



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 20, 2021– Minutes – APPROVED
Meeting held virtually using the Zoom web conferencing application

Members

Present: Chair Vagnozzi, Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners Potter (7:35 pm), Opsommer and Robertson

Members

Absent: Commissioners Hudson and VanCoevering

Others

Present: Deputy Manager Derek Perry, Sgt. Andrew McCready, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Planning Commission Liaison Christina Snyder and Tim Schmitt

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
Director Kieselbach introduced Tim Schmitt, the new Director of Community Planning and Development

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY CHAIR VAGNOZZI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED TO ADD ITEM 6 D PATHWAY MASTER PLAN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL MOTION PASSES 4-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-MARCH 18, 2021

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER OPSOMMER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Director Kieselbach mentioned the communication from Commissioner Hudson regarding contactless payments for bus rides (copy on file)

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Kris Parnell, 5204 Van Atta Road, stated her concern with the paving of Van Atta Road would cause an increase in traffic and speed.

6. Commission Discussion

A. Railroad Quiet Zones - Update

Deputy Manager Perry referenced the review of the Preliminary Study: Railroad Quiet Zones done by OHM in January 2019 (copy on file)

- Two railroads run through the Township
- Northern line is the CN, average 15-20 trains per day
- Southern line is the CSX, average 3-4 trains per day
- Federal mandate to make crossings safer with the installation of positive train control and associated constant warning time circuitry
- Installation on the CN is not planned due to the low number of trains per day
- Implementing a quiet zone on the CN from Bogue Street to Green Road could occur with minimal work needing to be done
- Estimated cost is approximately \$20,000
- The Township should wait until the positive train control and associated constant warning time circuitry has been installed
- Substantial cost to the Township for a quiet zone on the CSX
- Better serve the community to concentrate the effort to implement a quiet zone on the CN
- Township Board is in support of implementing quiet zones
- Potential for grant money

B. Mt. Hope Road – Traffic Safety

Sergeant McCready provided a summary of the traffic survey conducted by the Police Department (copy on file).

- Concern with speed on the road
- The Police Department's traffic sign gathers data on traffic volume and speed
- Survey for 35 mile per hour (mph) zone done in January-February 2021
- Survey for 45 mph zone done in July 2021
- Road patrol from May 13 to June 19, 2021. No violations observed
- Increase in speed and volume for west bound traffic
- Possible increase due to people returning home
- Additional speed limit signs have been installed
- Volume of traffic on Mt. Hope is too high to do a road diet
- Road Department is waiting on a request for a speed limit review by Michigan State Police to extend the 35 mph zone west to Comanche Drive

C. Shaw Street Pathway (material on file)

- The pathway will be installed as part of the drain improvement work being done by Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office
- No road right-of-way on the east side of Shaw street north of Lake Drive to install the pathway
- Crosswalk at Shaw Street and Lake Drive will have Rectangular Rapid Flashing (RRF) beacon for pedestrians

D. Pathway Master Plan

- Since the last Transportation Commission meeting Deputy Manager Perry has met with other boards and commissions
- Additional changes to the plan include;
 - #8 Okemos Road to Dobie Road along the south side of the CSX railroad
 - #9 Hannah Blvd to East Lodges Drive
 - #10 Vacated Raby Road right-of-way west of Marsh Road
- Include on the plan a possible bridge connection across the Red Cedar from the Eyde property on Hannah Blvd
- Bike lane assessment maybe done in 2021

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO SUPPORT THE UPDATES TO THE PATHWAY MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED BY DEPUTY MANAGER PERRY. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Trustee Opsommer mentioned the Township board discussed the rezoning on Jolly road and Kansas Road. With the conditions offered by the application the Board was generally in favor of the rezoning. The proposed Andev senior housing project on Hannah Blvd has been withdrawn. Broadband is a priority for the Board in 2021. The Village of Okemos project is moving ahead. They are seeking financing.

B. Planning Commission

Commissioner Snyder reported the Planning Commission had supported the updates to the Pathway Master Plan. The Planning Commission had also approved a special use permit for a carwash at the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Dawn Avenue and recommended approval of a rezoning at the northwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Powell Road.

C. Chair

No report

D. Staff

Deputy Manager Perry indicated he was not aware of any plan to pave Van Atta Road at the "S" curve. He also reported MDOT had determined an upgraded traffic signal was warranted at the north leg of the Meridian Road and Grand River Avenue intersection.

The Road Department has applied for a federal safety grant to add a center left turn lane to coincide with the MDOT improvement. If funded construction could occur in 2023.

Director Kieselbach stated it was his last meeting staffing the Transportation Commission and had enjoyed his time working with the Commission.

8. NEXT MEETING DATES

A. Township Board Meeting June 1, 2021

B. Transportation Commission Meeting August 19, 2021

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Vagnozzi adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.