

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, March 2, 2026

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

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

David Ballard

Walter Steed

Zach Shoemaker

Ryan Lancaster

Stephen Lewis

Tracy Hopkins

Jared Smith

Tom LeClaire

Advik Bansal

EX-OFFICIO

Rebecca Phillips (ACHD)

Austin Miller (COMPASS)

Miranda Carson (WASD)

Kate Dahl (VRT)

Justin Price (ITD)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Morgan Carter (Police)

Tishra Murray (Legal)

Brian McClure (Com. Dev.)

Caleb Hood (Com. Dev.)

Craige Bergman (Com. Dev.)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

An amendment was proposed to update the approval of minutes item, correcting the year from 2025 to 2026

Action: Motion for the adoption of the agenda by Commissioner Hopkins, with second from Commissioner Ballard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, February 2, 2026

Motion to approve by Commissioner Ballard, with second from Commissioner Hopkins.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

2. INFORMATION: Staff Transportation Project Tracking

- Brian McClure stated that the Staff Transportation Projects do not have a significant update for this month, Commissioners had no follow-up questions.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

3. INFORMATION: Use of School Flashers during Lunch Periods

- Craige Bergman provided the Transportation Commission with a brief update from the previous meeting and introduced ACHD Deputy Director of Projects Dyan Bevins. Deputy Director Bevins presented an overview of ACHD's organizational structure and explained why the topic fell within her area of responsibility. She informed the commission that the request to use school zone flashers during lunch periods originated from the City of Meridian Chief of Staff and the West Ada School District.

Bevins stated that ACHD viewed the request as a reasonable safety measure and emphasized that the agency takes such requests seriously. She also addressed commissioners' concerns related to the ITE Manual, the evaluation process for the original request, and ACHD policies regarding school zones.

- Miranda Carson provided additional information regarding student driving behaviors, noting that students are often not focused on pedestrians and may be distracted by mobile devices while driving. In response, Commissioner David Ballard questioned how distracted students are able to navigate to lunch or return to campus if they are focused on their phones. Carson also highlighted the level of coordination that occurred between the West Ada School District and ACHD under the direction of the West Ada School District Superintendent.
- Commissioner Lancaster acknowledged that the transportation study referenced during discussion was conducted more than 20 years ago, before the widespread use of mobile phones, and suggested that conditions may have changed since that time. He also shared his perspective that school zones are intended to protect pedestrians and should not unnecessarily penalize all roadway users because of unsafe behavior by a minority of drivers. Commissioner Lancaster then introduced a motion to formalize a recommendation to City Council to terminate the practice of using school zone flashers at high school campuses during lunch periods. Commissioner Smith stated he was firmly opposed to the motion, expressing support for the continued use of flashers as a safety measure. Commissioner Shoemaker indicated some confusion about whether the concern was the use of the flashers themselves or the fact that the commission had not been consulted when the original request was made.
- A vote was held to direct staff to bring the issue forward as an action item at the next regular Transportation Commission meeting. Commissioner Ballard abstained, Commissioners Smith and Shoemaker voted against the motion, and Commissioners Lancaster, LeClaire, Bansal, and Hopkins voted in favor. The motion passed with a vote of 4–2.

4. ACTION: Temporary Traffic Controls

- Deputy Director Caleb Hood provided the introduction of the topic stating the ACHD Deputy Director of Projects Diane Bevins would be available to answer the commissions questions regarding ACHD's practice for Temporary Traffic Controls.
- Deputy Director Bevins provided information on ACHD's use of temporary traffic control measures during major roadway construction projects. She explained that the practice was developed after a previous project where a full intersection closure led to significant cut through traffic in a nearby neighborhood. ACHD began proactively identifying potential neighborhood cut through routes near major arterials and installing temporary stop signs and speed cushions to discourage drivers from bypassing official detour routes. These measures are intended to make neighborhood shortcuts less desirable and encourage drivers to follow the designated detours.

