



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION – WORK SESSION  
April 27, 2020 7PM

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. DISCUSSION
  - A. Form Based Code initiative
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
5. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact: Principal Planner Peter Menser, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4576 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting to be held virtually using Zoom web conferencing application

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### Section 86-446 Form Based Code Districts NEW

#### A. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Form-Based Code (FBC) is to establish specific building and architectural styles to create a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly, and transit-supportive mixed-use environment that is harmonious along ~~the Grand River Avenue~~ designated **commercial** corridors to aligns with the goals and objectives of the Meridian Township Master Plan. In order to maintain or create traditional urban design and to preserve and enhance community character, this FBC places a primary emphasis on placemaking (physical form and character) and a secondary focus on land uses. The FBC provides flexibility to development through parking and dimensional requirements, BUILDING FORM STANDARDS, STREET-SPACE provisions, unique setback requirements, height bonuses when certain amenities are included, and is overall more efficient through the development submittal process. ~~Additionally, the Grand River Avenue Design Form District~~ **Design Guidelines** ~~was~~ **were** created as a companion document to the FORM DISTRICT. These guidelines serve as a design tool for redevelopment to ensure that the standards and intent of the FORM DISTRICT are met regarding architecture, signage, lighting, streetscape, landscaping, and street design.

#### B. Definitions

The following terms are defined for the purpose of the FORM DISTRICTS. Terms not defined here may be defined elsewhere in the zoning ordinance. In such case, the definition contained in the zoning ordinance shall be used. Certain terms in these districts are used in very specific ways, often excluding some of the meanings of common usage. Where there is an apparent conflict or contradiction, the definition herein shall prevail.

**AWNING.** A cantilevered, projected or suspended cover over the sidewalk portion of the STREET-SPACE, or a roof like covering, usually of canvas, metal, or similar material and often adjustable, placed over the sidewalk, windows, or doors to provide protection from sun and rain. It is distinguished from a canopy because it is not permanent, nor a structural portion or architectural feature of the building and does not support substantial weight.

**BALCONY.** An exterior platform attached to the upper floors of the building FAÇADE.

**BAY WINDOW.** Generally, a U-shaped enclosure extending the interior space of the building outward of the FAÇADE (along its STREET-SPACE side).

**BLOCK.** An increment of land comprised of lots, ~~COMMON DRIVES~~ **common drives**, and tracts circumscribed and not traversed by streets (~~PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS~~ **pedestrian pathways** exempted). BLOCKS are measured at the ~~REQUIRED BUILDING LINE (RBL)~~ **required front yard setback**.

**BUILDING FORM STANDARDS .** The part of these district standards that establish basic parameters regulating building form, including: the **building** envelope, ~~(in three~~

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~~dimensions~~); placement on the lot, **building height**, and certain permitted and required building elements, such as storefronts and BALCONIES.

**CLEAR HEIGHT.** Within a structure, the habitable distance between the floor and ceiling. For entrances and other external building features, the unobstructed distance from the ground/sidewalk to the lowest element above.

**CLEAR SIDEWALK.** An area within a STREET-SPACE, the portion of the sidewalk that must remain clear of obstructions and allow public passage. In the Grand River Avenue Form District, the CLEAR SIDEWALK width shall be 5' minimum.

**COMMERCE.** See USE, COMMERCE.

**COMMON LOT LINES.** Lot lines shared by adjacent ~~private~~ lots.

**CONSERVATION LANDS.** Areas that are not developable due to environmental constraints or easements, such as floodplains, wetlands, steep topography, wildlife preserves, etc.

**DOORYARD.** The area within the STREET-SPACE, extending across the entire width of the lot, between the FAÇADE of the building and the CLEAR SIDEWALK portion of the sidewalk, which may be paved or planted, depending on the Street Type Specification designation.

**FAÇADE (Building Face).** The building elevation facing the STREET-SPACE. Building walls facing private interior courts, COMMON LOT LINES, and SHARED DRIVES are not FAÇADES (they are elevations).

**FENESTRATION.** Openings in a wall, including windows and doors, allowing light and views between the BLOCK and/or building interior (private realm) and sidewalk and/or street exterior (PUBLIC REALM).

**FORM DISTRICT (FORM DISTRICTS).** A designated area of land for which there are specific regulations governing USE, BUILDING FORM STANDARDS, building placement, architectural elements and related development aspects.

**FRONT PORCH.** The ground floor platform attached to the FAÇADE side of the ~~main~~ building.

**GARDEN WALL.** A masonry wall defining a property line or delineating a private area. (For height and gate specifications, see the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS).

**GROUND STORY.** The first habitable level of a building at or above grade. The next STORY above the GROUND STORY is the second floor or STORY.

