



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, November 19, 2020– Minutes

Members

Present: Chair Vagnozzi, Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners Potter, Deschaine, Hudson and Robertson

Members

Absent: Commissioner Kolbasa

Others

Present: Bill McConnell, Police Chief Ken Plaga and Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

VICE-CHAIR LOVELL ASKED THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO ADD ITEM 7.B. 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER POTTER TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-OCTOBER 22, 2020

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Vagnozzi mentioned he had asked that House Bill 4733 be included in the packet. He thought the changes to the procedures for setting speed limits could hinder the Township. Chief Plaga stated the changes should not affect how the Police Department works with the Ingham County Road Department on modifying speed limits.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS – NONE

6. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE THE 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE AMENDED MEETING TIMES OF 7:00 PM FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND 6:00 PM FOR THE IN-PERSON MEETINGS. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

(2021 Meeting Schedule Resolution on file.)

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Update

Chair Vagnozzi welcomed Andrew Brieschke and Craig Frazier.

The Commission was provided with information on Redi-Ride service in the Township for September 2018 to October 2020. The information included passenger type, booking analysis, extended hours ridership and student ridership. (A copy of the information is on file.)

- Mach 23, 2020 due to COVID-19 CATA suspended all service except for essential trips such as medical.
- Full schedule for fix-route and Redi-Ride started again on May 26, 2020.
- Prior to March the approximate ridership per day for all services was 55,000.
- In March ridership dropped to 1,000-1,200 rides per day.
- As of October ridership is slowly increasing to approximately 8,000 rides per day.
- Redi-Ride ridership is at 50 percent capacity and fix-route ridership is at 15 percent capacity.
- CATA has worked with Ingham County Health Department to establish safety protocol.
- Driver is separated from riders and must wear a mask.
- Riders must wear a mask “no mask no ride”.
- CATA staff to work with Township staff to inform residents of the safety protocol CATA has put in place and what they are doing to keep riders safe.
- Student ridership on Redi-Ride is down due to schools being closed or choosing not to use Redi-Ride due to COVID-19.
- In September 2019 Redi-Ride service was increased to 3 full-time runs and 2 part-time runs Monday-Friday. On Saturday service was increased to 2 full-time runs and 1 part-time run.
- In February 2020 the start time in the morning went from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The half-hour increase has helped meet the demand in the morning.
- From September 2019 through February 2020 there were no capacity denials. Client refusals, cancelations and no-shows were reduced.
- The increased level of service has proven to be appropriate and has provided trips with reduced ride time. CATA has not received any complaints since the increased service has started.
- Veterans can now ride free on Redi-Ride or fix-route.
- CATA staff will provide information on new, upgraded or moved bus shelters in the Township.

B. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Chair Vagnozzi suggested that Commissioners wishing to comment on the plan provided those to staff by November 30, 2020. Staff will incorporate comments into a letter to be sent to Tri-County Board of Commissioners.

8. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chair Vagnozzi welcomed Joshua Robertson to the Commission.

Commissioner Deschaine suggested the Chair or Vice-Chair make a presentation to the Township Board at their meeting on December 8 to update the Board on Redi-Ride.

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

A. Township Board Meeting December 8, 2020.

B. Transportation Commission Meeting January 21, 2021

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE TO ADJOURN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR
LOVELL MOTION PASSES 6-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.