

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, March 4, 2024

Council Chambers – Meridian City Hall • 33 East Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho

Roll Call

MEMBERS

David Ballard

Hoyoon Song

Jared Smith

Walter Steed

Stephen Lewis

Tom LeClaire

Zach Shoemaker

Tracy Hopkins

Ryan Lancaster

EX-OFFICIO

Shawn Martin (ACHD)

Alissa Taysom (VRT)

Lila Klopfenstein (COMPASS)

Mark Wasdahl (ITD)

Miranda Carson (WASD)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Tara Smith (Police)

Hether Hill (Comm. Dev.)

Tishra Murray (Legal)

Caleb Hood (Comm. Dev.)

Adoption of the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda by Staff or Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes

1. February 5, 2024

Motion by Commissioner Lewis to adopt; 2nd by Commissioner Ballard - all ayes; passes. (Chair Steed commented that adjournment time was missing and would like that added.)

Old Business Items

2. Transportation Projects Update – C. Hood

Mr. Hood began on Page 6 of the packet – Eagle Road, Lake Hazel to Amity; ACHD selected an apparent low bidder, however, ACHD had to reject the bid (rendered null). An electrical subcontractor on the bid wasn't approved to do relevant work so the project is being rebid and will be delayed for a time uncertain. Page 10, ITD and RBCI - SH 16 Project. An update will be presented to the TC in April, including the multiple phases of the corridor. Other updates are bolded in the packet. No significant change month over. Mr. Hood stood for questions. No questions or comments from the Commission.

New Business Items [ACTION ITEM]

3. ACHD Downtown Neighborhood Plan - Kristy Inselman (ACHD)

Kristy Inselman, Planning Supervisor, with Ada County Highway District (ACHD) was present to provide an overview of what neighborhood plans are and to provide an update on the Downtown Meridian Neighborhood Transportation Plan in particular. Ms. Inselman explained that neighborhood plans were enacted back in 2012 when ACHD divided Ada County into 16 individual

neighborhood planning areas as a way to do targeted outreach (project identification tool) and identify which areas/types of improvements were needed. The first iteration of Downtown Meridian Neighborhood Transportation Plan is from Linder to Locust Grove, the Interstate to Cherry - a square focused on Meridian downtown area. Recently, ACHD did an update based on feedback from the public. Ms. Inselman stated there are over 1,500 projects, as a whole, neighborhood area with a goal to update plans every 10 years. Meridian has two additional plan areas outside of the downtown core: 1) Meridian North and 2) Meridian South (separated by the freeway). ACHD identified projects that have been completed from recent neighborhood plan update; 9 bike and ped, 3 road and intersection projects. Within the Downtown Meridian Transportation Plan, there are 12 pedestrian, 8 roadway and 14 bikeway projects that were identified in the recently updated and adopted (January 2024) Downtown Neighborhood Plan.

Ms. Inselman stood for questions. Chair Steed asked if this process is done outside the Integrated Five-Year Work Plan (IFYWP) process and how it is funded. Ms. Inselman responded that these projects are funded through their operational budget. Commissioner Ballard asked about accessing concept reports online, Mr. Hood demonstrated where to locate on ACHD's website. Commissioner Lewis asked whether local and collector road projects will be separated from standalone bike and ped projects, Ms. Inselman responded "yes". Chair Steed asked what the review process is for neighborhood plans. Ms. Inselman discussed ACHD's project prioritization methodology.

4. 2024 Roadway, Intersection and Community Program Prioritization – C. Hood

Chair Steed said he had watched the February 27th Council meeting regarding the IFYWP. Mr. Hood explained reasoning for why City Council sent the IFYWP plan to the TC for clarification/reconsideration. Beginning on page 12 of the packet, Mr. Hood discussed preserving 5-lane roadways for most section lane arterials and the implications that will have on associated intersections. Four (4) intersections along the McMillan corridor are identified on the IFWYP presented to the TC. City Council wanted a single comprehensive list of how the projects rank against one another in priority and how does that look with priority corridors. (Baseline for the list is the 2023 priority list.) Council also asked whether we should consider prioritizing a north/south arterial like Meridian or Locust Grove; is one more important than the other?

