



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Meridian Transportation Commission **Meeting Date:** March 7, 2023
Presenter: Walter Steed, Chair **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Topic: Transportation Commission 2022 End of Year Report

Meridian Transportation Commission

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

The Meridian Transportation Commission was formed in February 2013 with Ordinance No. 13-152. The Commission consists of nine appointed commissioners and meets in the Council Chambers on the first Monday of each month. Walter Steed and Jared Smith served as Chair and Vice-Chair in 2022. Last month both were re-elected to their respective positions for 2023. Joseph Leckie served as the Youth Commissioner January through August; Hoyoon Song was appointed to the position beginning in October.

Representatives from Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) District 3, Ada County Highway District (ACHD), COMPASS, Valley Regional Transit (VRT), and the West Ada School District (WASD) attend as ex-officio members. Planning Division Manager Caleb Hood and Comprehensive Associate Coordination Planner Miranda Carson provide staff support. Tishra Murray, Deputy City Attorney, provides legal guidance. January through September, Sergeant Justin Dance provided regular traffic issues and concerns from the Meridian Police Department (MPD) to the Commission. Since October, Corporal Randy Goodspeed has provided those updates. City Staff provides monthly updates regarding the progress of ITD and ACHD projects in design and construction. Additional City staff and other staff from the ex-officio agencies interact with the Commission from time-to-time, as do members of the public.

Regarding what we did last year, in January 2022, resident Jon Wheeler presented on concerns at the Bri Development on Records Avenue south of River Valley. The Commission requested a speed study and crosswalk evaluation from ACHD on Records, and ACHD determined no change was warranted with crosswalks. Valley Regional Transit's Alissa Taysom provided an update on the Connected 2.0 transit plan.

In February, the Commission heard a presentation from Meridian Planner, Brian McClure on the new Fields Sub-area Plan, and Planning Director, Caleb Hood on center median options along Ustick Road. The Commission had lengthy discussion of variable road speeds on Eagle Road and recommended a speed study. The Ordinance and Development Subcommittee discussed Meridian parking ordinance and reviewed current conditions of Downtown parking; Subcommittee Chair, Tom LeClaire provided an update to the full Commission. To refresh Commission and update newer Commissioners, Miranda Carson provided a review of the Commission bylaws, and there was discussion of duties and powers.

In March, Commissioner Stephen Lewis presented on enhanced pedestrian crossings, which the ACHD Pedestrian Advisory Group was considering in the Valley and solicited feedback from fellow Commissioners.

In May, ACHD's Meg McCarthy gave a presentation on the ACHD Bicycle Advisory Committee. Per citizen request, there was also discussion on crosswalks on Stockenham and consideration of adding compression brake signs on Linder.

In June, Mayor Simison at the request of the Commission recapped the State of the City transportation review. A citizen concern regarding compression brake usage on Linder Road was further discussed with input from ACHD and City staff. Austin Miller from ACHD presented on the agency's Capital Improvement Plan and impact fee ordinance. Resident Samantha Cragg presented on concerns regarding a pathway crossing on Amity, and the Commission recommended an enhanced crossing be considered by the Prioritization subcommittee for inclusion in the City's Integrated Five-Year Work Plan (IFYWP) requests. Discussion began on citizen concerns around a micro-path in the Raven Hill subdivision.

In August, Chair Steed provided an update on the ACHD Capital Investment Citizens Advisory Committee's (CICAC) work on the ACHD impact fee ordinance. Resident concerns regarding u-turns on Chinden at Linder and "no parking" signs in the Woodbridge neighborhood were discussed. Resident concerns of a crossing at Black Cat and Gondola were discussed, and the Commission recommended an enhanced crossing be included in the City's IFYWP requests.

In September, Commissioners and staff were given a tour of the ACHD Traffic Operation Center and Sign Shop. The tour also included an overview of current traffic signal operation in Ada County.

In October, Elaine Clegg and COMPASS Planner Lila Klopfenstein provided a presentation on the history and future of local and interstate railways in the Treasure Valley. COMPASS Planner Hunter Mulhall provided a presentation on the I-84 Operations Corridor Plan. There was lengthy discussion on a citizen inquiry in regard to speed limit signs and a crosswalk on Lost Rapids Drive near Bird Park. The Commission recommended MPD and ACHD staff collect and review speed data in the area. The Commission recommended a painted crossing be considered by the Prioritization subcommittee for inclusion in the City's IFYWP requests.

In November, Lost Rapids Drive speed data from MPD and ACHD was reviewed and discussed. The Transportation Commission requested ACHD follow up with the neighbors regarding traffic calming and do a crosswalk evaluation at San Vito/Lost Rapids. There was also discussion regarding additional parking at Bird Park. Miranda Carson provided a primer on the City's annual transportation project prioritization efforts that were set to kick off with staff later in the month and begin with the Commission in December. The Prioritization subcommittee had a lengthy meeting in late-November to begin prioritizing Meridian transportation Projects as part of the IFYWP process.

In December, Ashley Ferguson, owner of The Griddle restaurant on Overland, presented a request to have a crosswalk installed and the speed reduced on Celebration Avenue due to concerns about pedestrian safety in the area. The Commission recommended several actions, and City and ACHD staff began to work through these issues. The Commission reviewed the Roads and Intersections section of the IFYWP list.

A complete record of TC minutes can be found here:

<https://weblink.meridiancity.org/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=255481&dbid=0&repo=MeridianCity>.

The Transportation Commission is grateful for the opportunity to provide service to the citizens of Meridian and City Council regarding transportation systems in our community.