- Bevins noted that the temporary traffic control devices are typically installed before construction begins and may be adjusted throughout the project based on feedback from residents. Temporary stop signs are removed once the roadway reopens. Speed cushions are generally intended to be temporary as well, though ACHD may survey nearby residents to determine whether there is sufficient neighborhood support to keep them in place permanently. She also stated that the cost of these temporary measures is included as part of the overall construction project budget and represents a small portion of the total project cost.
- Commissioners discussed the practice and raised several questions and concerns. Some commissioners noted potential issues with driver confusion when temporary stop signs are removed and questioned whether the use of additional stop signs could conflict with traffic control guidance, particularly regarding the use of stop signs for speed control. Others asked about the criteria used to determine where devices are installed and about ACHD's broader traffic calming policies. The Commission expressed interest in continuing the discussion at a future meeting, and ACHD staff agreed to provide additional information on the agency's traffic calming guidelines.

5. INFORMATION: Stratford to Touchmark Feasibility Study

- City of Meridian Long Range Associate Planner Carl Anderson presented an update on the Stratford/Touchmark feasibility study. Anderson noted that the study builds on earlier discussions with the commission in October 2025 and includes a final white paper and technical memorandum that were recently provided to the commission. The study's goals include improving connectivity, reducing pressure on the arterial network, discouraging neighborhood cut through traffic, and supporting future economic development and utility extensions for areas currently served by well and septic systems.
- The consultants evaluated several potential roadway alignments and ultimately carried forward three primary concepts (C, D, and E) for further analysis. Staff recommended prioritizing Concept D, which generally follows the alignment identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Concept D provides the most direct connection between Central Drive and Wells Street and offers opportunities for redevelopment. The City has begun coordination with the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to request that the preferred collector alignment be added to the ACHD Master Street Map, with further discussions scheduled with ACHD staff and commissioners.
- Commissioners discussed the study and offered general feedback but were not asked to take formal action. Staff also noted that future planning efforts may examine interchange improvements, access management, and further land use coordination as redevelopment occurs in the area. The commission expressed support for improving connectivity in the corridor and acknowledged the transportation challenges in the area.

6. INFORMATION: Ex-Officio Updates

- ACHD – Rebecca Phillips introduces herself as the new liaison and provides updates from ACHD including that ACHD is currently developing its five year plan and is coordinating with Meridian planning staff on the city’s project priority list, which is due March 18. She also noted that a public meeting for the Locust Grove concept study would be held that week at Chief Joseph Elementary and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the commission’s liaison moving forward.
- COMPASS – Austin Miller provided ex-officio updates from COMPASS, noting that the High Capacity Transit Planning and Environmental Linkages study had recently been accepted by the COMPASS Board of Directors. He also announced an upcoming COMPASS education series event featuring a speaker from the Maricopa Association of Governments in Phoenix, Arizona, who will share lessons learned from major transportation investments in that region, he encouraged Meridian and ACHD staff to attend the seminars on March 11th and 12th.
- West Ada School District – No representative present to provide updates.
- VRT – No representative present to provide updates
- ITD – Justin Price reported that there were no major updates at this time.
- Meridian Police Department – No representative present to provide updates
- Meridian Legal – No representative present to provide updates

7. INFORMATION: Staff Communications

- Staff indicated there were no additional items beyond those included in the staff memo.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- 8. Pine Ave, Black Cat to Ten Mile – Speeding Concerns**
- 9. Union 93 development project on Broadway Ave across from Meridian City Hall.**
- 10. ACHD Master Street Map Changes – Arterial Corridor Preservation (Cherry Lane)**
- 11. East 3rd Street Extension Alignment**
- 12. ACHD Five-Year Plan Update**
- 13. Woodbridge Neighborhood Requests (cross-walks, traffic calming, gates)**

NEXT MEETING - April 6, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for approval by Commissioner Hopkins with second by Commissioner Ballard to adjourn.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)