



## AGENDA

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF  
MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 24, 2016  
6:00 P.M.



1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER\*
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
3. ROLL CALL
4. JOINT MEETING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS
5. ACTION ITEMS (PINK)  
\*\*Public Comment
  - A. Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance – **Final Adoption**
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. PUBLIC REMARKS\*
8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT
9. ADJOURNMENT

\*PUBLIC REMARKS (Any topic - 3 minutes per person)

\*\*PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda item specific - 3 minutes per person)

*Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by writing or calling the following:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4258) – Ten Day Notice is Required.*

*Meridian Charter Township: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198, (517) 853-4000 Township Hall Room; [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)*

+ Appointment of President Pro Tem and/or Temporary Clerk if necessary

*Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.*

TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING COMMUNICATIONS, MARCH 24, 2016

(1) Board Information (BI)

- BI-1 Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos; RE: Michigan State University's Bicycle Friendly Conference Registration
- BI-2 Kathy DeVito, 470 Chimney Oaks, Okemos; RE: March 22, 2016 CATA/BRT Meeting
- BI-3 Rhonda Bueche, 4126 Leeward Drive, Okemos; RE: Capital Area Transit Authority's proposed Bus Rapid Transit (CATA/BRT)
- BI-4 Ann Alchin, 5972 Cypress Street, Haslett; RE: Questions
- BI-5 Sharon Theroux, 5554 Strawberry Lane, Haslett; RE: CATA/BRT
- BI-6 John P. Gardner, Director, External Affairs, Comcast, Heartland Region, 1401 E. Miller Road, Lansing; RE: Change to Comcast's Channel Lineup effective April 12, 2016
- BI-7 Evie Leiby, 4663 Ottawa Drive, Okemos; RE: Okemos Bridge Construction
- BI-8 Jeffrey Cassein, 4553 Nakoma Drive, Okemos; RE: Email exchange with Bill Conklin, Managing Director of the Ingham County Road Department concerning the Okemos Road Bridge Detour

(2) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

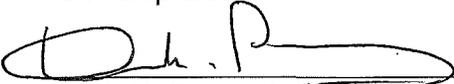
Material handed out at the March 15, 2016 Board Meeting

- Eric Ederer, 4446 Seneca Drive, Okemos; RE: "North Ponderosa" Land Preservation Vote
- Tricia St. Pierre, 8450 S. Straits Highway, Indian River; RE: NRTF Ponderosa acquisition
- Jim Spanos, PO Box 1426, Okemos; RE: Proposed Development/MARC and Fire Station
- Lorraine Hoffman, Special A'Fare Catering, 4661 Okemos Road, Suite 3, Okemos; RE: Concern over the MARC/Central Fire Station Redevelopment Project

5. A.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Township Board

**FROM:**   
Derek N. Perry, Assistant Township Manager  
Director of Public Works & Engineering

**DATE:** March 24, 2016

**RE:** **Consumers Energy Co. Gas Franchise Ordinance- FINAL ADOPTION**

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The current non-exclusive 30 year gas franchise agreement with Consumers Energy will expire on April 1, 2016. Consumers Energy has contacted the Township and has requested that a new 30 year revocable, non-exclusive franchise be approved.

On March 15, 2016 the Township Board approved the first reading of the ordinance.

The Township ordinance (2016-05) granting the requested franchise agreement and the associated final adopting resolution are attached for your review and consideration.

# RESOLUTION

## Consumers Energy Co. Gas Franchise Ordinance

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 24th day of March 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Local time.

PRESENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2016, the current 30 year non-exclusive franchise agreement with Consumers Energy will expire; and

WHEREAS, in order to renew the gas franchise before the expiration date, the Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance is before the Township Board for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new 30 year franchise agreement would be revocable and non-exclusive and has been reviewed by the Meridian Township legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2016, the Township Board was presented with the proposed Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance for discussion.

