

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, May 6, 2024

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

Roll Call

MEMBERS

David Ballard

Hoyoon Song

Jared Smith

Walter Steed

Stephen Lewis

Tom LeClaire

Zach Shoemaker

Tracy Hopkins

Ryan Lancaster

EX-OFFICIO

John Wasson (ACHD)

Alissa Taysom (VRT)

Lila Klopfenstein (COMPASS)

Justin Price (ITD)

Miranda Carson (WASD)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Tara Smith (Police)

Hether Hill (Comm. Dev.)

Tishra Murray (Legal)

Caleb Hood (Comm. Dev.)

Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Hill made a recommendation to amend the agenda by moving item number 6 (Linder Road Concept Study Update) to the first item in New Business Items to accommodate Brooke Green's request. No other changes were made to the agenda by Staff or Commissioners. Chair Steed entertained ayes in favor and opposed- all ayes in favor.

Approval of Minutes

1. April 1, 2024

Motion to approve by Commissioner Song, 2nd by Commissioner Ballard- all ayes; passes.

Old Business Items

2. Transportation Projects Update – Hether Hill

Ms. Hill began on Page 6 of the packet and recommended the Commission review the updates provided in bolded text; ITD staff provided updates on pages 10 - 12; Kim Warren in Parks provided updates on two Pathways projects on page 13. Ms. Hill stood for questions. Chair Steed addressed a discrepancy in an update provided by ITD regarding the I-84 interchange. There were no further questions or comments from the Commission.

New Business Items [ACTION ITEM]

3. Linder Road Concept Study Update – Brooke Green

Brooke Green (ACHD) presented a PowerPoint for 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. Ben Faust with HDR was also present to support

ACHD staff. There was discussion between the Commission and Ms. Green but no motion or direction was initially made. Miranda Carson (WASD) made a comment regarding the increased cost from a tax payer perspective to bus students across five-lane roads.

Towards the end of the meeting, Commissioner Ballard engaged the Commission and prompted discussion to make an advisory preference on the concepts presented. Commissioner Lewis made a motion that the Commission recommend to the City Council they back either Concept 2 or 3, 2nd by Commissioner Song. Commissioner Lancaster would like to see an Option 4 with 5 lanes and less “extras” (normal sidewalks, less buffers, etc.). All ayes; passes.

4. Updates to Meridian City Code: Provisions Regarding Commission Duties, Powers, Membership, Qualifications, and Meetings – Emily Kane

Emily Kane (City Attorney’s Office) presented on 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 is currently focused on Title 2, which governs City commissions. Ms. Kane went over in detail the changes in Title 2 that relate to the Transportation Commission, which generally reflect the commission’s current practices and provide uniformity in the code. There was lengthy discussion amongst the Commission and Ms. Kane regarding the proposed updates, in addition to the bylaws. Commissioner LeClaire proposed the Ordinance Review Subcommittee hold a special meeting to review bylaws prior to the June 3rd Transportation Commission Meeting.

5. Amity/Locust Grove Intersection – Brian McClure

Brian McClure (City Community Development Department) was present to discuss any comments/suggestions the Commission had on next steps of the Locust Grove/Amity Intersection project as a result of the Mayor’s letter to ACHD. Mr. McClure entertained comments and feedback for an interim intersection request due to traffic congestion and the project being put on an indefinite pause. Mr. McClure also introduced Ricardo Calderon (ACHD) who was present in the audience. There was discussion between the Commission and City Staff regarding the purpose of the agenda item, the project’s priority ranking on the IFYWP list and opportunities for an interim intersection. Mr. Calderon discussed with the Commission 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 stands behind the IFYWP prioritization plan. Chair Steed expressed appreciation to the Mayor and staff for brining the matter to the Transportation Commission for consideration.

6. ACHD Master Street Map Changes – Arterial Corridor Preservation – Caleb Hood

Mr. 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 for more than 3-lanes on section-line arterial roadways took place. Mr. Hood was seeking action – a recommendation to Council to consider changes to the ultimate right-of-way preservation for arterials in Meridian and Planning Area. Discussion between Commissioners and Mr. Hood ensued. Conversation about which corridors to preserve for 5 lanes will be continued during June’s Transportation Commission meeting.

7. Staff Communications

Ms. Hill provided summaries of relevant transportation-related correspondences received, beginning on page 35 of the packet.

8. Ex-Officio Updates

Chair Steed entertained a motion to extend the meeting. Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to extend the meeting until 5:45pm, 2nd by Commissioner LeClaire – all ayes in favor.

John Wasson (ACHD) provided the Commission with two speed and cut through analysis reports: 1) N. Towerbridge Way south of Messina Way and 2) Belltower Drive west of Palladian Avenue. Chair Steed considered the matter closed and to be removed from future meeting topics for June. Mr. Wasson mentioned \$600,000 for traffic calming – Temple is going to receive 13 traffic calming devices (speed cushion) from Bergham to Meridian. ACHD is putting about 80 speed cushions throughout Ada County.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

9. Belltower and Coppercloud Speed Concerns

10. Lost Rapids/Bird Park

11. Chinden/Linder Crash Data

Chair Steed would like Chinden/Linder Crash Data to be moved on the June agenda. Justin Price (ITD) can collect data (u-turn crashes westbound to head eastbound).

Next Meeting Date: June 3, 2024

Adjournment; 5:41pm – Motion by Commissioner Lewis, 2nd by Commissioner Song - all ayes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

APPROVED:

WALTER STEED, CHAIR

DATE _____

ATTEST:

CHRIS JOHNSON (City Clerk)

DATE _____