**KNEE WALL ?**

**MUNTIN.** A strip of wood or metal separating and holding panes of glass in a window, less than 1" in thickness. MUNTINS divide a single window sash or casement into a grid system of small panes of glass.

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PRIVACY FENCE. An opaque fence along ~~COMMON DRIVES~~ common drives, pedestrian pathways, and COMMON LOT LINES. See the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS for height and placement specifications and the ~~Form District Design Guidelines Architecture~~ Form District Design Guidelines Architecture for material and configuration standards.

PUBLIC REALM (STREET-SPACE). All space between fronting building FACADES, including streets, squares, plazas, parks, pedestrian pathways, sidewalks, parks, and transit service operator passenger platforms, but not within garage entries or common drives.

REGULATING PLAN. The implementing plan for development within the ~~FORM DISTRICT~~ FORM DISTRICT.

REGULATING PLANS designate the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS. The REGULATING PLAN also shows how each site relates to adjacent STREET-SPACES, the overall district, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

SHARED DRIVE. The public right-of-way or easement for vehicles and pedestrians within a block that provides service access to the rear or side of properties, vehicle parking (e.g., garages), loading docks, utility meters, recycling containers, and garbage bins.

SHARED PARKING. Automobile parking that is visible and accessible to the public for a minimum portion of each day.

STOOP. An entry platform on the FAÇADE of a building. (See the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS for specifications.)

STORY. That space within a building and above grade that is situated between one floor level and the floor level next above, or if there is no floor above, the ceiling or roof above.

STREET-SPACE (PUBLIC REALM). All space between fronting building FACADES, including streets, squares, plazas, parks, pedestrian pathways, sidewalks, parks, and transit service operator passenger platforms, but not within garage entries or common drives.

TREE LAWN. A continuous strip of soil area—typically covered with grass, other vegetation, bridging pavement, or sometimes porous pavers—located between the back of curb and the CLEAR SIDEWALK and used for planting street trees and configured to foster healthy street tree root systems.

USE, COMMERCE. For the purpose of ~~the FBC these form~~ the FBC these form districts, COMMERCE USES shall be considered to encompass all ~~of the~~ by-right and conditional uses permitted in the following Meridian zoning districts: Commercial (C1, C-2, C-3), Professional and Office (PO), and Research Park and Office Park (RP), unless expressly prohibited herein, ~~and all of the CIVIC USES defined above, except transit centers.~~

USE, RESIDENTIAL. RESIDENTIAL USES shall be considered to encompass all of the uses allowed by-right ~~and with a conditional use permit~~ in the residential zoning districts as defined in the Meridian zoning ordinance.

USE, RETAIL. Includes the following:

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RETAIL SALES. Establishments wherein the primary use is the sale of merchandise for use or consumption by the immediate purchaser.

RETAIL SERVICE. Establishments providing services, as opposed to products, to the general public, including restaurants, hotels and motels, finance, real estate and insurance, travel agencies, health and educational services, and galleries; as well as personal services as defined in the Meridian zoning ordinance

C. Administration

1. Applicability

The Meridian Township Form Based Code applies to ~~all any~~ **all** properties in the Township located within an overlay district identified on a REGULATING PLAN and the Township zoning map. In FBC, all requirements of the Meridian Township Zoning Ordinance shall apply, except as modified by this Section. When applying the regulations of the **FBC or the specific** - FORM DISTRICT, if regulations elsewhere within this ordinance conflict or appear to conflict with the regulations in this Section, the regulations of this Section shall apply.

Nothing contained within this Section shall be construed to relieve a person from any requirements, duties or obligations imposed by applicable sections of the Meridian Township Code of Ordinances, including those sections regulating CONSERVATION LANDS, or as otherwise imposed under state or federal law.

*NEED EXAMPLE DIAGRAM*

2. Permitted Uses

Uses are grouped into broad categories. Permitted uses by BUILDING FORM STANDARD and FORM DISTRICT are shown in TABLE 1.

3. Permitted Use Table

a. Table 1:

FORM DISTRICT: Grand River Avenue Form District

| Use   | By Right | Conditional |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Banks, credit unions, savings and loan establishments | X        |             |
| Instructional centers (see, section 86-403 (c) (2))   | X        |             |

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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Offices of professionals licensed by the State of Michigan (see, section 86-403 (c) (3))   | X |   |
| Offices  | X |   |
| Personal Service Establishments (see, section 86-403 (c) (5))  | X |   |
| Restaurants or other Eating Establishments, for on premise consumption, excluding drive-thru restaurants (see, section 86-403 (c) (6)) | X |   |
| Retail Food Establishments, for off premise consumption, excluding drive-thru restaurants  | X |   |
| Retail Merchandise Establishments  | X |   |
| Health and Physical Fitness Establishments   | X |   |
| Child Care Centers (see, section 86-403 (d) (1))   |   | X |
| Adult Care Centers (see, section 86-403 (d) (2))   |   | X |
| Small Animal Veterinary Clinics (see, section 86-403   |   | X |