WHEREAS, the Township Board introduced the Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance 2016-05 for publication and subsequent adoption on March 15, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby FINALLY ADOPTS Ordinance No. 2016-05, entitled "Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise Ordinance" of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the complete form in which it was finally adopted at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

Adopted: YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN    )  
                                  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 24th day of March 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett Dreyfus CMMC  
Township Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-05

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY GAS FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. GRANT, TERM. The CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to the Consumers Energy Company, a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called the "Grantee," the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECTION 2. CONSIDERATION. In consideration of the rights, power and authority hereby granted, said Grantee shall faithfully perform all things required by the terms hereof.

SECTION 3. CONDITIONS. No highway, street, alley, bridge, waterway or other public place used by said Grantee shall be obstructed longer than necessary during the work of construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when said work was commenced. All of Grantee's pipes and mains shall be so placed in the highways and other public places as not to unnecessarily interfere with the use thereof for highway purposes.

SECTION 4. HOLD HARMLESS. Said Grantee shall at all times keep and save the Charter Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the negligent construction and maintenance of the structures and equipment hereby authorized. In case any action is commenced against the Charter Township on account of the permission herein given, said Grantee shall, upon notice, defend the Charter Township and save it free and harmless from all loss, cost and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

SECTION 5. EXTENSIONS. Said Grantee shall construct and extend its gas distribution system within said Charter Township and shall furnish gas to applicants residing therein in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive. Either manufactured or natural gas may be furnished hereunder.

SECTION 7. RATES. Said Grantee shall be entitled to charge the inhabitants of said Charter Township for gas furnished therein, the rates as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission, to which Commission or its successors authority and jurisdiction to fix and regulate gas rates and rules regulating such service in said Charter Township, are hereby granted for the term of this franchise. Such rates and rules shall be subject to review and change at any time upon petition therefor being made by either said Charter Township, acting by its Charter Township Board, or by said Grantee.

SECTION 8. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation.

SECTION 9. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, JURISDICTION. Said Grantee shall, as to all other conditions and elements of service not herein fixed, be and remain subject to the reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission or its successors, applicable to gas service in said Charter Township.

SECTION 10. REPEALER. This ordinance, when accepted and published as herein provided, shall repeal and supersede the provisions of a gas ordinance adopted by the Charter Township Board on April 15, 1986 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to do a local gas business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

and amendments, if any, to such ordinance whereby a gas franchise was granted to Consumers Energy Company.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect upon the day after the date of publication thereof; provided, however, it shall cease and be of no effect after thirty days from its adoption unless within said period the Grantee shall accept the same in writing filed with the Charter Township Clerk. Upon acceptance and publication hereof, this ordinance shall constitute a contract between said Charter Township and said Grantee.

We certify that the foregoing Franchise Ordinance was duly enacted by the Charter Township Board of the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth LeGoff, Charter Township Supervisor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett Dreyfus, CMMS, Charter Township Clerk

**CLERK'S OFFICE  
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS  
MARCH 24, 2016**

**Board Information (BI)**

**Sandy Otto**

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**From:** Tim Potter <pottert@msu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:10 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Cc:** Frank Walsh; Derek Perry; Younes Ishraidi; Deborah Guthrie; LuAnn Maisner; Mark Kieselbach; Gail Oranchak; 'Gosselin, Gus'  
**Subject:** Registration now open for MSU's Bicycle Friendly Conference

Hello Meridian Township Board members & Township staff,

Part of the original planning for this conference came from the MSU Bike Advisory Committee wanting to help our neighboring communities become more bike friendly so that our students, faculty and staff will have a more enjoyable and safe biking experience as they ride to and from work/ class on campus to their residences in the Township. We're sincerely hoping that many of you will be able to attend to learn from others at the conference who will be sharing their tips and experiences becoming more bike friendly.

Additionally, we're planning on riding through parts of our neighboring communities on our bike ride around the area to show off our bike friendliness, so it would be great if one of you could be on hand for that as well in case there are questions.

