



Meridian Township
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Township Board:

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Township Trustee

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Township Trustee

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Township Trustee

Timothy H. Dempsey
Township Manager

February 12, 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

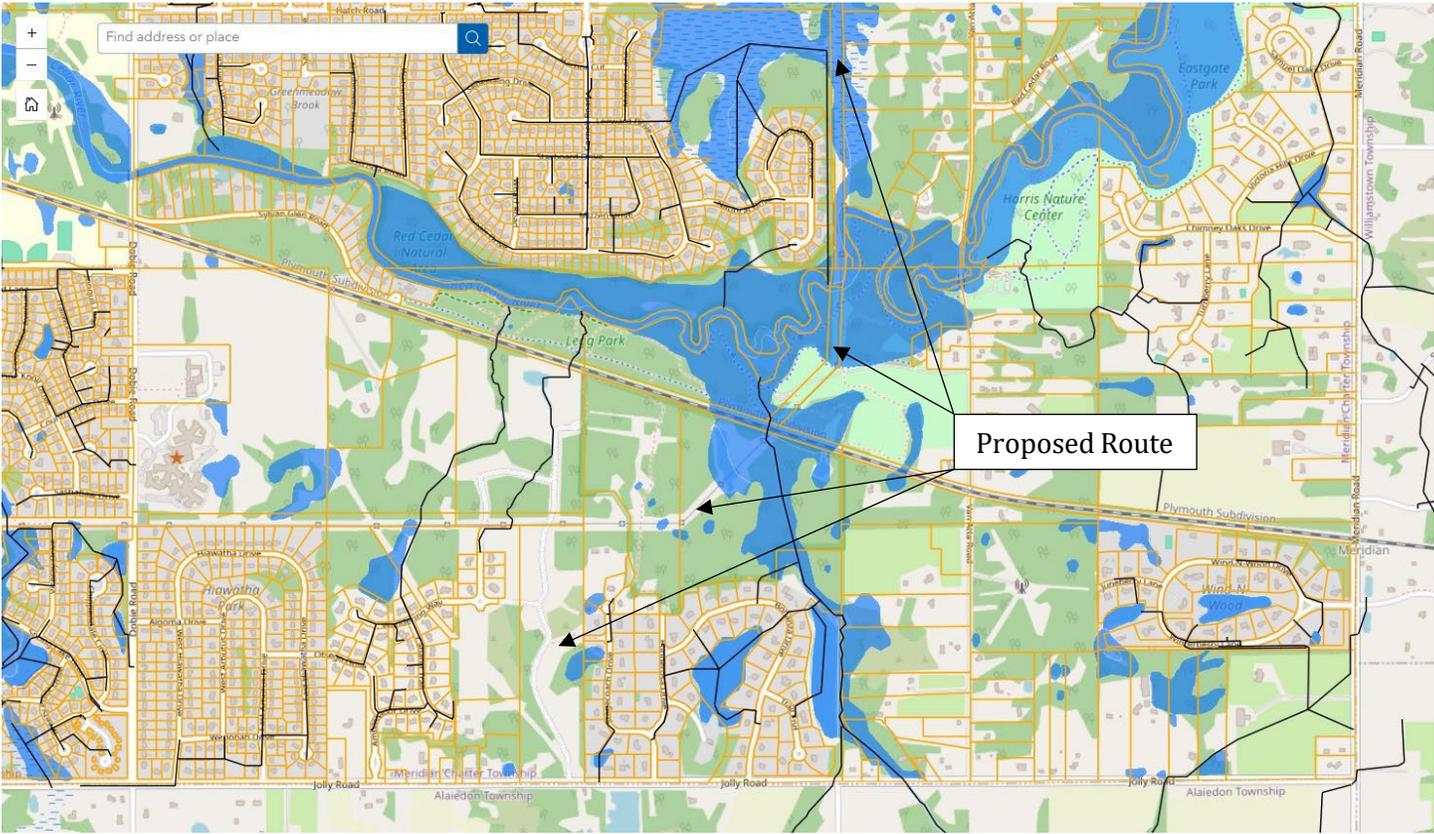


EXHIBIT B

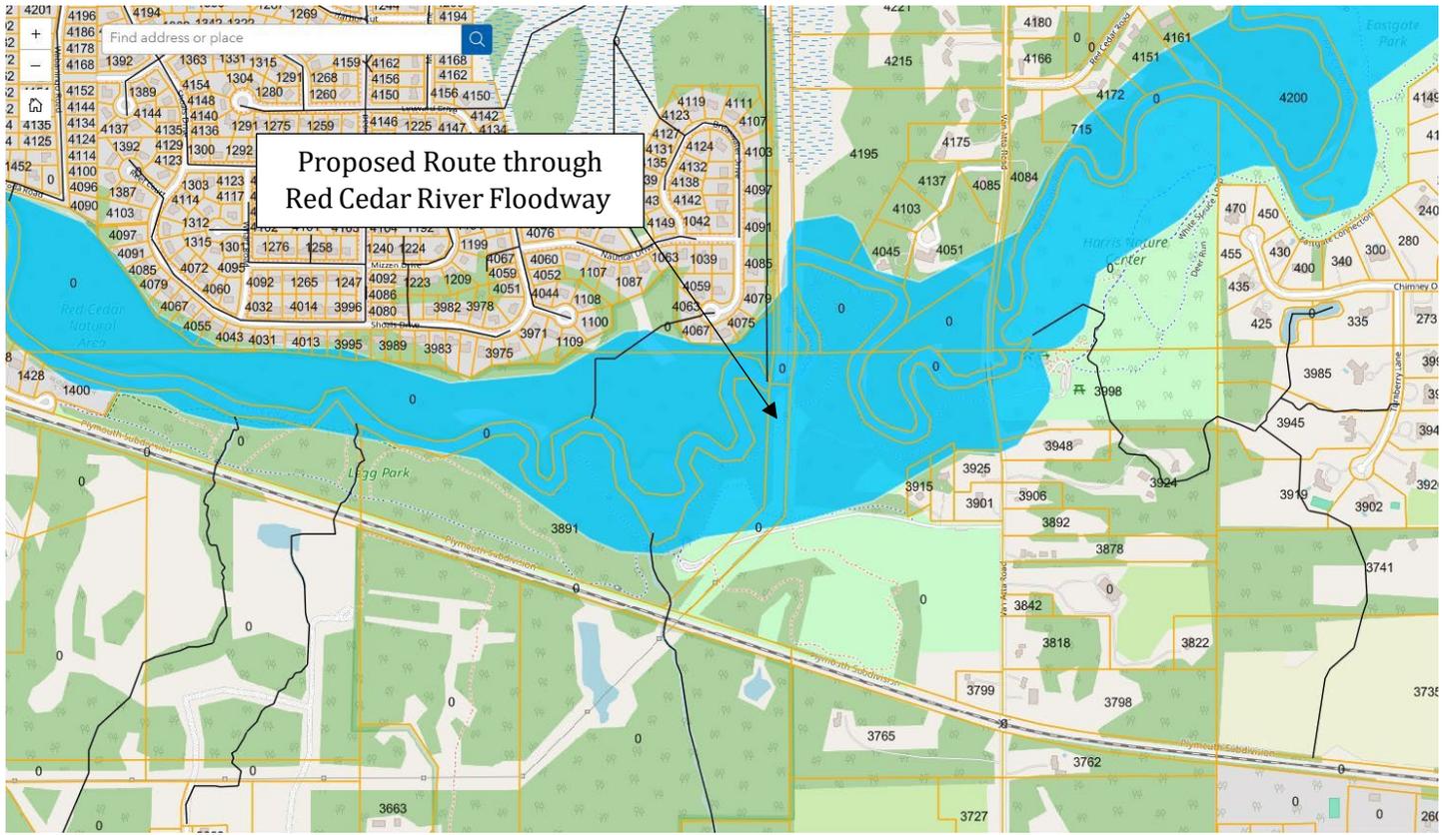


EXHIBIT C

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

Species	Endangered	Threatened	Special Concern
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

Species	Endangered	Threatened	Special Concern
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	