



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Transportation Commission  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, May 18, 2023 – Minutes

**Members Present:** Chair Lovell, Trustee Sundland, Commissioner Potter, Commissioner Robertson, Commissioner Frierson, and Planning Commission Liaison McCurtis

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chair Hudson

**Others Present:** Senior Planner Shorkey, DPW Director Opsommer, and Planning Commissioner McConnell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lovell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.  
SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON. MOTION PASSES 6-0**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Robertson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Frierson to accept the January 19<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Passed 6-0

Senior Planner Shorkey said that the February 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes had been written and included but that they didn't need approval since there wasn't a quorum. Chair Lovell confirmed that the Transportation Commission didn't take any action and asked for the draft minutes to be acknowledged and approved as a committee of the whole.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Robertson to accept February 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes as a committee of the whole. Passed 6-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Township PASER Ratings

DPW Director Opsommer discussed the 2019 PASER ratings in the Township and followed with a discussion of the 2022 PASER ratings and described the contrast between the 2022 and 2019

ratings. DPW Director Opsommer said that the Board has approved \$2 million of ARP money for local roads.

Commissioner McCurtis asked if the average PASER rating from 2019 to 2022 was an improvement. DPW Director Opsommer showed the relevant pages from a Power Point that answered the question; 4.47 to 5.25 from 2019 to 2022 was an improvement and the goal is an 8. DPW Director Opsommer said that we update the PASER ratings when they go out to bond and said that the Township would be at a 7 at the end of the 10-year bond. DPW Director Opsommer said that inflation has affected the pace of improvements. Commissioner Robertson asked if it was expected that asphalt would continue to increase in price.

DPW Director Opsommer discussed the road improvement process and what methods are used for what roads. DPW Director Opsommer asked to go into the next item and show the whole Power Point.

#### B. Township Local Road Program

DPW Director Opsommer showed his Local Road Power Point. DPW Director Opsommer discussed the new rejuvenator road treatment in detail; being applied on 2019-2021 reconstructed roads to extend their lives. Commissioner Robertson asked if the rejuvenator was used in lieu of crack sealer. DPW Director Opsommer said it is used on roads without cracks and crack filling would still be used on cracked roads. Commissioner Frierson asked if the treatment has been used in Michigan. DPW Director Opsommer listed Michigan four communities and said that the Township called all four communities for references.

Commissioner Frierson asked if PASER included the use of the rejuvenator. DPW Director Opsommer said no, but PASER won't be affected since it goes on 9s and 10s. Commissioner Potter asked if the road being treated can be opened right away. DPW Director Opsommer said that half the road is sprayed at a time, a lane opening 30 minutes later. Chair Lovell asked how questions from homeowners are answered. Commissioner McCurtis asked if the Township has any concrete roads; no, but the State does. Commissioner Potter asked if dust is generated from the treatment; not much and street is swept after the treatment. Commissioner Robertson asked if the treatment can get into the drains; no. Commissioner Potter asked if any stuff remains after the treatment like asphalt. Commissioner Potter asked if the Township was going over past chip sealed roads; no, only new ones. Commissioner Frierson asked if residents are asked not to walk on the roads; yes. Commissioner Robertson asked if the Township would apply it at night; no, Township has an ordinance and doesn't want to upset neighbors.

DPW Director Opsommer described what the Township is doing to address issues with chip and fog roads; called a Texas underseal. General discussion about road improvement methods in the Township. Commissioner Frierson asked DPW Director Opsommer if he foresaw a block of roads that exceed their useful life in 5 to 10 years. DPW Director Opsommer said no, but in about 20 years, there will be a dearth of roads that will be at the end of their lives.

#### C. M-43 Street Lights

DPW Director Opsommer said that there is a luminary over the three intersections; the Township can ask for more. There is one coming at the Meridian Road intersection as part of that project. Commissioner Potter said that the current luminaries don't cover the large Marsh and Okemos intersections enough. DPW Director Opsommer said the Township can ask Consumers for new overhead luminaries if they can be worked into the new signalization format. Commissioner Potter

said that Dobie Road's intersection is concerning and that the whole light system on Grand River needs to be looked at.

Chair Lovell asked about cost and that suggested that LED lights aren't as expensive. DPW Director Opsommer said the Consumers charges for new lights and the Township pays for the electricity.

D. SRTS Update

Senior Planner Shorkey introduced the discussion and said that he and Commissioner Potter had been on a Zoom meeting that afternoon to discuss the SRTS project. Senior Planner Shorkey asked Commissioner Potter to discuss. Commissioner Potter discussed the project from his perspective; ICRD has seemed unsupportive in a past email but was quiet during the Zoom meeting that afternoon. DPW Director Opsommer said that he missed that meeting but that there was a change of leadership at the ICRD. General discussion about road issues and the ICRD.

Commissioner Potter said that a lot of sidewalk issues had been pointed out during the 2022 walking audit; local responsibility and pushback on sidewalk widening projects. DPW Director Opsommer discussed how the Township has widened the pathway in some sections. DPW Director Opsommer said that the RFBs are the Township's too, including the ones on Hagadorn and Okemos Roads. Commissioner Frierson asked what requests were meeting the most resistance from the county. Commissioner Potter said the recommendations for safety islands on Dobie Road. Commissioner McConnell said that the ICRD said that they won't do any of the PE work. Chair Lovell suggested that the school would have to rebuild Pathway that they ruin during their school construction.