Registration is now open for MSU's Bicycle Friendly Conference coming up May 19! Early bird registration is \$100 thru Mar. 31.

For more details go to: <http://www.lmb.org/msuBFAconference>

- **Come learn more about the secrets of reaching Platinum Bike Friendly Univ. status** from U-Minnesota-Minneapolis' bike coordinator.
- **Working for a business that is interested in becoming more Bike Friendly?** A spokesman for Steelcase will be sharing their rationale for pursuing the BFB award.
- **Inside city government and wondering how to move towards becoming more bike friendly?**
  - Hear Steve Clark, the League of American Bicyclists' Bike Friendly Communities Coordinator, give the scoop on how cities can apply and/or improve their Bike Friendly Community award level.
  - Learn how Lansing, MI, a cash-strapped Midwest city is able to install a surprising amount of bike-friendly facilities every year.
- **Want to know how being bike friendly means potentially hundreds millions of \$\$ for your state at many levels?**  
Listen to Michigan's Bike Coordinator present the findings of a state-wide report showing how bicycling brings well over \$600 mil. annually to the state.

Hope some of you might make it or will pass this along to others who might be interested.  
Tim

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Tim Potter  
Sustainable Transportation Manager  
MSU Bikes Service Center  
434 Farm Lane, Rm. B10 Bessey Hall | Michigan St. University | E. Lansing, MI 48824-1033  
Direct Ph: 517-432-3414 | Direct Email: [pottert@msu.edu](mailto:pottert@msu.edu)

Open Monday-Friday: 10 am-5 pm year-round (except university holidays)  
South end of Bessey Hall, along the path on the north side of the Red Cedar River, 300 ft. west of Farm Ln. Bridge | [Click for a map](#)

Main Ph: 517/432-3400 | Shop Email: [bikes@msu.edu](mailto:bikes@msu.edu) | Web: [www.bikes.msu.edu](http://www.bikes.msu.edu) |  
Blog: [msubikes.wordpress.com](http://msubikes.wordpress.com) | Facebook: [facebook.com/msubikes](https://facebook.com/msubikes) | Twitter: [twitter.com/MSUBikes](https://twitter.com/MSUBikes)

A service of MSU Surplus & Recycling: [msusurplusstore.com](http://msusurplusstore.com) | [recycle.msu.edu](http://recycle.msu.edu)

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**Sandy Otto**

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**From:** kjdevito@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** March 22 CATA/BRT Meeting

To The Board Members of the Meridian Township,

I just found out about the CATA meeting for the public on the BRT plans will be held on March 22 at 6:00. I thought it was going to be well publicized to let the public know about any such meetings? It does not seem like the meeting is being well publicized to get the information out so that the meeting will be well attended by all concerned parties. The only way I heard about it is through our neighborhood police officer, Jason Clements, who left me a message on my home phone. Is that the way you are letting the public know about this important meeting? You have the Meridian Township Police notifying the contact person in the local neighborhoods and they in turn will contact their people to come to the meeting? If so, not many people will find out about the meeting. How many neighborhoods were contacted? This needs to be in the newspapers and on the local news early enough so that people can make arrangements to attend.

**This a very important not only the Meridian Township residents but all of the property tax paying residents of Ingham County. Inform the people!**

It seems the information, from CATA, changes at a whim and is not constant. During the January 26th meeting Debbie Alexander, from CATA, said that our group was passing out false information to the public and to the businesses that would be directly effected by the changes made to the road in front of their businesses. The Debbie Alexander, then stated that the detailed plans that we received from the township planning offices were not accurate. Actually, the plans had been changed some time that day without the most of the board members being notified. That last minute change in plans made the information we had gotten was from the CATA website and the map of the BRT plan, that came from your township planning office, which came from CATA originally all incorrect. That is how she could say that we were passing out false information. She tried to, not only, make us look uniformed but you on the Township Board as well.

