



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Meridian Transportation Commission **Meeting Date:** April 8, 2025
Presenter: Walter Steed, Chair **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Topic: Transportation Commission 2024 End of Year Report

Meridian Transportation Commission

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

The Meridian Transportation Commission (TC) 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 respectively in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Walter Steed was re-elected to Chair for 2025 and Tom LeClaire was elected for Vice-Chair. Hoyoon Song served as the Youth Commissioner from October 2022 through September 2024. Other members have retained their positions for years.

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) participate as ex-officio members. Under the direction of Caleb Hood, Long-Range Associate Coordination Planner, Hether Hill, provided primary staff support to the Commission for most of 2024; Tishra Murray, Deputy City Attorney, provided legal guidance. From the Meridian Police Department, either Sergeant Tara Smith or Corporal Trevor Weitzel were present, providing updates/expertise related to traffic issues and safety. City Staff provides the TC monthly updates regarding the progress of ITD and ACHD projects in design and construction. Each meeting, time is set-aside for all Ex-Officio members to provide monthly updates on activity in their area. City staff from Police and Parks and other staff from the ex-officio agencies interact with the Commission from time-to-time, as do members of the public.

In January and February 2024, the Commission prepared their recommendations to Council on the highest priority Roadway and Intersection projects and Community Programs for 2024. This work was the culmination of the Commission's work from previous months, including recommendations from the TC Prioritization Subcommittee.

In March, the Commission reevaluated the lists of Road and Intersection and Community Program projects following City Council's review of the draft list in late February and the questions/concerns that

followed. Kristy Inselman, ACHD, provided the Commission with an overview of what neighborhood plans are, as well as an update on the Downtown Meridian Neighborhood Transportation Plan.

In April, Kim Warren, Parks and Recreation Department, shared recent accomplishments; an overview of planning for pathways, maintenance of GIS pathway maps; and discussed the process for in-house pathways design, implementation and an overview of the development entitlement process. Dan Gorley, ITD, also presented to the Commission and covered the SH-16 project, addressing the vision, timeline, construction updates and future interchanges. Caleb Hood provided a refresher on section line arterial roadways, most of which are planned to be preserved for 5 lanes. Mr. Hood shared concerns with some of the listed roadway segments and impacts to the community if roadways were built out to the planned right-of-way width shown on ACHD's Master Street Map.

In May, Brooke Green (ACHD), provided a presentation on the Linder Rd., Pine/Ustick Ave Concept Study. The update included a summary of the previous public involvement meetings, status of current property owner meetings, revised concepts (3 total), including number of parcel acquisitions required, high-level cost estimates for all three alternatives and upcoming Meridian City Council meeting presentation. The Commission recommended City Council support Concepts #2 or #3. During the May meeting, Emily Kane presented upcoming changes to the Meridian City Code, with the objective to update ordinances and simplify processes as part of the City of Meridian's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Ms. Kane discussed changes in Title 2 that relate to the Transportation Commission, which generally reflect the commission's current practices and will provide uniformity in the code. Following the Mayor's letter to ACHD regarding the Locust Grove/Amity intersection project, Brian McClure was available to take any of the Commission's comments/feedback for an interim intersection request due to traffic congestion and the project being put on an indefinite pause. Ricardo Calderon (ACHD) was also available to discuss interim solutions, including approximate timelines, costs and impacts to other project prioritizations. The Commission did not make a motion or recommendation for an interim intersection and stood behind the City's prioritized list of projects in the Integrated Five Year Work Plan (IFYWP). Lastly, Caleb Hood refreshed the Commission on the April meeting, where information on the ACHD Master Street Plan, Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and a summary of communications with ACHD regarding the preservation of more than 3-lanes on section-line arterial roadways took place.

In June, Mr. Hood was back to request a recommendation from the Commission in anticipation of sending a formal request from the City to ACHD to amend the Master Street Map (MSM). Mr. Hood emphasized that the current MSM conversation is about preservation for section line arterial to accommodate 5 travel lanes. The Commission also received a report from Justin Price (ITD) on crash data at the Chinden/Linder intersection for 2021, 2022 and 2023 following a citizen's concern about the safety of U-turns at the signalized intersection. John Wasson (ACHD) shared that ACHD is in the process of installing approximately 80 speed humps across the County.

In July, Mr. Hood provided a copy of the letter sent to ACHD addressing the City's request to increase all section line arterial roadways from three lanes to five, or 100 feet of right-of-way. Segments of Cherry/Fairview and Overland, which are preserved for seven lanes, or 120 feet of right-of-way, were excluded from the recommendation until such a time traffic counts can be evaluated. Hether Hill shared with the Commission that City Council chose Concept #2, standard 5-lane road without roundabouts, for the Linder Road Concept Study. Seth Jarsky (ACHD) provided an update on the Ustick, Owhyee Storm to Black Cat project, including community survey results. Miranda Carson (WASD) announced that Durham School Services will be servicing the District starting in Fall 2024 for a 5-year contract.

In August, the draft ACHD Integrated Five-Year Work Plan for 2025-2029 was shared, as it was available for public review and comment. There were several adjustments to the projects for the Commission and staff to digest. John Wasson (ACHD) reported that ACHD had conducted their evaluation for the Lost Rapids/Bird Park intersection and found there are adequate gaps in traffic to allow for crossing and a painted crosswalk is not needed.

In September, Commissioners and staff met at the Public Safety Training Center for an informational presentation and demonstration of a crash reconstruction provided by the Meridian Police Department.

In October, the Commission received a presentation from Mindy Wallace (ACHD) on the Traffic Impact Study process. Alissa Taysom (VRT) provided a ridership update following the June 2024 Service Change on fixed route bus services.

In November, Mr. Wasson provided an update on ACHD's investigation of visibility and sight distance at the intersection of Corporate/S. Progress (based on a request from the Mayor's Office in June). There was also continued discussion about traffic impacts from Rockharbor Church on the intersection of Tree Farm/Chinden and the ability of residents to access their homes.

In December, Hether Hill provided a recap of ACHD's Draft Traffic Calming Policy process as part of a final opportunity to provide any feedback/comments to ACHD prior to policy adoption. Ms. Hill also provided an update to the Commission on efforts related to the Meridian Intersection Pedestrian Safety (MIPS) report and identifying projects to move forward with using funds allocated by City Council in the FY25 Budget.

A complete record of TC minutes can be found here:

<https://weblink.meridiancity.org/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=311586&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.