Commissioner Potter said that he brought up the issue about the no parking bike signs on Kinawa Drive and said that he had asked for those likes to be added. Commissioner Potter said that the ICRD was unsupportive and rejected his idea to narrow the lanes. Commissioner Frierson said that narrowing lanes wasn't a good idea because cars need a minimum width for safe driving.

7. PROJECT UPDATES

A. MDOT M-43 Project Update

DPW Director Opsommer said that work on the refuge islands should be completed within the next week. Milling and paving from Marsh Road to Park Lake Road except for the concrete portions June 28 to Mid-August. DPW Director Opsommer said that they are discussing night paving for the Marsh Road intersection work; either way, one lane east and west will always be maintained; detour through Central Park Drive and Dobie Road. Commissioner McCurtis asked if the Grand River milling is the end of the project. DPW Director Opsommer said just striping left, should be park of that. Commissioner Potter asked if the Township is able to offer rewards for early completion. DPW Director Opsommer said it isn't our contract with MDOT, but our contracts are starting to include it, like the one for the building renovations. Commissioner Frierson said that a calculation can be used for calculating incentive and disincentives for large highway projects.

Commissioner Potter said that he's concerned about the Pathway around Walden Pond and its closing for the second straight year and asked if it is a Consumers project? DPW Director Opsommer said yes, no completion date, high pressure gas main. Discussion about the Waldon path followed.

Chair Lovell asked about pedestrian crossings in the construction areas. DPW Director Opsommer showed the locations of the new refuge islands. Commissioner Potter asked if MDOT agreed to better signage on the islands; yes. Chair Lovell said it is strange that we have activated lights on

Okemos but not on Grand River. General discussion about pedestrian lights and crossings. Commissioner Potter asked about pedestrian striping.

B. Okemos Road Project Update

Commissioner Potter asked about the trail under the bridge. DPW Director Opsommer said that the Wonch Park side should be done this year; should include a canoe launch. Fergusson Park side more complicated and should be next year. Trustee Sundland asked for clarification about how pedestrians cross the river on the trail.

Commissioner Robertson asked about Okemos and Hamilton intersection and said that no one pays attention to the right turn only sign on the southbound lane. DPW Director Opsommer said that sign shouldn't be there since it's a through lane. Commissioner Potter discussed the condition of Hamilton Road and pointed out the eastbound lane needs work. DPW Director Opsommer said that he would discuss it with the ICRD.

C. Local Roads and Other Construction Projects Update

Commissioner Potter asked about the Meridian and M-43 project; why three months long? DPW Director Opsommer said it is a full reconstruct of the intersection and the construction of the signalization infrastructure. Commissioner Potter said that a lot of Meridian traffic is coming down Van Atta now. DPW Director Opsommer said they would increase police patrols. Chari Lovell asked if there are any plans for South Meridian Road; no. Commissioner McCurtis asked what is happening at the Meridian Road intersection. DPW Director Opsommer described the project. Commissioner McCurtis asked if the project includes consideration for southbound turns on South Meridian Road. DPW Director Opsommer said not at this time. Commissioner McCurtis asked for clarification of the Meridian intersection timeline. DPW Director Opsommer said the due date is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Potter asked for an update on the MSU/Lake Lansing trail. DPW Director Opsommer detailed the work and said that they hoped to open Phase I before students return. DPW Director Opsommer said that they were getting ready to have a pre-con on Phase II.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Sundland updated the Commission about the Board's activity; included policy decisions, the travel policy, an anonymous gun drop off, Communications Department's excellence award, Ingham County Parks trail grant renewal, Memorial Day event, Celebrate Meridian, Pride Day, school resource officer in Haslett Public Schools, and Township signs.

Commissioner McCurtis updated the Commission about the Planning Commission's activity; included medical marijuana public hearings, Master Plan update, Cade Street rezoning, car wash SUP at Outback site. McCurtis mentioned Juneteenth taking place June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Potter asked if there are any updates on Winslow trailer park. Commissioner McCurtis said no. Commissioner McConnell mentioned the Schultz veterinary clinic expansion.

Trustee Sundland said that the Okemos Village project is looking to break ground in September 2024. Commissioner Robertson asked about other marijuana businesses, general discussion about marijuana. Trustee Sundland said that the Board is bringing the recreational marijuana ordinance back in June and may approve it in July.

Chair Lovell talked about the history of the Transportation Commission and asked the Commissioners to consider if they have a responsibility to outreach to the Township. Senior Planner Shorkey suggested that they could suggest updates to the Zoning Ordinance and recommend policy changes to the Board. DPW Director Opsommer suggested resolutions to the ICRD and the County Board of Commissioners. DPW Director Opsommer said that a new trail will be on the next agenda.

Commissioner Potter said that he thought that the Communications Department is doing well and responding effectively to social media. General discussion about social media and communications. Chair Lovell asked Senior Planner Shorkey to add 'outbound communications' to future agendas.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

Township Board Meeting June 6, 2023

Transportation Commission Meeting July 20, 2023

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO ADJURN. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER RICHARDSON at 8:30. MOTION PASSES 6-0.**