She tried to make it look like the plan was always to start at Okemos Road and not Marsh Road. How can anyone trust the information that is being given out when it can change so quickly?

Most of the board members were surprised by the sudden change in the CATA/BRT plans. It seems that not all of the Board members were informed of the change in plans. Is that how this Township does business, some are aware of important items and others are left out of the information? Will this effect the all important image of Meridian township and its Brand?

At the January 26th township meeting it was bought up that it was very important to have a meeting just on that topic, the BRT. It was going to be well publicized and the members seemed to agreed. I stood up after that very long meeting, around 11:40 pm, and reminded you all that, yes, we do need to have that meeting, and at a reasonable time when many can attend and after business hours so the business owners and other property tax paying residents who are working could attend, not at CATA's normal meeting time of 4:00 pm. Having the meeting at 6:00 is quite an improvement and even though this meeting has not been well publicized we will help spread the word of the meeting along with the other information that has been made available to us. The internet can be a wonderful thing.

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The community and the business would like to be kept equally informed and updated in a timely manor. No one wants to be blindsided and surprised by something as needless as the CATA/BRT anymore.

Just to be clear, we are NOT against public transportation. We are against the BRT proposed by CATA.. Our property taxes help fund and CATA provides a wonderful public transportation system already. There is no real need for expansion of services.

It is apparently very adequate because the buses are mostly empty and there is plenty of room for additional passengers should they decide to ride. Everything must be that is working well. What we are against is spending a proposed \$200 million or more on a rapid bus system in addition to what we are already are spending our taxes on to shave six minutes off a twenty minute drive.

We are wondering how the Flint residents would feel about the State and the federal government spending 200 million dollars on this Extreme Bus System, especially at this time.

Is spending this amount of money just to save six minutes per bus worth the grief this will bring to the people who are promoting the CATA/BRT?

We think that spending the tax payers money wisely is, not only a good idea it's, why you were elected to your positions.

Sincerely,  
Kathy DeVito

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## Sandy Otto

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**From:** Rhonda Bueche <rbueche@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2016 10:37 PM  
**To:** Board; legogg@meridian.mi.us; senator@peters.senate.gov; Brett Dreyfus; SamSingh@house.mi.gov; Milton Scales; John Veenstra; Frank Walsh; reception@mitcrpc.org; parsonsb@michigan.gov; kjdevito@comcast.net; Rick.snyder@michigan.gov; Rich Baum; M108MBima@mail.house.gov; council@lansingmi.gov; info@cata.org; AYERSG@michigan.gov; Christine Beavers; Sherry Martin; barb sam; bobbie; Janet Sinclair; wilson@meridian.michigan.us; Gail Doolitte; council@cityofeastlansing.com; DWAlexander@cata.org; Julie Brixie; Senator Stabenow Debbie  
**Cc:** Gus Breymann; barbbengtson@gmail.com; Bueche Rhonda; Arturo CRNA (jake41496@msn.com) Rodriguez; Christine Beavers  
**Subject:** Lansing area Capital Area Transit Authority proposed Bus Rapid Transit (CATA/BRT)  
**Attachments:** CATA\_BRT.rtf; FW\_CATA\_BRT.rtf; CATA response.docx

Good Day Congressman Mike Bishop, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, Governor Rick Snyder, Representative Sam Singh, Mayor Mark Meadows, Meridian Township Board Members, Michigan Department of Transportation Members, Lansing City Council Members, East Lansing City Council Members, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Capital Area Transit Authority members, Concerned Business Owners and Citizens;

I work as a nurse anesthetist and am a student in the field of public health. I have long been a strong proponent of enhanced connectivity, accessible, multi-modal, affordable public transportation to improve the quality of life for all. I am writing on behalf of concerned business owners and citizens, like myself, who are adamantly opposed to the proposed \$200 million Capital Area Transit Authority/ Bus Rapid Transit (CATA/BRT) plan.