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|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| (d) (3))  |   |   |
| Temporary Outdoor Uses (see, section 86-403 (d) (4))              |   | X |
| Churches or Similar Places of Worship                             | X |   |
| Libraries, Post Offices and similar Public Service Buildings      | X |   |
| Social Clubs  | X |   |
| Theaters, Auditoriums and Concert Halls                           | X |   |
| Bars, Taverns, Lounges and Brewpubs (see, section 86-404 (d) (1)) |   | X |
| Accessory Structures (see, section 86-405 (c) (2))                | X |   |
| Athletic Clubs and Health Spas (see, section 86-405 (c) (3))      | X |   |
| Building Supply and Hardware Stores                               | X |   |
| Funeral Homes and Mortuaries, excluding Crematoriums              | X |   |
| Hospitals and Medical Clinics                                     | X |   |
| Indoor Recreation Establishments (see, section 86-405 (c) (8))    | X |   |
| Motor Vehicle Sales and   | X |   |

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|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Service (see, section 86-405 (c) (9))   |   |   |
| Museums and Art Galleries   | X |   |
| Publishing Services (see, section 86-405 (c) (12))  | X |   |
| Manufacturing and Processing Establishments (see, section 86-405 (d) (2))                                     |   | X |
| Open Air Businesses (see, section 86-405 (d) (3))   |   | X |
| Public and Private Utility Structures (see, section 86-405 (d) (4))   |   | X |
| Offices of Architects, Engineers, Urban Planners, Artists and others Employed in the Graphic Arts             | X |   |
| Offices of Executive, Administrative, Legal, Writing, Clerical, Accounting, Insurance and Similar Enterprises | X |   |
| Research Labs (see, section 86-432 (b) (5))   | X |   |
| Prototype Production Facilities (see, section 86-434  | X |   |

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|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| (b) (2))  |   |  |
| Production, Processing, Storage and Distribution Facilities (see, section 86-434 (b) (3)) | X |  |

- b. All drive-through establishments, including, but not limited to, restaurants, banks, and pharmacies, shall require Special Use approval per Article II, Division 4 of the Meridian zoning ordinance.
- c. Buildings proposed to exceed 25,000 square feet in floor area do not require Special Use approval. BUILDING FORM STANDARDS and the review and approval requirements of this Section shall apply to such buildings.

4. Use Determination

- a. The Community Planning & Development Director is responsible for categorizing all **land** uses. If a proposed use is not listed in a use category (by right or conditional) but can be said to be reasonably similar in impact on a FORM DISTRICT to a listed use, the Director shall treat the proposed use as a use under that category. If a proposed use is not listed in a use category, and is fundamentally different from any other listed use, the use shall be prohibited.
- b e.** Uses not specifically listed: When determining whether a proposed use is similar to a permitted use, the Director shall consider the following criteria: 1) the actual or projected characteristics of the proposed activity in relationship to the stated characteristics of each use; 2) the types of vehicles used and their parking and or loading requirements; 3) the likely impact on surrounding properties; 4) the intent of the FORM DISTRICT.
- c b.** Special Use Permit: If the site has an approved Special Use Permit, than no additional Special Use Permit is required for an additional use or building on the site, unless a new use is classified as a Special Use in ~~602~~ in this Section or if the existing use is proposed to change to another special use (refer to Article VI of the Meridian zoning ordinance; Special Use Requirements and Restrictions).

D. Plan Review and Approval

1. Site Plan Review

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- a. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, development requiring Site Plan Review shall follow the Site Plan Review process set forth in Article II, Division 5 ~~of the Meridian zoning ordinance ÷ Site Plan Review~~ and shall meet the standards described below in ~~Section 86-447, Building Form Standards Part 4. Building Form Standards. For traffic impact studies, certain cases may reduce the requirements per Section 203.B.~~ Site plan application requirements and the payment of corresponding fees is required as provided in Article II, Division 5.
- b. ~~Provide~~ ~~i~~Information available on any existing or foreseen environmental issues per the Meridian zoning ordinance Section 86-156 Review Criteria **shall be provided**. Building placement requirements may be reconfigured by Community Planning & Development staff if the presence of a flood plain or wetland on the parcel prohibits development envisioned by the FBC.
- c. In addition to the Site Plan Review process, for redevelopment projects or those seeking height bonuses where a public hearing is not required, the applicant is encouraged to host a public workshop with adjacent neighbors or neighborhood to provide information on the proposed development and seek input. This should typically be held before submittal of an application, but following a pre-application meeting to obtain input from the Community Planning & Development Director.
- d. Approvals are obtained from the **Director of** Community Planning & Development ~~Director~~, depending upon the nature of the proposed construction or use. Where this Section allows the Director to grant **a modifications or waiver** to a specific requirement, ~~the approval authority shall be the body with the authority to grant the associated modification or waiver,~~ such authority shall be based upon the standards provided in that section or subsection. Decisions made by the Director under this Section may be appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) per Article II. Variances to the requirements of this Section may only be granted by the ZBA per Article II.
- e. Activities and uses that are exempt from site plan approval still require a building permit. All construction or building modification is subject to Township building permit requirements of the Building Division.