Discussion between Chair Steed and Mr. Hood ensued regarding intersections that adjoin prioritized roadway segments and designated priority corridors. Commissioner Ballard stated he would prioritize Meridian Rd. over Locust Grove Rd. due to connectivity from Chinden to the Interstate and on to Kuna. Commissioner Lewis provided input and that this topic was discussed during a prior subcommittee and that priority corridors were considered in prior years. Commissioner Lewis brought attention to the Master Street Map and the need for modification to reflect five lanes on McMillan. Mr. Hood and Ms. Inselman discussed the pending/upcoming updates to the MSM, (including right-of-way preservation) and the CIP. Commissioner LeClaire also joined the discussion on right-of-way preservation of 100 feet (which could accommodate up to 5 lanes) on most, but not all, section line arterials.

Chair Steed, Commissioner Ballard and Mr. Hood discussed the railroad crossing on Black Cat and who's jurisdiction the crossing is - ACHD and/or ITD. Mark Wasdahl (ITD) responded and recommended speaking with ITD's railroad coordinator, Blaine Schwendiman.

Commissioner Lewis suggested the four new McMillan intersections be left at the end of the unprogrammed list and to evaluate and prioritize them in next year's prioritization list for ACHD. Chair Steed was in agreeance and there was no further discussion on the topic from the commission. There was additional discussion regarding the railroad crossing on Black Cat and priority rankings of projects and shifting of some due to discrepancies from last year's ranking list.

5. Ex-Officio Updates

M. Carson (WASD) – Badges for students to get one busses have been rolled out in the elementary schools and will be at all school levels next year. WASD is working on improving parking lots and coming up with solutions to address the bus driver shortage.

A. Taysom (VRT) - VRT will be making a press release regarding upcoming service changes.

S. Martin (ACHD) – ACHD staff are working on enhanced pedestrian crossings in the Meridian area; 1) is on Locust Grove at Heritage Park, between Ustick and McMillan; 2) and another is on Meridian Rd. at Settlers Park, north of Ustick Rd. and 3) Bower St., at Meridian Rd. and Main St. ACHD is also developing a MOU with the Meridian Fire Department to implement a new Opticom GPS system to aid in faster response times, rather than the current line of sight system.

L. Klopfenstein (COMPASS) – Two updates; 1) COMPASS is working on a safety action plan- two work group meetings have been held and a community survey is coming out soon; 2) Transportation Improvement Program is actively open for public comment- ITD has added a study for an auxiliary lane on I-84 and SH-16, US 20/26 Interchange is now slated for construction in 2026. Study is available for comment until March 17th.

M. Wasdahl (ITD) – SH-16 Project- Mr. Wasdahl provided updates the City of Nampa is working on related to the interchange and modifications. Due to the complexity of the SH-16 project, a more detailed report on the construction phases of the project and project program as a whole will be provided to the TC in April.

6. Staff Communications

C. Hood- Bicycle friendly communities- page 19 of the packet; page 21, SW Corner of Chinden/Linder, Everest Ln.- ACHD is working to improve safety and traffic flow. Chair Steed added ACHD has placed new school signs near Gem Prep.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- 7. SH-16 Update (Dan Gorley & Jeff Ryan)**
- 8. ACHD Master Street Map Preservation Corridors**
- 9. Parks Pathways (Eagle Road)**
- 10. Downtown Parking Strategy**

- 11. Belltower and Coppercloud Speed Concerns
- 12. American Fork at Linder Crossing
- 13. Lost Rapids/Bird Park
- 14. Linder Road Concept Study Update

Next Meeting Date: April 1, 2024

Adjournment; 5:10pm - Motion by Commissioner Lewis, 2nd by Commissioner LeClaire - all ayes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

APPROVED:

WALTER STEED, CHAIR

DATE _____

ATTEST:

CHRIS JOHNSON (City Clerk)

DATE _____