Myself and a few other citizens and a business owners attended and spoke against the CATA/BRT at the Jan. 26, 2016 publicly televised Meridian Township meeting.

The CATA/BRT proposed plan does not benefit or fit the needs of the state. The CATA/BRT project is not aligned with the State Transportation Improvement Program's federal planning document in request of federal aid.

This project is not a Transportation Improvement Program as it does not meet regional transportation needs, it only duplicates them. It is very controversial in many respects including but not limited to: unknown project financing; lack of CATA financial transparency; unsubstantiated benefits; lack of project factual credibility; traffic congestion; blockage of business access; rebuilding of an underutilized pre-existing bus route; lack of increase in user accessibility; lack of increase in transportation destination points; lack of increase in transportation distance; public unawareness; public disapproval; and fiscal irresponsibility. None of the financing listed on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission website by CATA for the "Financial Plan for BRT Construction" could be confirmed by Ms. Alexander, CATA representative, nor any other specific funding, when specifically requested at the Meridian Township meeting. In fact, CATA did not receive the federal grant it applied for regarding this BRT project.

The Tri-County traffic studies, surveys, meeting, results and goals posted on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission website directly states a much less expensive, and more efficient transportation system needs to be structured by simply improving and increasing the accessibility of the existing CATA bus system; by increasing distance and destination points, resulting in more widespread usage and decreased traffic congestion, definitely not a BRT system. This and other information are listed plainly on the website and are being vehemently ignored by CATA. The Department of Transportation Federal Highway Authority and Federal Transit Authority is currently studying Detroit as a recipient of the "Smart City Challenge" grant, ([www.transportation.gov/smartcity](http://www.transportation.gov/smartcity)). If planning an investment in transportation services, a prudent idea would be to expand services with a connection of the bus transportation to Detroit, so that we can improve the economics of the city of Lansing, contributing to the lives of citizens and businesses, giving alternatives to work, education and residence while enhancing the Lansing area to Detroit, without contributing to the already existing 'Brain Drain' and economic stagnation. The CATA/BRT is not a Tri-County plan, and should not be on the Tri-County Planning Commission drawing board, it is not even a county plan, it is simply a outrageously expensive project for a pre-existing 8 miles of a local CATA bus route.

Due to the seriousness of this issue at the Jan 26th meeting, the Meridian Township Board wisely deemed it necessary to hold another meeting, to specifically discuss this issue and insured the public would be informed well in advance of this meeting. Unfortunately the public is not aware of this upcoming meeting as there has not been any public announcement, nor has it appeared in the papers, nor

on the Meridian Charter Township website.

The meeting is presently scheduled to be held by the Meridian Township Board to discuss this issue March 22, 2016 at 6:00pm.

I wrote a letter to the Meridian Township Board prior to the Jan. 26th meeting, and received a response from Mr. Scales and Ms. Wilson and Mr. Veenstra. Others have written letters and received response from Mr. Dreyfus. Myself and others are most appreciative that they expressly value the opinion of business owners and citizens whom they represent, and respect their position of fiscal responsibility.

Ms. Julie Brixie, Meridian Township Treasurer, and CATA Board Member, forwarded my letter to CATA/BRT representative Ms. Debra Alexander. Following, I received a email letter from Ms. Debra Alexander, citing references for the CATA position. Upon researching these references, I found them to be factually inapplicable to the CATA/BRT, as they were taken out of context and did not give evidence of positive economic, environmental or improved transportation to the Lansing area, as the CATA/BRT proposal purported.