2. Traffic Impact Study

- a. ~~The Zoning Ordinance requires a~~ **A** traffic impact study **is required** where a new use, a change in an existing use, or the expansion of an existing use, is expected to generate 100 or more directional trips in

a peak hour, based on the current edition of the ITE Trip Generation Manual. The typical study includes an evaluation of site access points and nearby signalized intersections including current conditions, impacts associated with the development, and the mitigation needed to address those impacts.

- b. The Community Planning & Development Director ~~shall make a determination if a development or redevelopment under this Form-Based Code~~ may reduce the extent of the **required** traffic **study analysis required** to **address** just the operations at the site access points in consideration of the following:
  1. The development includes a mixture of uses to reduce traffic trips (refer to the methodology for trip reduction factors in the ITE Trip Manual and Handbook).
  2. Non-motorized amenities are provided to promote travel options as an alternative to driving a vehicle such as: upgraded bike parking beyond what is required (such as covered or indoor parking, bicycle repair station, showers for commuters, etc.); transit amenities, such as shelters or seating, endorsed by **the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)**; the employer offering a program to encourage non-automotive travel such as bus passes to employees or incentives to walk, bicycle, or use transit.
  3. Existing nonconforming driveways are closed to improve safety for all types of travel.
  4. Other site amenities or programs similar to the above.
3. ~~Amendments~~ **Modifications** to Approved Site Plans
  - a. Upon application and payment of the fee in the amount established in the schedule of fees adopted by the Township Board, modifications to an approved site plan may be granted by the Director of Community Planning & Development, provided that such changes conform to the provisions of this Section and all other Township, county, state, and federal laws and regulations.

E. Regulating Plans

1. Purpose and Intent
  - a. A REGULATING PLAN is the controlling document and principal tool for implementing the FORM DISTRICT. ~~It is a subset of the zoning map.~~
  - b. The REGULATING PLAN **establishes** ~~makes~~ the FORM DISTRICT development standards ~~place-specific~~ by:

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1. identifying the boundaries of the district;
  2. laying out a specific street and BLOCK configuration, including new streets; and
  3. designating the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS for each STREET-SPACE (BUILDING FORM STANDARDS are regulated in Section 86-447, Building Form Standards);
2. Instructions for using REGULATING PLAN
- a. **Verify on** ~~Look at~~ the Township Zoning Map ~~and determine~~ if the property is located within a FORM DISTRICT. If property is located in FORM DISTRICT, **check** ~~look at~~ the REGULATING PLAN. Note the color of the fronting STREET-SPACE - this color determines the applicable BUILDING FORM STANDARD (see the key located on the REGULATING PLAN).
  - b. Find the property on the REGULATING PLAN and determine the applicable BUILDING FORM STANDARD. Determine whether the use is allowed by **checking** ~~looking at~~ the Permitted Use Table in Section 86-446(c)(3).
  - c. The applicable BUILDING FORM STANDARD and regulations pertaining to parking, building materials, and permitted building uses that apply to all properties located in FORM DISTRICTS are listed in Section 86-447, Building Form Standards. The FORM DISTRICT will have specific parameters for development in terms of height, placement, elements, and use.
  - d. See Section 86-446(d) for information on the development review process.
3. Expanding district or amending regulating plan
- a. Amendments to the adopted REGULATING PLAN, including the contents of the ordinance or expansion of a FORM DISTRICT shall meet all the criteria of this chapter and will require a **text amendment or rezoning depending on the scope of the changes**. Amendments may be initiated by site owner or developer request in accordance with Section 86-92 of the Meridian zoning ordinance.
4. Connectivity
- a. A high level of connectivity is desired to provide people with ample opportunity to walk, bicycle, or travel by vehicle ~~within the district~~ without a need to drive for short trips. As sites redevelop, this connectivity shall be provided through an internal transportation

network that links to the existing or planned non-motorized systems, and to existing local streets. New connections between sites should be provided as shown on the REGULATING PLAN including new streets, rear service drives, links between parking lots, and non-motorized pathways. The locations shown are flexible and may be aligned in a different manner provided the goal for connectivity is met. These street connections may be public streets that meet the standards of the Ingham County Roads Department or private roads that meet the requirements of Meridian Township.

