



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Meridian Transportation Commission **Meeting Date:** March 12, 2024
Presenter: Walter Steed, Chairman **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Topic: Transportation Commission 2023 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 |

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 and 2023 and were both re-elected in January to their positions for 2024. Hoyoon Song has served as the Youth Commissioner since October 2022. 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, previous Comprehensive Associate Coordination Planner Miranda Carson provided primary staff support to the Commission for most of 2023; Tishra Murray, Deputy City Attorney, provided legal guidance. In March, Sergeant Tara Smith took over for Corporal Randy Goodspeed, providing regular traffic issues and concerns from the Meridian Police Department (MPD) to the Commission. City Staff provides the TC monthly updates regarding the progress of ITD and ACHD projects in design and construction. New in 2023, time was 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 2023, the Commission finalized their recommendations to Council on the highest priority roadway, intersection and Community Programs projects for 2023. This work was the culmination of the Commission's work from previous months, including recommendations from the TC Prioritization Subcommittee. Corporal Goodspeed discussed a draft ordinance considering changing the default speed limit in Meridian to 20 MPH from the current 25 MPH. A sub-committee of the Commission discussed the idea and did not endorse the proposal.

In February, the agenda items included introductions of two new Ex-Officio members: David Reinhart from WASD and Lila Klopfenstein from COMPASS. Continued discussion occurred about development patterns, parking and pedestrian access near the Celebration/Overland intersection. An update from Commissioner LeClaire representing the Ordinance and Development Subcommittee was given regarding the downtown master plan being facilitated by MDC.

In March, the Commission welcomed Sergeant Tara Smith from Police as their new liaison to the TC. The Commission heard a presentation from Ryan Head, ACHD, about a new crosswalk initiative at ACHD that includes allowing pedestrians to start cross at signalized intersections prior to cars getting a green light. An update from Caleb Hood on the status of the Intersection and Pedestrian Taskforce was given. Concerns from a resident about access points into the commercial project on the southwest corner of Ten Mile/Cherry were discussed and ACHD staff evaluated. Concerns about speeding on Eagle Road were also received. Once again, parking near Celebration/Overland was discussed by the TC.

In April, the Commission learned of a concern from residents about crossing Linder Road at American Fork/Kodiak, near Victory Middle School. It was agreed that WASD, ACHD and City Staff should evaluate this further. A motion was made, requesting Council petition ACHD to remove the parking restriction on E. Cinema Drive, just north of Celebration, near Overland. Concerns were shared about noise from loud mufflers, a signal at Ten Mile/Teter, a need for a crosswalk at Black Cat/Gondola and pedestrian flags on Chinden/Locust Grove.

On May 1st, the Ordinance and Development Subcommittee met to review crash data, Destination Downtown and receive an update about the Intersection and Pedestrian Safety effort (MIPS). During the May TC meeting, ACHD's John Wasson provided an update on the traffic calming petition received for Lost Rapids Drive and the crosswalk evaluation near Bird Park. An update on the Pine Avenue extension from Ten Mile to Black Cat was included in the packet, as was information on parking and bike lanes on Centerpointe Way (behind Dick's Sporting Goods). ACHD also reported their findings on requests in the Pheasant Pointe Neighborhood.

In June, the Commission got an overview on "speed cushions" from ACHD staff. Valley Regional Transit provided the Commission with an overview of upcoming 2024 service changes. The McMillan corridor – preservation of right-of-way, constraints to widening and the SH-16 overpass – were reviewed. At the Mayor's request, the TC reviewed the Belltower/Coppercloud intersection (Bridgetower Subdivision) for safety concerns raised by a resident.

In July, the Commission received an update from the Ordinance and Development Subcommittee which did not support changing the City's default speed limit to 20 MPH. The TC received an update from Police about the installation of traffic cameras that read license plates. A request for enforcement and a signal at River Valley/Records was received; a potential roundabout at this location was discussed.

In August, the TC received an update and discussed ACHD's proposed traffic calming policy. ACHD's new pathway setback policy at intersections were discussed. The draft ACHD Integrated Five-Year Work Plan for 2024-2028 was shared as it was available for public review and comment. A draft letter was prepared for Council consideration regarding the initial draft of the IFYWP. The Commission also discussed bus pick-up and drop-off for Meridian Middle School on Camelia Lane.

In September, Commissioners and staff were given a tour of the Campbell Company (PedSafety) in Boise. The tour included an overview of their development and production facility as well as demonstrations of their technology and products to enhance pedestrian safety.

In October, the Commission heard from a representative from Bird about their scooter program. Additionally, the TC received updated information from ITD on their Eagle Road speed and safety analysis. Pedestrian flag requests were received at Main/King and Long Lake/Chinden.

In November, the final Intersection & Pedestrian Safety (MIPS) report was shared with the Commission. VRT staff presented the 2024 service changes to be implemented in June. It was mentioned that the downtown parking group would be meeting on November 30th. An update on the Linder Road Overpass project was shared and the opportunity to check out the design on ACHD's website. Lost Rapids Drive speed data from MPD and ACHD was reviewed and discussed. The Transportation Commission heard about a concern from residents living on a private lane just west of Meridian High School and their roads being used for after school pick-up.

In December, Brooke Green, Pierson DeWitt and Brian McClure presented Linder Road, Pine to Ustick design options that were going to the public via survey later in the month. The Commission also received an update from Brian on the ACHD Capital Roadway Improvement Guide (Matrix) used by the City when ACHD is designing projects. Parking issues and how the TC would/should handle requests from the public for parking restrictions was discussed. The Commission explored the need for STOP sign placement in the drive-aisles at the Knighthill project (southwest corner of Chinden/Linder).

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.