I have included these 3 letters as attachments below: my Jan. 26th original letter to the Meridian Board; the letter from CATA rep., Ms. Alexander, and my researched response. I hope you will read these and research this project in it's entirety, as well as take into consideration the many other citizens this project impacts, in order to reveal the truth, and realize this money should be better utilized on other projects to help those in need and promote Michigan's economic and national growth.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Bueche

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## Sandy Otto

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**From:** Ann <aa41@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:43 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** Questions

Please, someone tell me either by email, telephone or an announcement at next meeting - When was Ms Brixie made Supervisor? She practically runs the meetings. She speaks without raising her hand or being recognized, she states when votes need to be taken, she decides when a topic has been discussed "enough" and a lot of other inappropriate acts. This situation is deteriorating and her behavior is outrageous. Please know that I am not alone in this opinion. Please, please let me know why this is allowed. Ann L Alchin 347-3087 (last name is pronounced ALL CHIN)

>^..^< abwy

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## Sandy Otto

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**From:** Sharon Theroux <sharontheroux@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2016 8:25 AM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** CATA/brt

Dear Meridian Board Members:

> I would like to request your "no" vote on the CATA/brt Plan. The project is expensive and being proposed to benefit a small group of bus transportation riders not the majority of residence whom drive cars.

Taxpayer money's would be better spent on needed road repairs in our township.

I am requesting your serious consideration to turn down this wasteful proposal.

Sincerely,

Sharon Theroux  
Haslett Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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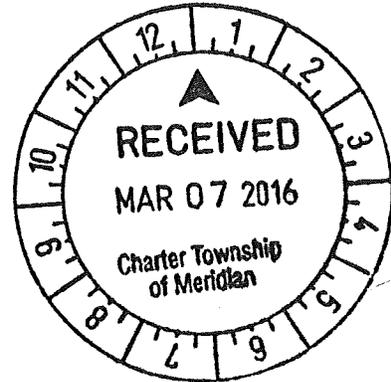
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February 22, 2016

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator  
Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864



Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you a change to the channel lineup. Customers are being notified of this change via bill message.

Al Jazeera America (channel 107) has announced it will cease operations and its programming on April 12, 2016.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner  
Director, External Affairs  
Comcast, Heartland Region  
1401 E. Miller Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911

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**Sandy Otto**

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**From:** Evie Leiby <hought29@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 5:40 AM  
**To:** roads@ingham.org  
**Cc:** Board; dnolan@ingham.org  
**Subject:** Okemos Bridge Construction

To Whom It May Concern,

This is my second time emailing my concerns about the increase of traffic volume in the Indian hills neighborhood. I have a question if anyone has addressed the fact that cars will use the Indian hills neighborhood as a cut through while the okemos road bridge construction is being completed? What can and is being done to protect the residents from the increase in traffic flow? The neighborhood does not have sidewalks through out it and has many families with children who have to stand on the road while waiting for the bus to school. I am concerned for the safety of my own children as the neighborhoods traffic volume will increase. Thank you.

Evie Leiby

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## Sandy Otto

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**From:** Jeffrey Cassin <cassinjs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 6:48 PM  
**To:** Conklin, William  
**Cc:** Banas, Teri; Nolan, Deb; Frank Walsh; Board; Hope, Kara; Milton Scales  
**Subject:** Thank You - Okemos Road Bridge Detour--Update

Mr. Conklin,

I want to thank you for your quick response to my inquiry regarding the Okemos Road bridge detour and for your efforts in trying to find the best possible resolution to this issue. I appreciate you taking the time to explain the reasoning behind the planned detour and how you have worked with all stakeholders to ensure the road closure will impact as few people as possible.

I understand a closure like this is never easy for those living in the area and for those who travel the route on a regular basis. I appreciate your efforts and know you and your department will work with Meridian Township staff and officials to provide the best resolution possible.

Thank you,  
Jeff Cassin

On Mon, Mar 14, 2016 at 2:16 PM, Conklin, William <[WConklin@ingham.org](mailto:WConklin@ingham.org)> wrote:

The Meridian Police Department is in the process of contacting the Indian Hills Golf Course and Neighborhood Association to ascertain support for a barricaded closure of Nakoma near the golf course to enforce no-thru traffic during the southbound Okemos Road bridge repair. Again, this would include signs indicating Road Closed to Through Traffic at all main entrances to the neighborhood on Nakoma and Chippewa at Mt Hope and Nakoma at Hamilton.

