

# APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)  
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Hudson, Kolbasa, Deschaine,  
and Beavers

ABSENT: Commissioner Vagnozzi

STAFF: Dave Hall, Chief of Police

Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works and Engineering

Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

## 1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Potter moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2017

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

## 4. Public Remarks

Donna Rose spoke to the need for complete streets. She stated it would not matter how much money was spent on Redi-Ride the service does not work. She also indicated 18 children have subscription service for Redi-Ride.

Leonard Provencher stated the proposed intersection improvements at Saginaw Highway and Marsh Road would not work for cyclists. He indicated safety improvements needed to be made at the Okemos Road/Inter-Urban Trail.

Ody Norkin requested the Commission to revise its policy regarding public comments. He stated based on the Township's purchasing policy CATA should not be a sole service provider.

William Collette stated he thought people should be allowed to speak at the end of the Commission's agenda. He also thought new leadership was needed at CATA as they had misled the public.

Chair Hackbarth welcomed Christine Beavers to the Transportation Commission as its newest member.

## 5. Communications

The Commission accepted the communications that had been received and placed on file.

## 6. Presentation/Discussion

### A. Railroad Quiet Zones

Derek Perry introduced Rachel Whise from Abonmarche, the Township's consultant that prepared the preliminary study for railroad quiet zones.

- Purpose of a quiet zone is to reduce or eliminate railroad horn noise.
- CSX Railroad
  - 7 public and 1 private at grade crossings
  - Requires minimum upgrades
  - Gates needed at Hulett Road and Meridian Road
  - Costly to quiet the entire length of 5.5 miles
  - Cost benefit to quiet 2.9 miles
- CN Railroad
  - 5 public at grade crossings
  - All grade crossings meet minimum safety requirements
  - Carries more trains per day which impacts the Haslett area
  - Recommend improving safety due to school proximity
- Improve property values with quiet zones
- Ingham County Road Department may help with funding

Vice Chair Potter moved the Transportation Commission recommend to the Township Board that the Board start the process to establish quiet zones and have the Director of Public Works and Engineering and the consultant continue to investigate the options in the report.

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Complete Streets

Mark Kieselbach

- Township adopted a complete streets ordinance in September 2012
- Complete streets provide access to all users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement

- Each street is unique there is no single complete description
- There is a balance between safety and convenience
- Complete streets can be:
  - More attractive and inviting
  - Catalyst for new development and redevelopment
  - Used to help in place making
  - A traffic calming measure
- Complete Street Components:
  - Location
  - Adjacent land uses
  - Traffic volume
  - Vehicle speed
  - Pedestrian needs
  - Bicycle opportunities
  - Transit
- Complete streets design elements:
  - Sidewalks on both sides of the street
  - Bike lanes
  - Mid-block crossings
  - On street parking
  - Share-use pathways and trails
  - Pedestrian signals and signage
  - Lighting
  - Road diet

William Conklin, Managing Director, Ingham County Road Department gave an update on 2017 road projects (see communications for a listing of projects). He indicated Lake Lansing Road from Hagadorn to Saginaw was being proposed for a road diet which would reduce the existing 4 lane road to 3 lanes. Because a hearing is necessary at the local level he asked if the Transportation Commission would consider holding the hearing.

Commissioner Hudson moved the Transportation Commission hold a hearing at its meeting in October on the proposed road diet for Lake Lansing Road from Hagadorn to Saginaw.

Seconded by Vice-Chair Potter.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Commission Discussion/Review

### A. Redi-Ride

- Commissioner Deschaine read the existing Redi-Ride millage language
- Could the name of the provider be changed without changing the intent of the millage

- Commission asked to see the legal opinion from the Township Attorney
- Service provider should be put out to bid
- Chair Hackbarth gave a summary of the proposed recommendation the Commission has been working on
- Chair Hackbarth requested each Commissioner provide their comments on the proposed recommendation
- Enhanced technology should be used
- Service outside the Township should be provided
- There should be coordination with adjacent transit agencies
- Need to address the issue of school age children using the service
- Children should be required to ride with an adult

#### 8. Commission Comments

Due to a conflict with the September 21, 2017 meeting date Commissioner Deschaine moved the Transportation Commission meeting be moved to September 28, 2017

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

#### 9. Next Meeting Dates

- Commission's next meeting is September 28, 2017
- Township Board's next meeting is October 3, 2017

#### 10. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Vice Chair Potter moved to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Commissioner Deschaine

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.