

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, May 4, 2026

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

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

David Ballard

Ryan Lancaster

Jared Smith

Walter Steed

Stephen Lewis

Tom LeClaire

Zach Shoemaker

Tracy Hopkins

Advik Bansal

EX-OFFICIO

Rebecca Phillips (ACHD)

Kate Dahl (VRT)

Austin Miller (COMPASS)

Justin Price (ITD)

Miranda Carson (WASD)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Morgan Carter (Police)

Caleb Hood (Com. Dev.)

Tishra Murray (Legal)

Craige Bergman (Com. Dev.)

Brian McClure (Com. Dev.)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, April 6, 2026

Chair Walter Steed noted that he discussed several minor corrections with staff prior to the meeting.

Action: No official motion

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

2. INFORMATION: Staff Transportation Project Tracking

- Staff Transportation Project Tracking was presented by Craige Bergman, who states only minor updates had occurred to the tracking sheet and no major project updates were made. Chair Steed commented on the reopening of Black Cat Road and suggested the Commission continue monitoring traffic impact on Pine before advancing future discussion regarding speeding concerns.
- Caleb Hood also provided an update regarding the Linder Road Overpass, ACHD had recently opened bids for Phase 2. Caleb reported four responsive bids were received with lowest bid coming in around \$18 million, well below the engineer's estimate.

3. ACTION: Transportation Commission End of Year Report

- Chair Steed shared comments and compliments received from Meridian City Council following the Transportation Commission's end-of-year report. Audio from the City

Council meeting was played which included questions from City Council members. The commission then discussed questions submitted by Councilman Taylor and Councilman Whitlock regarding transportation priorities, achievable projects, and anticipated impacts from State Highway 16. Commissioner Hopkins stated that E-bikes and scooters were becoming an increasing concern due to unsafe operation and lack of compliance with traffic laws by operators. Commissioner Ballard agreed with Hopkins.

- Commissioner Smith also introduced concerns regarding the future of mixed-use and transportation-oriented development in Meridian. Commissioner Smith noted that new mixed-use developments are trending toward conventional commercial developments adjacent to residential neighborhoods rather than the walkable, integrated environments envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan. Smith also raised concerns about whether current development patterns are aligned with future transit corridors and the long-term transportation goals of Meridian.
- Commissioner Lancaster and Ballard discussed potential congestion impacts associated with State Highway 16. Commissioner Lancaster stated, “speaking generally, it may have a short-term impact to improve operations on arterials, but any benefit will be short”. Commissioner Ballard believes that the impact from Highway 16 will show increased volumes at the interchanges before people figure out those interchanges are too busy and those drivers go back to using arterials.

Action: No official motion

4. INFORMATION: Woodbridge Neighborhood Area Updates

- Craige Bergman presented an update regarding ongoing neighborhood traffic concerns within the Woodbridge subdivision, specifically relating to the City Council’s request that ACHD consider restricting cut-through traffic on Magic View Drive with an emergency-access-only gate.
- Staff updated the commission following a response from ACHD’s legal department. ACHD stated that blocking a public roadway conflicted with Idaho Code provisions governing public rights-of-way. Chair Steed questioned whether ACHD’s response fully addressed the original request and discussed distinctions between roadway abandonment and emergency-only access easements. Caleb Hood clarified that emergency-only access points are typically private easements rather than public rights-of-way. Commissioners Lancaster and Ballard discussed legal procedures associated with roadway abandonment and public access restrictions. Commissioners also discussed differing interpretations among neighborhood residents regarding how a potential gate would function. Hood clarified that the original concept involved emergency-vehicle-only access rather than resident keycard access.
- Additional discussion occurred regarding neighborhood impacts, emergency access, potential property value implications. City of Meridian Deputy Attorney Tishra

Murray stated that the Mayor's Office was currently taking the lead on the issue and that the matter remained under review.

- Sergeant Carter also provided recent traffic enforcement statistics from the neighborhood, reporting that officers spent approximately 15 hours conducting enforcement activity within the area and found that most motorists were traveling near the posted speed limit despite the roadway functioning as a cut-through route. Commissioners Lancaster and Ballard discussed how those findings aligned with established speed enforcement principles and traffic behavior patterns.