Bill Conklin,

ICRD

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**From:** Conklin, William  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 11:29 AM  
**To:** 'cassinjs@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Banas, Teri; Nolan, Deb; Frank Walsh; [board@meridian.mi.us](mailto:board@meridian.mi.us); Hope, Kara; 'Milton Scales'  
**Subject:** RE: Okemos Road Bridge Detour

Thank-you for contacting the Ingham County Road Department (ICRD). We appreciate the concern below and are working to address it in cooperation with the Meridian Township Police Department.

Unfortunately the northbound bound Okemos Road concrete arch bridge over the Red Cedar River, although thoroughly reviewed as an option, is too narrow to safely accommodate temporary two-way traffic.

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ICRD also thoroughly reviewed options for detouring southbound traffic rather than northbound traffic, however southbound traffic approaches the Red Cedar River crossing site from multiple directions including east and west bound Hamilton Road, Grand River Ave. (M-43), besides southbound Okemos Road such that each of these streams of approaching traffic would have to detoured, which creates much further complication and congestion in the area, and still may not address southbound cut-thru traffic through the Indian Hills neighborhood.

ICRD is working with the Meridian Township Police Department to place acceptable and enforceable ways of discouraging or preventing cut-through traffic in the Indian Hills neighborhood during the southbound Okemos Road bridge repair. This will likely involve at least signing, if not also barricading, to discourage or prevent cut-through traffic on the north and south ends of Chippewa and Nakoma Streets. We will share the determination when agreed upon with the Township, and will have this in place prior to implementing the bridge detour.

Bill Conklin, Managing Director,  
Ingham County Road Department  
517-676-9722

**From:** Jeffrey Cassin [<mailto:cassinjs@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:32 AM  
**To:** Department of Transportation and Roads  
**Cc:** Banas, Teri; Nolan, Deb; [walsh@meridian.mi.us](mailto:walsh@meridian.mi.us); [board@meridian.mi.us](mailto:board@meridian.mi.us); Hope, Kara  
**Subject:** Okemos Road Bridge Detour

To: William Conklin, Managing Director, Ingham County Road Department

Mr. Conklin,

I urge you to reconsider the detour route for the closure of the southbound Okemos Road bridge between Hamilton and Mt. Hope for two months beginning later this month. The planned detour will result in excessive traffic through the Indian Hills neighborhood as was the case last June when the southbound bridge was closed for the installation of the pedestrian bridge. During the closure last year, traffic on Nakoma Drive was horrendous as most people did not follow the posted detour and cut through the neighborhood instead.

The same detour route is planned for the two month closure this year. This presents a safety problem as a large portion of Nakoma Drive only has a sidewalk on one side of the street. As a resident of Nakoma Drive, I had difficult backing out of my driveway because of the detour traffic last year. Even the simple task of mowing my lawn was challenging as I had to be careful not to get hit by the constant stream of cars when turning the mower around at the end of my yard. Nakoma Drive isn't designed to accommodate the amount of traffic this detour will generate.

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I'm am sure you have looked at all alternatives, but I am hoping it is possible to instead keep one lane open in each direction and route both northbound and southbound traffic over the northbound Okemos road bridge. While this will create a backup in both directions, it will greatly reduce the amount of traffic through the Indian Hills neighborhood. Or perhaps it would be better keep the northbound traffic flowing as normal, and reroute the southbound traffic instead, closing Okemos Road at Grand River and routing traffic east to Dobie, then south to Kinewa, and west back to Okemos Road.

Recent history proves that the majority of drivers will not follow the planned detour over to Hagadorn and will instead cut through the Indian Hills neighborhood. Last year's bridge closure was for 48 hours, on a weekend. I can't imagine how bad traffic will be for two months, especially during weekday morning and afternoon rush hours.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide feedback about this project.

Jeff Cassin

4553 Nakoma Drive

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