlined the changes to the bridge design since the last Transportation Commission meeting. The new design is being called the "Preferred Alternative". The Preferred Alternative includes:

- Removal of both existing bridges.
- Construction of a single five-lane bridge.
- Center turn lane to serve the park entrances.
- Eight foot wide north bound sidewalk on bridge deck.
- Preservation of green space in the median north and south of the new bridge.
- Eliminate need to purchase additional right-of-way on east side of Okemos Road.
- Could allow a pedestrian pathway to be constructed under the bridge to connect Wonch and Ferguson Parks.
- Estimated construction cost of \$5.7 million and is within the ICRD budget.

Commissioner Potter moved the Transportation Commission recommend the Township Board support the Preferred Alternative design.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: motion carried unanimously

B. Bike lanes – Village of Okemos

The Village of Okemos developer Will Randle updated the Commission on the status of the project. He stated due to the existing width of the right-of-way on Okemos Road bike lanes could not be provided. Instead an eight foot wide sidewalk will be installed on both sides of Okemos Road. The sidewalk could be used by pedestrians and bicycles. The transmission line is proposed to be buried so there will not be utility poles in the sidewalk. They are also proposing to install a boardwalk from Liverance Street south to Wonch Park.

C. Okemos / Hamilton intersection truck-turning.

Kelly Jones stated the ICRD would like the Township to amend its Truck Route ordinance for Hamilton Road from Okemos Road to the roundabout at Marsh Road.

- With the proposed improvements to the Okemos / Hamilton intersection a semi-truck could not make a right turn from northbound Okemos Road to eastbound Hamilton Road without encroaching into the westbound lane of Hamilton Road.
- Currently Hamilton Road east of Okemos Road has two eastbound lanes and two west bound lanes.
- The proposed design would have one eastbound lane and three westbound lanes to allow for dual left turns at the intersection.
- Additional road right-of-way would be needed at the southeast corner of the intersection to allow a semi-truck to make a right turn.
- ICRD recommendation would prohibit trucks on eastbound Hamilton Road from Okemos Road to the roundabout at March Road.
- Trucks could still use westbound Hamilton Road from the roundabout at Marsh Road to Okemos Road.

Commissioner Lovell moved the Transportation Commission support the recommendation from the ICRD and recommend the Township Board amend the Township Truck Route ordinance to prohibit trucks on eastbound Hamilton Road from Okemos Road to the roundabout at Marsh Road.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: motion carried unanimously

7. Commission Comments

Commissioner Deschaine updated the Commission on the recently approved Redi-Ride millage. Due to the ballot language CATA has agreed to have the payments start in 2021.

Director Perry stated with the approval of the Local Road millage the Township will be moving forward on the bond. He also was working on the plan for the road improvements.

Commissioner Potter stated he had attended the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) meeting. The CIA was discussing the type of improvements they would like to see along Grand River Avenue. Commissioner Potter recommended the Transportation Commission should schedule a meeting with staff from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to discuss MDOT's plans for the repairs and improvements in 2023 to Grand River Avenue.

Chair Hackbarth mentioned that the Commission at its November meeting would be discussing the items they would like to address in 2020.

8. Next Meeting Dates

Transportation Commission's next meeting is October 24, 2019 at the Central Fire Station Community Room. The Township Board's next meeting is September 3, 2019.

9. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.