**Section 86-447 Building Form Standards NEW**

A. Purpose

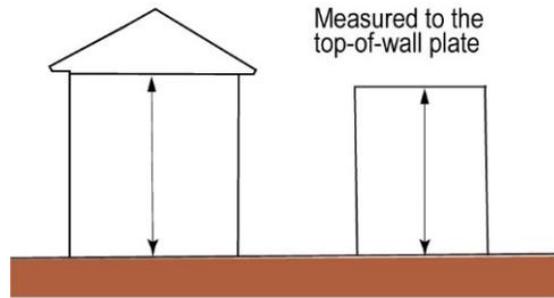
1. The BUILDING FORM STANDARDS establish the rules for development and redevelopment on private lots. They also set the basic parameters governing building form, including the building envelope (~~in three dimensions~~) and certain required or permitted functional elements, such as FENESTRATION (windows and doors), STOOPS, BALCONIES, and FRONT PORCHES. A REGULATING PLAN identifies the applicable BUILDING FORM STANDARD(s) for all parcels within a FORM DISTRICT. The goal of the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS is the creation of a vital and coherent PUBLIC REALM through the creation of good STREET-SPACE. The form and function controls on building frontages work together to frame the STREET-SPACE while allowing the buildings great flexibility behind their FAÇADES.

B. General Provisions

The following apply throughout the FORM DISTRICTS, to all BUILDING FORM STANDARDS, unless expressly stated otherwise within an individual FORM DISTRICT or otherwise designated on the REGULATING PLAN.

1. Height
  - a. The height of all buildings is measured in STORIES, with an ultimate limit in feet, measured from the average fronting sidewalk elevation to the top of the wall plate. (See figure A)

*FIGURE A*



- b. The required minimum building height designated in each BUILDING FORM STANDARD shall be satisfied at the front building FAÇADE back to a minimum depth of 30 feet.
  - c. The GROUND STORY finished floor elevation requirements are measured from the average fronting sidewalk elevation at the front building FAÇADE.
2. Placement
- a. Front, side and rear lot setbacks, where required, are specified in the individual BUILDING FORM STANDARD DISTRICT.
  - b. No part of any building may be located forward of the minimum front setback except overhanging eaves, AWNINGS, ~~SHOPFRONTS~~ shop fronts, BAY WINDOWS, STOOPS, steps, or BALCONIES. STOOPS and steps shall not be located within a 5' minimum CLEAR SIDEWALK area. Handicapped ramps, approved by the Community Planning & Development Director, may be located within the DOORYARD.
3. Elements
- a. Fenestration
    1. FENESTRATION is regulated as a percentage of the FAÇADE between floor levels. It is measured as glass area (including MUNTINS and similar window frame elements with a dimension less than one inch) and/or open area within the wall.
    2. Blank lengths of wall exceeding 25 linear feet are prohibited on all FAÇADES below their 3rd STORY.
    3. At least one functioning entrance shall be provided along each GROUND STORY FAÇADE.
    4. Windows shall not direct views into an adjacent private lot where the COMMON LOT LINE is within 20 feet.

b. Storefronts

1. Where GROUND STORY storefronts are provided, the following regulations shall apply:
  - i. Single panes of glass shall not be permitted larger than 11 feet in height by 6 feet in width.
  - ii. GROUND STORY windows may not be made opaque by window treatments (excepting operable sunscreen devices within the conditioned space). A minimum of 80% of the window surface shall allow a view into the building interior for a depth of at least 15 feet.
  - iii. Storefront fenestration shall be 60 to 90% of the FAÇADE of an individual building.
  - iv. The maximum width of the storefront shall be 60 feet.
  - v. The minimum clear height of an awning at a storefront shall be 10 feet.

c. Façade Projections

1. GROUND STORY AWNINGS shall have a minimum 10 9-foot CLEAR HEIGHT above the sidewalk and a minimum five-foot depth, measured from the FAÇADE. The maximum depth is to back-of-curb or the TREE LAWN edge, whichever is less.
2. BALCONIES shall not be located within 2 feet of any COMMON LOT LINE and shall not encroach into the public right-of-way. BALCONIES may be a single level or multiple BALCONIES stacked vertically for multiple STORIES.
3. BAY WINDOWS shall have an interior clear width of between four and eight feet at the main wall and shall project no more than 42 inches into the setback.
4. STOOPS and FRONT PORCHES:
  - a. Shall not encroach into the CLEAR SIDEWALK.
  - b. FRONT PORCHES may be screened (insect screening) when all architectural elements (columns, posts, railings, etc.) occur on the outside of the screen facing the STREET-SPACE

- c. Finished floor height shall be no more than 8 inches below the first interior finished floor level of the building.

c. Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit-Friendly Design

1. Emphasis shall be placed on enhancing the overall walkability and safety of the area through appropriate pedestrian, bike, and transit accommodations and streetscape improvements. Refer to the Grand River Avenue Design Guidelines for guidance on the design of the streetscape, landscaping, transit amenities, streets, and open space areas.
2. A pedestrian crosswalk and sidewalk of a minimum of 5 feet wide (min 7 feet when adjacent to parking to accommodate vehicle overhang) shall be provided in parking lots that provides a direct connection from the street side non-motorized path or sidewalk to the entrance of the building.
3. The crosswalk or path within a parking lot shall be clearly delineated with striping or use of other non-slip materials that contrast with parking lot's primary material.
4. Appropriate yield, crosswalk markings or traffic calming design elements shall be provided to indicate where pedestrians are crossing vehicular aisles in a parking lot.
5. Bus stops and/or connections and amenities that support use of transit, are encouraged with the endorsement of CATA. Any bus stops shall be located at a place that provides a convenient pedestrian crossing of the adjacent street ~~crossing of Grand River Ave. (refer to Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines in the Design Guidelines).~~
6. All sites shall meet the Bicycle Parking standards per Section 86-760 of the Meridian zoning ordinance.

d. Access Management

1. As redevelopment occurs, existing driveways that do not meet current standards should be removed or redesigned, to the extent practical, as determined by the Township. These changes should be a ~~site-improvement~~ priority to improve safety for all types of travel, traffic flow, and the overall appearance of the district. In particular, elimination of access points are a priority where close to signalized intersections or where there is a poor offset spacing from driveways on the opposite side of ~~the road Grand River Ave.~~ Shared access may be required with adjacent sites where the driveway

spacing standards cannot be met. Additionally, if there is a rear access drive located on an adjacent lot, then the development ~~should~~ shall provide a connection to that rear drive. Easements shall be provided for shared access with adjacent sites or cross circulation between adjacent parking lots.

2. Access points for new driveways shall meet the Township's standards described in Section 86-441, ~~the Grand River Avenue Corridor Access Management Overlay District (for Grand River Avenue)~~, along with the standards of the the standards of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), or the standards of the Ingham County Roads Department ~~(for all other streets)~~, as applicable.

C. Parking

1. Intent

These FORM DISTRICT standards are intended to:

- a. Promote a "park once" environment with walkable nodes that will enable people to conveniently park and access a variety of commercial, ~~and residential, and civic enterprises~~ in pedestrian-friendly environments by encouraging SHARED PARKING.
- b. Reduce fragmented, uncoordinated, inefficient, reserved single-purpose parking.
- c. Provide flexibility for redevelopment of sites.
- d. Increase visibility and accessibility of publicly available parking.

2. On-Site Vehicle Parking and Location

- a. Vehicle parking shall be ~~setback a~~ ~~located, at minimum, behind a front parking setback~~ of 8 feet behind the front building FAÇADE. The setback shall incorporate a landscape buffer.
- b. Parking may occur forward of the parking setback if:
  1. Interior: It is completely within the building envelope; the ~~parking~~ floor level is at least five feet below grade; and FENESTRATION is not greater than 20%.
  2. Exterior: The required parking setback may be reduced to 5 feet behind the front building FAÇADE if a ~~3-ft. minimum tall~~ masonry GARDEN WALL ~~a minimum of 3 feet in height~~ is provided.

- c. Any portion of a parking structure within 30 feet of a building constructed under this code shall not exceed that building's primary ridge or parapet height.
  - d. A ~~20-foot minimum~~ rear yard landscape buffer **a minimum of 20 feet in width** is required when parking is adjacent to a residential district.
  - e. A ~~15' minimum~~ rear yard landscape buffer **a minimum of 15 feet in width** is required when adjacent to a non-residential district.
3. Minimum Parking Requirements
- a. Parking requirements ~~in the Grand River Avenue Overlay Form District~~ shall be regulated by ~~Section~~ 86-755 but with the following **exceptions** ~~specific departures from that section~~. These reductions **in the number of parking spaces** ~~is~~ are based on an anticipated shift from single-occupant vehicle travel to walking, bicycling, transit, and car share services often associated with the mixture of uses within compact walkable areas consistent with the FBC.
  - b. If SHARED PARKING is provided as described in 86-753, the combined amount of parking required is reduced by up to 20% as determined by the **Director of Community Planning & Development Township** based on a ~~demonstration~~ by the applicant **demonstrating** ~~that~~ the combined peak hour utilization of the uses will not exceed 85-90% of the parking supply on a typical day.
    - 1. This percentage may be increased by up to 40% if the applicant provides information to demonstrate a maximum **of 85%** of parking available is expected to be occupied during peak periods and the development features the elements described in Section 86-447(c)(3)(c) ~~B~~ below.
    - 2. The **Director of Community Planning & Development** may require a parking study by a qualified professional using accepted sources and methodology.
    - 3. In addition, the **Director of Community Planning & Development** may require **an** additional parking area be "banked" for future use if the anticipated SHARED PARKING is inadequate or if a use change to one that requires significant additional parking is made.
  - c. The **Director of Community Planning & Development** may reduce the required parking further, as noted above, if the applicant demonstrates that on-site parking demand will be reduced through amenities and programs that will shift travel from single occupant vehicles to other modes of travel such as:

