

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2018

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Hudson, Vagnozzi (5:50), Deschaine, and Beavers (6:05)

ABSENT: Commissioner Kolbasa

STAFF: Ken Plaga, Assistant Chief of Police
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Potter moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Potter moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2018

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

Vice-Chair Potter asked to amend the minutes related to the MDOT presentation to include the following items:

- Included in the presentation was a Z-style pedestrian/bike crossing for the proposed Marsh Road/I-69BL intersection. MDOT staff agreed the proposed Z crossing could be modified to have crossings at the northeast and southwest corners to allow for safe pedestrian/bike movements in those directions as well.
- A safe non-motorized pathway through the median at Newton Road/I-69BL was part of a modified plan requested by the Township, area residents and advocates. MDOT staff indicated they were waiting to hear from Township staff on which side of Newton Road to align with the pathway through the median.
- No non-motorized pathway was being planned through the median at Towner Road/I-69BL.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. Public Remarks

Commissioner Deschaine asked to add item 6.C. I-69BL Corridor Improvements to the agenda

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Deschaine mentioned the Township Board's approval of the Transportation Commission's recommendation on the expansion of the Redi-Ride service area.

5. Communications-NONE

6. Presentation/Discussion

Consensus of the Commission was to discuss item 6. B. first.

B. Climate Sustainability Plan Transportation Objectives and Strategies

Chair Hackbarth welcomed LeRoy Harvey, Township Environmental Programs Coordinator.

A copy of the presentation is on file.

- The Climate Sustainability Plan has 5 categories:
Energy efficiency, Renewable Energy, Recycling and Waste Reduction, Transportation and Waste Management.
- Township annual energy expenditures for vehicles is \$100,000 on fuel and \$350,000 on street lighting.
- Transportation objectives include smart commuting, vehicle fleet, reduce miles traveled, education on transportation alternatives and monitoring savings and benefits.
- Potential role of the Transportation Commission: oversee transportation objectives, suggest policies, benchmarks, refine objectives and offer advice, report on progress, presentations and other educational outreach
- Feasibility of converting existing street lights to LED.
- Adequate street lighting is a safety issue

Vice-Chair Potter offered to assist with the Climate Sustainability Plan on issues related to transportation.

Consensus of the Commission was to discuss item 6. C. next

C. I-69BL Corridor Improvements

- The Commission's desire is to make a recommendation on having a pedestrian/bicycle crossing through the proposed median at the Newton/Saginaw intersection.
 - The Township's Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway Plan shows pathway on both sides of Saginaw

- Newton Road south of Saginaw a pathway on the east side and paved shoulder on the west side.
- Newton Road north of Saginaw a pathway on the west side and paved shoulder on the east side.
- Towner Road east of Saginaw a pathway on the south side and paved shoulder on the north side.

The Commission will discuss a possible recommendation at its March meeting.

A. Continue Redi-Ride Discussion

- The Commission continued its discussion on using grants to expand Redi-Ride service hours
- The Township manager is working on a service agreement with CATA
- Concern with being locked into a three year service agreement
- Agreement could include language for cancellation

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved the Transportation Commission recommend Meridian Township enter into an agreement with CATA to expand Redi Ride hours to 7:30 am to 6:30 pm on Mondays through Fridays. To pay for the additional hours of service, we recommend using the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Funds (NFF) federal grants, and to increase the Township's Redi-Ride fare to \$2.50 except for those who qualify for free rides. We also request CATA give us feedback once the new schedule is operational and advise the Township of any beneficial adjustments to scheduled hours.

We encourage CATA to consider subcontracting a portion of the service if it is necessary to avoid additional cost to the Township for the expanded service during the grant period. We recommend that any subcontractors used by CATA use ADA-compliant vehicles and the same procedures that CATA uses for subcontracting Spec-Tran service.

Commissioner Hudson stressed the need for a half fare for seniors and persons with disabilities. She also emphasized the need for a process for having a contract as she did not want residents to be in a subscription service with CATA and any binding agreement with the grants.

Seconded by Chair Hackbarth

Further discussion indicated an earlier start in the mornings would potentially increase ridership and brought up the question of how many people will use Redi-Ride with an increased cost.

Commissioner Deschaine moved to amend the motion by adding:

First paragraph after (NFF) add "grants and pursue opportunities for other state or federal grants"

First paragraph before \$2.50 add "up to"

First paragraph add the sentence after free rides "Consideration should be given to offering a half price, discounted fare based upon grant utilization and available revenue."

After second paragraph add the sentence "The agreement language should include a standard contract cancellation allowance."

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE ON AMENDMENTS: Motion carried unanimously

The amended recommendation reads as follows:

The Transportation Commission recommends Meridian Township enter into an agreement with CATA to expand Redi Ride hours to 7:30 am to 6:30 pm on Mondays through Fridays. To pay for the additional hours of service, we recommend using the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Funds (NFF) grants and pursue opportunities for other state or federal grants, and to increase the Township's Redi-Ride fare up to \$2.50 except for those who qualify for free rides. Consideration should be given to offering a half price discounted fare based upon grant utilization and available revenue.

We also request CATA give us feedback once the new schedule is operational and advise the Township of any beneficial adjustments to scheduled hours. We encourage CATA to consider subcontracting a portion of the service if it is necessary to avoid additional cost to the Township for the expanded service during the grant period. We recommend that any subcontractors used by CATA use ADA-compliant vehicles and the same procedures that CATA uses for subcontracting Spec-Tran service.

The agreement language should include a standard contract cancelation allowance.

VOICE VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION AS AMENDED: motion carried unanimously

7. Commission Comments

Street Lights

- Public Works and Engineering has a Township map showing the location of street lights
- There is a link to Consumers Energy to report a street light that is not working on the Public Works and Engineering webpage.
- The Police Department checks areas of the Township for street lights that are not working.

Okemos Road Boardwalk

- Vice Chair Potter is drafting a letter of support to help fund the Okemos Road Boardwalk from the Ingham County Park and Trail millage
- The Commission will review the letter at its meeting in March

8. Next Meeting Dates

- Commission's next meeting is March 15, 2018, Central Fire Station Community Room
- Township Board's next meeting is February 20, 2018

9. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Commissioner Deschaine moved to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.