



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, January 19, 2023 – Minutes – APPROVED

Members Present: Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioner Hudson (via Zoom), Commissioner Potter, Commissioner Frierson, and Trustee Sundland

Members Absent: Commissioner Robertson

Others Present: Senior Planner Shorkey, DPW Director Opsommer, Planning Commission liaison Snyder, and Planning Commissioner McConnell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Lovell called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Senior Planner Shorkey asked that Item 7 – Project Updates be moved up before Item 6 – Commission Discussion.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.
SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FRIERSON. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 8, 2022

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2022.
SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FRIERSON. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Senior Planner Shorkey said that no communications were received since the last meeting. Commissioner Potter said that he received an email about MDOT’s upcoming 469/127 project.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

A. MDOT M-43 Project update

DPW Director Opsommer updated the Commission about 2022 work on Grand River. Vice-Chair Lovell asked questions about material shortages and speeding. Commissioner Potter asked about the design of the three pedestrian islands to be built on Grand River. Commissioner Potter said that he had seen flooding on Grand River by Mohawk Drive.

B. Okemos Road Project update

DPW Director Opsommer said that barricades are still up on Hamilton Road until the Okemos bridge project is complete. The purpose of the barricades is to control traffic in Indian Hills. DPW Director Opsommer said that he is hopeful that the Okemos bridge project will be complete by the end of February and described remaining work to be completed. Commissioner Potter asked if there could be a boat launch installed while the non-motorized trail is being built. DPW Director Opsommer said that the Park Department was discussing that. Vice-Chair Lovell asked if the trail was for pedestrians only and DPW Director Opsommer said no, it's for all non-motorized traffic. Vice-Chair Lovell asked if the bridge arches are structure and DPW Director Opsommer said no, they are aesthetic.

Commissioner Potter asked about the status of road improvements around the Village of Okemos project. DPW Director Opsommer updated the Commission on the Village of Okemos project and described potential road improvements.

C. Local Roads and Other Construction Projects update

DPW Director Opsommer update the Commission about local road projects and said that the 2023 local road program would be presented to the Commission at their March meeting. DPW Director Opsommer said that the Township is going to bid for 2023 accelerated projects.

After discussion, Commissioner Potter asked about the project at Grand River and Meridian Road. DPW Director Opsommer said that would happen this year. Commissioner Frierson asked if bid advertising is published. DPW Director Opsommer confirmed that it was and pointed out the RFP section on the Township's website. DPW Director Opsommer asked Senior Planner Shorkey to add PASER Ratings to the March Transportation Commission agenda.

Commissioner Potter asked if any new non-motorized projects are planned this year. DPW Director Opsommer described the MSU to Lake Lansing Phase 1 and 2 projects. Senior Planner Shorkey said that Phase 1 had been through the Planning Commission for Special Use Permit approval due to the work in the Red Cedar River floodplain. DPW Director Opsommer also said that the Township is pursuing a SPARK grant for a trail in the Consumers right-of-way between Okemos and Dobie Roads.

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Bicycle Friendly Application Feedback

Senior Planner Shorkey read his memo and summarized the Bike League comments. Vice-Chair Lovell asked if the Board had been made aware of the Honorable Mention. Senior Planner Shorkey said that they had and that there had been a major public announcement. Commissioner Potter said that he had been involved with MSU's Bike Friendly status for about ten years and had never seen scores from the League before. Commissioner Potter suggested a work meeting with DPW Director Opsommer's staff to talk about what suggested actions might be undertaken. Vice-Chair Lovell said that going after Gold status would be a huge undertaking.

Commissioner McConnell described the public input on the Township Pathway Map. Vice-Chair Lovell suggested that the suggestions about education and bike counting might be easier to achieve. Commissioner Potter said that he is an LCI and would be happy to conduct bike safety classes. Senior Planner Shorkey said that he was not listed on the League's website as an LCI.

Commissioner Frierson asked what the benefit of the Bike Friendly application is. Vice-Chair Lovell said that it was a helpful status for the Township and that the feedback gives some direction on where to focus future improvements.

Commissioner Hudson said that she noticed that one of the survey comments talked about safety concerns at Academic Way and Haslett Road. Commissioner Snyder said that she was familiar with that area and that it was very congested. After discussion, Senior Planner Shorkey said that he would look into the issue and see if anything could be done.

Commissioner Potter asked if we had contact information for the survey respondents. Senior Planner Shorkey said that contact information wasn't included.

B. Climate Sustainability Plan Feedback

Senior Planner Shorkey read the memo and pointed out that Commissioner McConnell is the Chair of the Environmental Commission. Commissioner McConnell described the Climate Action Plan and updated the Commission about the update process. Commissioner McConnell went through the Transportation Objectives and Strategies with the Commission. Vice-Chair Lovell said that the Objectives and Strategies intersected with the suggested from the League on the Bike Friendly application and suggested a discussing this in depth at a future meeting.

C. Spin Scooters

Senior Planner Shorkey said that the Township had heard from Spin Scooters about possibly expanding into western Meridian Township but that they had not sent anything and that he would discuss it again at a future meeting when he had something to discuss. Commissioner Potter said that Spin Scooters served MSU and that they were spilling over into the Township. Vice-Chair Lovell and Commissioner Hudson both suggested better enforcement of the scooters. Commissioner Potter described the enforcement measures on MSU campus. Commissioner Frierson asked if ebikes are allowed on the Township non-motorized system. Vice-Chair Lovell said that they are.

D. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

COMMISSIONER POTTER NOMINATED VICE-CHAIR LOVELL FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER HUDSON FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIR.

There being no other nominations, Vice-Chair Lovell asked for a vote. Vice-Chair Lovell was elected Chair and Commissioner Hudson was elected Vice-Chair by a 5-0 vote.

E. General Commission Comments

None.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board

Trustee Sundland updated the Transportation Commission about recent Board activities.

B. Planning Commission

Commissioner Snyder updated the Transportation Commission about recent Planning Commission activities.

C. Chair

Chair Lovell asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to have a special meeting to discuss the overlap between the Bicycle Friendly Application feedback and the Climate Sustainability Plan's Transportation Objectives. After a general consensus, Senior Planner Shorkey said that he would look at room availability at work with Chair Lovell to schedule it.

D. Staff

Senior Planning Shorkey had nothing to add.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 16, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER POTTER MOVED TO ADJOURN. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FRIERSON. MOTION APPROVED 5-0 AND CHAIR LOVELL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:16 P.M.