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1. Provision of a bus stop with amenities such as a shelter, shade trees and other design features endorsed by CATA.
  2. Incentives for employees to use transit, such as free transit passes or other programs endorsed by CATA.
  3. Site design elements that promote walking and bicycling, such as bike racks by building entrances, indoor **bicycle** parking and other facilities for those who travel by bicycles.
- d. Parking Requirements by Use:
1. Residential
    - a. 1.25 parking spaces shall be provided per multiple family unit with an additional 0.25 space per unit available for visitor and public use.
    - b. Required parking per unit may be reduced if the development provides a “car-share” system for use by residents.
  2. Commercial centers and general retail
    - a. 3.5 spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. (minimum) and 4.0 spaces (maximum) for buildings with a gross floor area less than 25,000 sq. ft.
    - b. 4.0 spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. (minimum) or 5.0 spaces (maximum) for buildings with a gross floor area over 25,000 sq. ft.
  3. Restaurants, taverns & bars, nightclubs, distilleries and brew pubs, ~~Grand River Avenue:~~
    - a. 1 space per 100 sq. ft. of usable floor area.
  4. For uses not specifically listed above, the minimum parking requirements in the Meridian zoning ordinance shall apply. Maximum standards only apply to surface parking lots, not **parking** structures~~d~~ or underground parking
- e. Achieving Parking Requirements
1. Parking requirements may be met either on-site or within an 800-foot walking distance of the development. The required parking must all be on the same side of Grand River Avenue however parking on the opposite side may be included if within 660' (1/8 mile) of a designated pedestrian crosswalk.

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2. Parking shall be located in compliance with this Section.
  3. Bicycle Parking shall be provided as required by Sec. 86-760.
  4. All other parking standards of Article XIII Off-Street Parking & Loading shall apply.
4. Special Parking Standards
- a. Joint Parking
    1. Sites abutting one another shall physically connect their surface parking areas at the lot line to create connecting drive aisles. Where such surface parking areas lie within 50 feet of one another, a mutual access easement acceptable to the Community Planning & Development Director shall be executed. Parking lot configurations existing (insert effective adoption date) are exempt from this requirement.
  - b. On-Street Parking
    1. If on-street parking is provided ~~along building frontage, public street frontage, or approved alongside access lanes,~~ those spaces may be counted towards parking requirements for the specific use.
  - c. Off-Street Parking
    1. Off-street parking shall be located in compliance with the parking setback regulations for the site on which it is located, as indicated in the BUILDING FORM STANDARDS.
  - d. Off-Site Parking
    1. Off-site parking must be located within a walking distance of 800 feet from the site it is serving.
    2. The off-site parking shall be located within the ~~Avenue~~ FORM DISTRICT.
    3. The off-site parking **shall be provided for in** ~~must be the subject of a long-term lease approved as to form by the Township attorney,~~ or permanently dedicated ~~for off-site parking~~ **in a form acceptable to the Director of Community Planning & Development use.**

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5. Loading
  - a. Development under this code prohibits any street-side loading facilities. Consistent rear-access and circulation on SHARED DRIVES is recommended.

**Section 86-448 Grand River Avenue ~~Overlay~~ Form District *NEW***

A. Intent

1. This is the basic urban STREET-SPACE ~~frontage~~ FRONTAGE. It fully defines the street edge and accommodates a range of uses, including residential, office, institutional, and retail. This frontage is in the most intense areas, generally along Grand River Avenue. It is anticipated that there will be significant pedestrian traffic along this frontage.

