

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, April 6, 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

Action: Motion for the adoption of the agenda by Commissioner Smith, with second from Commissioner LeClaire

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, March 2, 2026

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

- Replace “traffic control guidance” with “traffic control prohibition” regarding stop signs for speed control.
- Clarify language to reflect student pedestrians (not drivers) being distracted by mobile devices.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

2. INFORMATION: Staff Transportation Project Tracking

- Craige Bergman provided the Commission with an update stating there are minor updates to the project tracking. Commissioners asked for clarification on the Third Street corridor, where portions of the project are on hold pending future decisions related to Cole Valley. Staff clarified that the tracking sheet reflects a chronological record, with older decisions such as the temporary scrapped roundabout later superseded by updated plans. Phase 2 of the Linder Road Overpass project is currently out to bid which includes construction of the bridge and completion of major roadway segments. Other minor changes were discussed with staff being directed to make those corrections.

3. ACTION: Use of School Flashers during Lunch Periods

- West Ada School District Director of Education Services David Reinhart presented to The Transportation Commission regarding the school district's decision to use School Flashers during Lunch Periods. District representatives explained that the request originated as a proactive safety measure, prompted by student concerns following a fatal crash near Rocky Mountain High School. They emphasized that large numbers of students are active during open lunch periods, creating safety risks. Coordination with ACHD resulted in a targeted approach where flashers activate only at the beginning and end of lunch periods to address peak traffic times avoiding driver fatigue from constant use.
- Commissioners raised a range of questions and concerns specifically around the justification and effectiveness of the measure. Commissioners also questioned if there is sufficient data to support the need for reduced speed limits at high schools. Commissioner Lancaster noted that traditional school zone standards are typically focused on younger students, Elementary school children specifically. The Commission also raised concerns about enforcement challenges and whether the measure could unintentionally create unnecessary delays or reduce compliance for other types of traffic calming measures. Commissioner Smith supported the efforts and practice of Using School Flashers by the West Ada School District to enhance safety for students.
- While Commissioners Lancaster, Lewis, LeClaire advocated for a formal recommendation to discontinue the practice, Commissioner Smith favored taking no action arguing that the measure posed minimal downside and could enhance safety. Additional questions were raised regarding the commission's role in reviewing a decision already implemented through coordination between the school district and ACHD. After much discussion Commissioner Lancaster motioned that the "Commission make a written recommendation to the City Council that lunchtime reduced speed limits at high schools in Meridian be removed", the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis.
 - Bansal – aye
 - Smith – nay
 - LeClair – aye
 - Ballard – nay
 - Hopkins – aye
 - Lancaster – aye
 - Lewis – aye
 - Steed – Abstained
- 5 – 2 motion passes, staff to assist in drafting recommendation letter for City Council to removed lunch time reduced speed limits in Meridian.

4. ACTION: Woodbridge Neighborhood Area Updates

- The Transportation Commission received an update on ongoing issues in the Woodbridge neighborhood, including a City Council initiated letter to ACHD requesting consideration of a gated or bollard style closure on Magic View Dr. This effort is to limit traffic cut through for the neighborhood. Staff clarified that the actions were largely driven by resident concerns raised during a recent development hearing and that no formal decisions have been made by ACHD. Commissioners discussed potential impacts such as emergency access and school bus routes. A motion was ultimately made to support the Council's request for blocking the east entrance of Woodbridge. After discussion highlighting the neighborhood has rejected other options for traffic calming measures, the motion failed. The commission took no further action and moved on to the next agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

5. ACTION: Transportation Commission 2025 End of Year Report

- Commission agreed the letter for the City Council was great.

6. ACTION: Downtown Parking Strategy Committee

- Caleb Hood informed the Commission of a new initiative led by the Downtown Urban Renewal Agency to evaluate parking in the downtown area. Staff explained that an ad hoc committee will be formed to support this effort. Participation will be from multiple stakeholders and the Commission was asked to provide up to three volunteers to serve on the committee. Final selection would be determined by the City Council leadership. Staff committed to sending an email to gather interested participants. No formal action taken.

7. INFORMATION: Ex-Officio Updates

- Due to time constraints, no ex-officio updates were provided.

8. INFORMATION: Staff Communications

- Due to time constraints, no staff communications were discussed.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

9. Pine Ave, Black Cat to Ten Mile – Speeding Concerns

10. Union 93 development project on Broadway Ave across from Meridian City Hall.

11. ACHD Master Street Map Changes – Arterial Corridor Preservation (Cherry Lane)

12. East 3rd Street Extension Alignment

13. ACHD Five-Year Plan Update

14. Woodbridge Neighborhood Requests (cross-walks, traffic calming, gates)

NEXT MEETING - May 4, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

No official motion to Adjourn.

Action:

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)