

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

August 1, 2022

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

Virtual Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83136458810>

Or join by phone: Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 831 3645 8810

Roll Call

(Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m.; YouTube started and roll taken)

<u>o</u> David Ballard	<u>x</u> Stephen Lewis	<u>x</u> John Wasson (ex-officio-ACHD)
<u>x</u> Zachary Shoemaker	<u>x</u> Jared Smith	<u>x</u> Liisa Itkonen (ex-officio-COMPASS)
<u>o</u> Ryan Lancaster	<u>x</u> Tom LeClaire	<u>o</u> RD Huntley (ex-officio-WASD)
<u>x</u> Walter Steed	<u>x</u> Hoyoon Song	<u>x</u> Alissa Taysom (ex-officio-VRT)
<u>x</u> Tracy Hopkins	_____	<u>x</u> Justin Price (ex-officio-ITD)

Others Present: M. Carson, C. Hood, R. Goodspeed, T. Murray

Introduction of Meridian Police CPL Randy Goodspeed

Introduction of New Youth Commissioner Hoyoon Song

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Steed noted that item 6 on the agenda would be deleted since Cpl Goodspeed had just been introduced. Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt; 2nd by Commissioner Hopkins - All ayes; Passes

Approval of Minutes

1. August 1, 2022
2. September 12, 2022

Motion by Commissioner Hopkins to approve both sets of minutes; 2nd by Commissioner Le Claire - All ayes; Passes

Old Business Items

3. Transportation Projects Update M. Carson

Ms. Carson began the update noting ACHD is going to start with their Integrated Five-Year Work Plan process in November. On page 9, Eagle Road there are some signal improvements

that ACHD will continue to work with the remainder of the year. On page 11, Chinden West Final Phase Meridian, to Locust Grove began construction in September and will continue through December. Construction will pick back up and finish in the summer of 2023. Highway 16 began construction in August and is anticipated to be complete in 2024. An interagency safety review team has been assembled to discuss State Highway 55/Eagle Road regarding safety and speed. VRT local route started in October; the route will be free to ride for the month. If you download the app, you will get another month free.

Miranda stood for comments. There was some discussion about the speed checks on Eagle Rd.

New Business Items

4. Railways in Treasure Valley (Elaine Clegg & Lila Klopfenstein)

Discussion about the History of High-capacity transit planning and proposed next steps. Lila reviewed the purpose of high-capacity transit (HCT). HCT is faster than a local bus, carries more people than a local bus, and has improved service and amenities. There are 3 types of High Capacity transit modes. 1. Bus Rapid transit. 2. Commuter rail 3. Light rail. They are working on a transit that would run East to West, from Caldwell, through Nampa, Meridian and out to the Boise Bench. This research is being conducted primarily because of the growth in the Treasure Valley. A survey called All Aboard was conducted. Based on the survey, the approved the Boise Rail to the cut off in Boise. Looking ahead a scope of work needs to be developed and study will be conducted. In the long-term funding still needs to be secured, an environmental review will be conducted, and infrastructure needs to be built. Lila stood for questions. There was some further discussion.

Elaine Clegg began a presentation about restoring passenger rail in the Treasure Valley. Rail is being considered because much of rural America is underserved by long-distance intercity passenger rail options, including portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, residence of which for years have not had good access to passenger rail service. Rail would provide single seat rides in overlapping city pair markets, and could combine many small markets to generate economic volumes. There are also a lot of economic benefits of passenger rail. There are environmental advantages, as trains are three times more efficient than a car with emissions. The IIJA includes \$15 million to study discontinued long-distance lines for feasibility and cost benefit for restoration. The next steps are to support FRA study, join an Interstate Rail compact in Idaho, and coordinate and utilize funding authorized in IIJA to improve infrastructure. There was some further discussion.

5. I-84 Corridor Operations Plan (H. Mulhall)

Hunter Mulhall, began his briefing on the contents of the I-84 Corridor Operations Plan and the next steps. The contents of the plan are: Identifying operational challenges, project goals and objectives; Identifying, screening, and ranking tactics; and Developing an operational vision, and roadmap for implementation. The project, co-managed by ITD and Compass, set out to identify TSMO/ITS strategies and tactics that can help to improve operations and safety on the I-84 and I-184 corridors. The plan is to reach policy makers for planning and funding. The scope of the project is Exit 25 in Middleton, to 57 in Gowen and I-84 to drop down in Boise. The Goals and

Objectives: 1. Improve the safety of the I-84/I-184 corridor. 2. Respond to regional growth by maximizing capacity and reliability of I-84/I-184 for travelers and freight. 3. Manage I-84/OI84 as part of an integrated transportation system, including state highways, arterials and transit. Next steps are to complete HOV analysis (December 2022) and continue to work with ITD and Regional operations workgroup to develop, program, and fund tactics. Mr. Mulhall stood for questions, there was some further discussion.

6. Lost Rapids Citizen Requests (M. Carson)

Ms. Carson presented a citizen inquiry with regard to speed limit signs to be posted near Bird park in Lost Rapids, and a painted cross at the Bird Park entrance.

With regard to speed limit signs, Mr. Wasson, provided the following the information.
SPEED: Placing additional speed limits signs would not likely lower speeds. It was also expressed that with 2 signs 3500' apart and a default 25mph speed in Meridian no driver can claim they didn't know the speed if cited. That is not to say that speed is not an issue. Meridian Police, ACHD traffic, City staff will work in the next couple weeks to review past speed data and if needed collect more recent speed data along this stretch. Next steps may include the following.
1. Cut through evaluations. 2. Pedestrian crossing evaluations. 3. Speed limit feedback signage, speed cushions, or other traffic calming as warranted. They will be looking at peak hours, for how many people are in the area. Mr. Hood added some information about adding parking spaces, if possible.

The crosswalk inquiry discussion was as follows.

CROSSWALK: Currently there is illegal parking happening along Lost Rapids, and it is likely those users who are crossing. This illegal parking along the street needs to be addressed. Ms. Carson will also inquire the Parks about the process for determine if additional parking should be added to the park. With new apartments coming South of Costco, town homes west of Costco, and the subdivision being built out just North of the Park, foot traffic across Lost Rapids (not from illegal parkers) will be increasing in the coming years. The Transportation Commission prioritizes all transportation projects in the City annually. This process will begin this month, and I will add this crosswalk to the prioritization list for their (and subsequently Council's) consideration.

7. Staff Communications (M. Carson)

Ms. Carson presented a information on citizen concerns regarding overgrown weeds on the sidewalk and a crosswalk on near Pleasant View at Black Cat and Gondola. A resident inquired regarding City Jurisdiction and transportation planning; he was frustrated how road planning is integrated in our area. Mr. Hood responded to that inquiry that is in the packet.

The speed limit changed on Meridian road from 35MPH to 45MPH. ACHD talked to Meridian Police Department about the change in the speed, but Planning was not given a chance to weigh in. Going forward MPD and Planning will coordinate on these requests for input from road agencies and will let the Transportation Commission now about any changes in speed limit.

Future Meeting Topics

8. City Project Prioritization (November)

9. Lost Rapids

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

Motion by Commissioner Smith to adjourn; 2nd by Commissioner Hopkins – All ayes; Passes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

APPROVED:

WALTER STEED, CHAIR

DATE

ATTEST:

CHRIS JOHNSON (City Clerk)

DATE