



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, September 9, 2021– Minutes –APPROVED
Meeting held virtually using the Zoom web conferencing application

Members Present: Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners Potter (7:20 pm), Opsommer, Hudson and Robertson

Members Absent: Chair Vagnozzi and Commissioner VanCoeving

Others Present: Community Planning & Development Director Tim Schmitt, Director of Public Works Derek Perry, Planning Commission Liaison Christina Snyder, Planning Commissioner McConnell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY TRUSTEE OPSOMMER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-May 20, 2021

MOTION BY TRUSTEE OPSOMMER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were received since the last meeting.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

There were no comments from the public.

6. Commission Discussion

B. New CATA Route

This item was addressed first, as Commissioner Potter was not yet at the meeting.

Vice-Chair Lovell brought up the new CATA route that ran along Mount Hope to Hannah Plaza. The Commission briefly discussed the new route.

A. Safe Routes to Schools

Director Schmitt introduced the concept of Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS). Dave Prudden, a fifth grade teacher at Kinawa, has started an initial bike to school program at his school. There is a broader conversation beginning throughout the district and SRTS is gaining momentum in the community.

Vice Chair Lovell brought up the idea of the 'virtual schoolbus', an offshoot program of the SRTS program.

The Commission held a discussion about potential projects for funding. The funding for the program is very competitive and focuses on both soft costs and hard costs. Director Schmitt discussed the broad outlines of the funding criteria. Director Perry discussed previous partnerships that East Lansing and East Lansing Public Schools had on SRTS and what Meridian Township can learn from that.

C. Towar/Lake Lansing Intersection

Vice Chair Lovell began the discussion about the Towar and Lake Lansing intersection and potential redesign. There are major concerns with the 'slip lane' as it relates to non-motorized traffic and the lack of trail/path around the intersection. Thus far, the County is proposing to maintain the slip lane in the redesign of the intersection. Director Schmitt introduced the joint meeting with East Lansing in October to discuss this matter.

The Commission had an extensive discussion about redesigning the intersection to allow for safer biking and pedestrian travel through the intersection. The County has the money to do the work, the design has not been finalized as of yet. Director Perry made clear that the Road Department is interested in public input and they can make changes to accommodate the non-motorized traffic. The Road Department is supposed to be at the Joint EL/Meridian Transportation Commission meeting to share information about the project and hear input.

7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Trustee Opsommer mentioned the adoption of the Pathway Master Plan had been completed. He also discussed the MUPUD Ordinance amendments that are currently under review, including those that directly relate to the Transportation Commission, such as covered bike parking.

B. Planning Commission

Commissioner Snyder reported on the Planning Commission's recent activity, including the Sparrow project at Jolly and Kansas and the removal of the curb cut on Kansas, and the potential for Form Based Code in the community. Trustee Opsommer further expounded upon the concept of Form Based Code and how it would potentially work in Meridian Township. Commissioner Snyder mentioned that 2022 will bring on the update to the Meridian Township Master Plan, five years after the previous plan was adopted.

C. Chair

There was no report from the Chair.

Commissioner Potter brought up the requirement for covered bike parking and the need to specify the cover required and prevent moped parking from taking over the bike parking. He also brought up the chip sealing done by the County Road Department and concerns with the work that was done this year.

D. Staff

Director Perry updated the Commission on the local road program.

8. NEXT MEETING DATES

Staff reiterated that the next Transportation Commission meeting on October 4th will be a joint meeting with the East Lansing Transportation Commission. The topic will largely be the Lake Lansing/Towar intersection and how the communities can influence the final design with the County.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Lovell adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.