



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Meridian Transportation Commission **Meeting Date:** February 9, 2021
Presenter: Walter Steed, Chair **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Topic: Transportation Commission 2020 End of Year Report

Meridian Transportation Commission

-Walter Steed, Chair	-Stephen Lewis	-Tom LeClaire
-Jared Smith, Vice-Chair	-Tracy Hopkins	-Joseph Leckie
-David Ballard	-Ryan Lancaster	-Zachary Shoemaker

The Meridian Transportation Commission (TC) was formed in February 2013 with Ordinance No. 13-152. The Commission consists of nine appointed commissioners and meets on the first Monday of each month, except September, in the Council Chambers. David Ballard and David McKinney served as Chair and Vice-Chair (respectively) in 2020. Councilman Luke Cavener and representatives from ITD District 3, ACHD, COMPASS, Valley Regional Transit (VRT), and the West Ada School District serve as ex-officio members. Planning Division Manager Caleb Hood and Comprehensive Associate Coordination Planner Miranda Carson provide staff support, Sergeant Brandon Frasier provides regular updates from the Police Department perspective, and Ted Baird and Emily Kane, City Attorneys, provide legal guidance. City Staff provides monthly updates to the Commission regarding the progress of projects that are in construction or soon to be constructed. Additional City staff and additional staff from the ex-officio agencies interact with the Commission from time-to-time as do members of the public.

In 2020, the Commission welcomed new members Walter Steed and Jared Smith. Last month Commissioner Walter Steed was elected Chair and Jared Smith was elected Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2021. Two other members, David McKinney and Ryan Hall, left the Commission.

In January 2020, the TC heard concerns regarding vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian flow near the YMCA and Hillsdale Elementary and determined the School Zone subcommittee would meet to discuss the issue further. John Tomlinson, ITD presented information on 2018 crash data. The TC also discussed the alignment of a proposed new fixed transit route.

In February, The TC further discussed the flow around Hillsdale Elementary and voted to recommend City Council support busing on the west side of Eagle Road. The TC discussed the ACHD Integrated Five-Year Work Plan (IFYWP) 2020 Roadways, Intersections and Community Programs Priorities. Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) Stephen Hunt presented information on the proposed new fixed Transit route.

In March, the TC forwarded the finalized ACHD Integrated Five-Year Work Plan (IFYWP) 2020 Roadways, Intersections and Community Programs Priorities to Council. Edinson Bautista, ACHD Senior Transportation Planner, introduced himself and gave a presentation on the North Meridian Bike & Pedestrian Project. The widening of Fairview, from Locust Grove to Eagle Road was discussed, as was the future role of the TC.

The April meeting was cancelled.

In May, Jared Smith was introduced as a new Commissioner, and Commissioner Ryan Hall's appointment expired and he did not seek reappointment. A brief discussion from the TC took place around the COVID implications and their impacts on transportation project delays, budgets and the gas tax. The May meeting agenda was light as to test the new Zoom technology.

In June, Lisa Itkonen gave a presentation on the draft COMPASS Communities in Motion (CIM) 2050 scenarios. The TC discussed the possibility of a City ordinance regarding the direction of downtown alleyways. Mr. Hood provided updates on and there was discussion of Fairview from Locust Grove to Eagle widening project. The future role of the TC was further discussed and subcommittees were established to address the topic.

In July, Walter Steed was introduced as a new Commissioner. Downtown alleyways were further discussed and Lindsey Bowshire, Meridian Downtown Business Association (MDBA) President, addressed the TC on the topic. Sgt Fraiser provided an update on the COVID impact on transportation and opened a discussion on the legality of ATV/UTV's driving on Meridian roadways. There was discussion on the potential reduction of a citywide speed limit standard from 25 MPH to 20 MPH and school zone speed limits. A motion to reduce the speed limits failed. Stephen Hunt, VRT provided an update regarding the fixed route transit expansion in Meridian and the stop locations for a new route. Mr. Hood provided a summary of a June one and a half day walk audit workshop.

In August, the Future Role of the TC subcommittee proposed that 3 subcommittees be formed to address the TC's major focus areas. Further discussion of the legality of ATV/UTV's driving on Meridian roadways took place. A concern was raised by a citizen regarding noise abatement on US 20/26 near the Bainbridge neighborhood. Steven Yearsley of the Tuscany HOA brought concerns regarding multi-use pathway crossings in the Eagle, Amity to Victory project design. A motion passed to request Council send a letter to ACHD to reevaluate the crossing designs in the project. The ACHD Draft 2021-2025 work plan was discussed and a motion was passed to support it.

In September, a motion passed to form 2 new standing subcommittees: 1) Project Review and Ordinance and 2) Development. The motion also included purpose statements for each subcommittee including the already established School Zone subcommittee. There was a brief discussion on the City stance on Shared Vehicles ending in a motion to allow Spin's request to provide a presentation to the TC on a pilot project in Meridian.

In October, the Ordinance and Development subcommittee gave an overview on their discussion of a possible ATV/UTV ordinance.

In November, the School Zone subcommittee gave an overview on their discussion of a proposed roundabout at Eagle and Taconic and general discussion of alternative intersections. The Ordinance and Development subcommittee gave an overview on their continued discussion of a possible ATV/UTV ordinance. The procedures of the subcommittees were discussed. Spin sent a presentation for review by the TC.

In December, Commissioner David McKinney informed the Commission he would be stepping down to take his new ACHD Commission seat. Stephen Hunt, VRT presented updates on the: cooperative agreement, Harvest Transit and potential enhancements (including service to the Boise Veterans Administration), and fixed route service expansion. Discussion began on the ACHD FY 21-25 work plan requests prioritization. The Ordinance and Development subcommittee gave an overview on their continued discussion of a possible ATV/UTV ordinance. Ryan Lancaster gave an educational presentation on Roundabouts and Alternative Intersections.

A complete record of TC minutes can be found here:

<https://weblink.meridiancity.org/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=180116&dbid=0&repo=MeridianCity>. The

Commission is grateful for the opportunity to provide service to the citizens of Meridian and to actively shape the transportation systems of our City.