5. INFORMATION: Temporary Traffic Controls

- During previous meetings Commissioner Lancaster expressed concerns that stop signs were being used to discourage neighborhood cut-through traffic rather than strictly for traffic control purposes.
- Commissioner Hopkins described confusion within neighborhoods where temporary stop signs and speed humps had been installed and later partially removed following project completion. Hopkins stated that inconsistent removal of signs and pavement markings created confusion for drivers and residents.
- Sergeant Carter acknowledged frustrations with temporary traffic calming measures but stated increased traffic volumes during roadway construction could justify temporary mitigation efforts. Carter also stated that most stop sign violations observed by officers involved neighborhood residents rather than outside drivers. Commissioner Lancaster requested that the topic be returned as a formal action item at a future meeting so the Commission could consider taking an official position.
- No action was taken, information only.

6. INFORMATION: Use of School Flashers During Lunch Periods

- The Commission received a brief update regarding their recommendation letter concerning school flashers operating during high school lunch periods. Commissioner Lancaster stated that the Commission had taken action on the issue at the prior meeting and that the signed recommendation letter was included in the packet.
- Chair Steed stated that he had attempted to discuss the matter further following submission of the letter but had not yet received substantive engagement from City Council. Caleb Hood explained that Council may request a future presentation from the Commission regarding the rationale behind the recommendation. Commissioners discussed logistical considerations should such a request occur.
- No action was taken, information only

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

7. INFORMATION: E-Scooters and E-Bikes in Meridian

- Commissioner Hopkins introduced a discussion regarding increasing safety concerns involving ebikes, escooters, and electric motorcycles within Meridian. Hopkins described observing unsafe riding behavior by younger users on sidewalks, roadways, intersections, and commercial areas throughout the City. He expressed concern that serious injuries or fatalities could occur if unsafe behavior continued.
- Sergeant Carter confirmed that Meridian Police had observed an increase in complaints and enforcement activity involving electric mobility devices. Carter explained the distinction used by the Police Department between ebikes and electric motorcycles and stated that officers had responded to approximately two dozen incidents involving such devices since January 1. Carter also described education and outreach efforts involving schools, HOAs, city communications, and regional law enforcement coordination.
- Commissioner Lancaster asked whether other jurisdictions were developing emerging policy approaches and whether existing state and local codes were sufficient to address the issue. Tishra Murray explained that regional legal staff were evaluating potential code amendments and legislative options, including possible future classifications for higher-powered electric bikes. Commissioner LeClaire stated that the Commission's code review subcommittee would be willing to assist with future ordinance discussions if requested.
- Commissioners generally agreed that the issue represented a growing transportation and safety concern that would likely require continued monitoring and future policy discussions.
- No action was taken, informational only

8. INFORMATION: Ex-Officio Updates

- ACHD – Rebecca Phillips provided updates from ACHD regarding upcoming Five-Year Plan presentations and partner agency feedback.
- COMPASS – No representative present
- West Ada School District – Miranda Carson from West Ada School district discussed the preparations for the end of the School Year and ongoing summer bus operations.
- VRT – Kate Dahl states no updates from VRT
- ITD – Justin Price discussed State Highway 16 traffic modeling efforts, interstate mobility studies, and future congestion mitigation concepts including auxiliary lanes and ramp metering.

- Meridian Police Department – Sergeant Carter Provided updated traffic speed data for Pine Avenue, reporting that vehicle speeds remained below the posted speed limit.
- Meridian Legal – No updates from Legal

9. INFORMATION: Staff Communications

- Craige Bergman presented several resident correspondence and transportation request items carried over from previous meetings. Commissioners discussed a planned but incomplete pathway connection within the Millwood neighborhood area. Caleb Hood explained that portions of the pathway remained on private property and may require easements or future development obligations before completion.
- Staff also discussed resident concerns regarding future widening along Locust Grove Road and coordination with adjacent homeowner associations. Additional discussion occurred regarding prior resident concerns involving truck braking noise and traffic speeds along Chinden Boulevard.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

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

14. ACHD Five-Year Plan Update

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

NEXT MEETING - June 1, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

No official motion to Adjourn, meeting ended due to time constraints

Action:

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)