***NEED PHOTOS***

B. Applicability

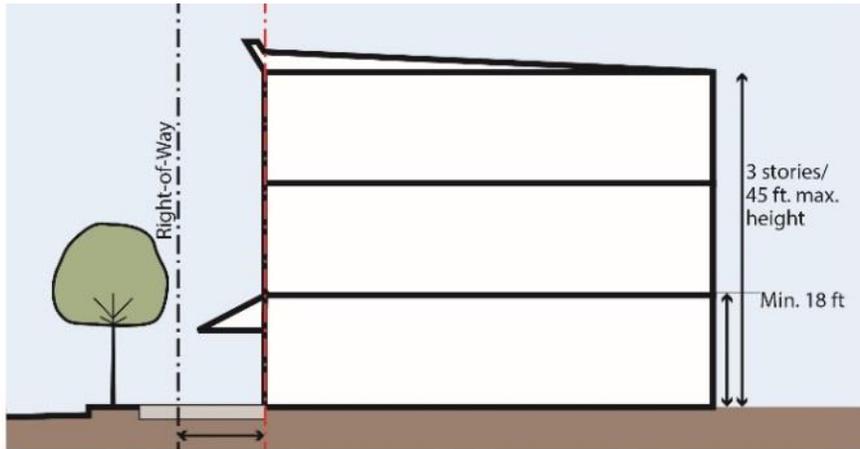
***ADD REGULATING PLAN MAP SHOWING FORM DISTRICT***

1. Within the Grand River Avenue ~~Overlay~~ Form District all requirements of the Meridian Township Zoning Ordinance shall apply, except as modified by this Section. When applying the regulations of the **Grand River Avenue** Form Districts, if regulations elsewhere within this ordinance conflict or appear to conflict with the regulations in this Section, the regulations of this Section shall apply.
2. Properties located in the Grand River Avenue ~~Overlay~~ Form District, as designated on the Zoning Map, shall follow the requirements of this district as outlined in this Section. Development proposals shall comply with all applicable provisions of this Section, unless otherwise modified by the Township Board.

C. District Building Form Standards for Commercial Buildings

1. Height
  - a. Minimum Height: 1 story or 16 feet maximum
  - b. Maximum Height: 3 stories or 52.5 feet maximum
  - c. Ground Floor Elevation for residential units: 3 feet **minimum**

FIGURE B



2. Height Bonus

- a. The Township **Director of Community Planning & Development** may permit an increase in height up to four stories, not to exceed 52.5 feet, and up to five stories, not to exceed 60 feet.
- b. Three amenities from the following list are required to permit an increase in height up to four stories, not to exceed 52.5 feet, and 5 total amenities are required to permit an increase in height up to five stories, not to exceed 60 feet:
  1. Parking is provided within the footprint of the building, provided that access to this parking shall be from the side or rear, and that parking is not placed along the front building FACADE. Any parking within the building shall be designed to match the materials and architecture of the remainder of the building.
  2. Residential units must **vary in the number** ~~have a variety of~~ bedrooms **provided** ~~counts~~. No more than 50% of total units shall be comprised of a single bedroom **units** ~~count~~.
  3. ~~Inclusion of~~ **Design** features that support and encourage transit use by public or private providers such as enhanced bus stops, designated scooter parking, or designated ridesharing (Taxi/Uber/Lyft) pick up and drop off curb space.
  4. ~~Provision of~~ **Electric** car charging stations at a ratio of one station per 10 residential units.

5. ~~Minimize environmental impact by~~ **The use of** using green building and site development techniques such as alternative energy systems, green roofs, and pervious ground materials **to minimize environmental impact.**
  6. Provide PUBLIC REALM STREET-SPACE improvements such as benches, street lights, planters, public art, covered bike racks, and street trees as described in the Streetscape section of the Grand River Avenue Design Guidelines.
  7. Open space, such as pocket parks or community gathering spaces, accessible and visible to the public shall be provided as described in the “Squares and Civic Greens” section of the Grand River Avenue Design Guidelines.
  8. The number of pre-existing curb cuts shall be reduced by at least one.
  9. A minimum of 25% of the residential units must be either owner-occupied, designated 55 or older, or affordable housing as defined by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).
3. Building Placement
- a. Front setback (maximum)
    1. Grand River Avenue: 20 feet from ROW
    2. Buildings fronting on any other street: 25 feet from ROW
- NEED DIAGRAM*
- b. Side yard setback: 0 feet
  - c. Side yard setback when adjacent to single-family: Setback equal to rear **yard** setback of adjacent district
  - d. Rear yard setback with SHARED DRIVE: 10 feet (minimum)
  - e. Rear yard setback without SHARED DRIVE: 25 feet (minimum)
  - f. Rear yard setback when adjacent to single-family: Setback equal to rear **yard** setback of adjacent district.
4. Screening adjacent to residential
- a. A 6 foot tall opaque screen wall or fence is required within 1 foot **of the** common lot line in the rear and side yards is required when building is adjacent to single family.

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5. Architectural elements
  - a. Required GROUND STORY FENESTRATION: 40 - 90% **minimum**
  - b. Required Upper Story FENESTRATION: 25 - 80%
  - c. Buildings greater than 3 stories shall be designed to reduce apparent mass by including a clearly identifiable base, body, and top, with horizontal elements defining these components.
  - d. Blank walls exceeding 25 linear feet are prohibited.
  - e. Elevations facing a street shall contain a minimum of 75% ~~masonry~~  
~~such as~~ brick or stone.

NEED DIAGRAM/EXAMPLE

- D. District Building Form Standards for Residential Buildings – *NEED TO ADD*