

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, February 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

Kelly Bruner (ACHD)

Austin Miller (COMPASS)

Erin Sweeney (WASD)

Kate Dahl (VRT)

Justin Price (ITD)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Morgan Carter (Police)

Emily Kane (Legal)

Brian McClure (Com. Dev.)

Caleb Hood (Com. Dev.)

Craige Bergman (Com. Dev.)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

No changes proposed to the agenda

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, January 5, 2026

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

Action: Approved, all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

2. INFORMATION: Staff Transportation Project Tracking

- Brian McClure introduced Craige Bergman as the new liaison to the commission from Long-Range Planning and presented the transportation project tracking report. No significant updates were noted since the previous meeting, except that City Council recently reviewed and accepted the Stratford/Touchmark Transportation White Paper and directed staff to proceed with preservation efforts. Additionally, Commissioners thanked staff for the improvements made to the formatting of the Transportation Tracking document, which made changes easier to identify.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

3. INFORMATION: ACHD FYP 27-31 Project Process

- Edinson Bautista presented the overview of the 2027-2031 Five Year Transportation Plan process that kicked off January 5th, 2026. The presentation highlighted the Five-Year Plan as a tool used to integrate construction and maintenance projects, prioritize future projects, and coordinate with the public and partner agencies. Edinson reviewed the current 2026-2030 plan for Meridian, which includes thirty projects ranging from maintenance to major corridor expansions.
- Edinson also explained the partner agency prioritization approach, which focuses on maintaining each city's top three priorities through construction to preserve funding. This approach allows new projects to advance once construction begins. Public outreach for the plan is underway from January 22 through February 19, with comments to be shared with the City of Meridian after February 19th. Key milestones include prioritization requests from partner agencies March, commission review of outreach results in May, release of a draft plan in the summer, and final adoption consideration by the ACHD Commission in September.

4. ACTION: ACHD FYP 27-31 Prioritization

- The subcommittee presented its recommended roadway and intersection priorities, with significant discussion focused on corridor-level prioritization, particularly Locust Grove Road versus Meridian Road, the conversation addressed connectivity issues in South Meridian being the primary driver to focus Locust Grove over Meridian Road. Commissioners stated that Meridian needs improvements on both corridors but project prioritization with focus primarily on Locust Grove.
- Additional discussion was brought forward about projects already under construction remaining in the top priority tier, this included a recommendation from staff to ensure the top prioritized projects for the FYP are projects that still require funding during the plans stated timeframe, 2027 – 2031. Additional staff recommendations included the importance of aligning roadway widening with bridge projects to avoid future reconstruction.
- The commission approved two modifications to the subcommittee's recommendations: The revised prioritization list was approved and forwarded to staff.
 - Move 2025's Priority #7, (Locust Grove Rd. Amity Rd / Victory Rd), to Priority #1 with language revised to reflect a five-lane configuration.
 - Move 2025's Priority #1 (Linder Rd, Overland Rd/ Franklin Rd) to Priority #4.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

5. INFORMATION: Use of School Flashers during Lunch Periods

- Erin Sweeney of the West Ada School District presented the recently implemented use of school zone flashers during lunch periods at all six West Ada School District

- high schools, with Erin Sweeney explaining that her role was limited to coordinating timing with ACHD traffic engineers and school principals. She reported that flasher schedules are based on how long students take to leave and return to campus, with consistent times on weekdays with an adjusted schedule on Wednesdays to accommodate late start. Erin also noted the system is already in operation with no feedback or complaints reported to her department.
- Commissioners raised concerns about the lack of prior commission involvement, uncertainty over who authorized the decision, and whether the reduced speed limits are legally enforceable. Meridian Legal department representative Emily Kane researched and cited Idaho Code provisions granting ACHD authority to install traffic control devices and establish school zone speed limits. Several commissioners criticized the approach as inconsistent with Institute of Traffic Engineers and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices guidelines, which generally discourages school zones at high schools and the use of school zones to influence driver's behavior. Commission requested that staff include ACHD traffic engineering, law enforcement, and relevant city and school officials to future conversations.

6. INFORMATION: Temporary Traffic Controls

- Caleb Hood noted that no subject matter specialists were present to answer detailed questions. Instead, staff played a video presentation from ACHD Director Ryan Head during the City Council/ACHD Joint meeting on January 13th, 2026. The video shows ACHD Director Ryan Head explaining ACHD's approach to installing temporary stop signs and speed humps in nearby neighborhoods to address construction related traffic outside of designated detour routes. Director Head explains the intent for these traffic control measures is a proactive strategy to discourage neighborhood traffic impacts before complaints arise.
- Commissioners stated that the presentation suggested a policy shift at ACHD, particularly the apparent use of stop signs for speed control. Additional concern was raised that speed humps appear to be installed proactively. Commissioners agreed the topic required further discussion with ACHD traffic engineering staff present, and staff committed to inviting the appropriate personnel to a future meeting. With consensus that the issue could not be fully addressed without the right experts in the room, the commission agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

7. INFORMATION: Ex-Officio Updates

- ACHD – Kelly Bruner reported the kickoff of the next Five-year plan was highlighted early in the evening by Edinson Bautista. Also noted he will be absent for the next two meeting due to paternity leave. A temporary replacement will be determined, commissions congratulated him on the upcoming addition to his family.
- COMPASS – Austin Miller reported that there were no major project updates since the previous meeting. Mr. Miller took the opportunity to announce an upcoming COMPASS Education Series event featuring Dr. Tom Sanchez of Texas A&M University. This education seminar will focus on the practical use of artificial

intelligence in community and transportation planning, with public and professional sessions scheduled for February 25 and 26.

- West Ada School District – Erin Sweeney provided an update on school boundary adjustments, explaining that boundaries have gone through multiple refinements with a focus on safety and operational efficiency. The proposed boundary changes are scheduled to be presented to the school board for final approval on February 9 and, if approved, will result in adjustments affecting local schools and neighborhoods.
- VRT – Kate Dahl reports no updates from VRT
- ITD – Justin Price reported that there were no major updates at this time but confirmed that installation of variable speed limit signs along Eagle Road remains on schedule for implementation in the spring.
- Meridian Police Department – No representative present
- Meridian Legal – Emily Kane reports no updates from Legal

8. INFORMATION: Staff Communications

- Staff indicated there were no additional items beyond those included in the staff memo. Staff confirmed the Stratford to Touchmark Feasibility study will be presented with consultant findings at a future meeting. Staff also explained details of a post office parking lot constructed on Meridian Road outside the City's permitting process, noting concerns about land use decisions affecting the transportation network. Commissioners discussed the potential need for enhanced pedestrian crossings and operational impacts on Main Street, with staff confirming that ACHD is reviewing the crosswalk request and that further updates are expected.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

9. Stratford to Touchmark Feasibility Study Update

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

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

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

13. East 3rd Street Extension Alignment

NEXT MEETING - March 2, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

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

Action: Approved, all ayes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)