

Road Committee Minutes
February 24, 2010
4:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Miller.

Present: Miller, Harshfield, Schafer, Halstead, Stites, Zakrajsek, Rogers, and Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers.

Chairman Miller began the meeting with an introduction of our newest member John Rogers of GTCRC.

Rogers stated that prior to being named Traffic Services Supervisor, he served as Engineer to the GTCRC, Manager of the Kalkaska County Road Commission and currently serves as Supervisor for Rapid River Township, Kalkaska County.

- A) Update on the M-72 Access Management Plan – Meyers informed the committee that the last meeting of the M-72 AMP was held in June of 2009. It was more of a meeting of players, each of whom provided an update as to the happenings within each of their boundaries. Another meeting will be held sometime this summer, after the completion of the Grand Vision Study, at which time updates to the plan will be considered.
- B) Boardman River Valley Master Plan – This document was written in 2001, funded by a grant from Rotary Charities, as a joint project of Union, East Bay and Paradise Townships. The plan has not been updated since its original passage. The document is more of a resource management document, not a land use and policy management document. GTCPC would like an update or re-write to include the urban portions of the Boardman with the latest dam announcements. There are no immediate plans to update the document.
- C) Grand Vision – TC-TALUS Technical Committee is currently reviewing the “corridors of significance” portion of the report. It is expected to be ready by mid April. M-72 from US-31 to the Kalkaska County line is included. This report will include 11 corridors throughout the County and should be important to this committee.
- D) Pavement to Gravel Program – This program calls for the pulverizing of remaining asphalt (which turns to a gray dust). Rogers does not support this. There are currently no roads in GTC identified for program. Rogers used Starvation Lake Road in Kalkaska County as an example of why it doesn't work. The problems are worse after the conversion – not only because of the dust but maintenance is next to impossible.

Zakrajsek excused himself at 4:30 PM.

- E) Design Principles of Appendix A – Rogers asked when this issue is addressed that consideration of inclusion of GTCRC Standards be taken. He supplied a copy to Meyers who will copy and distribute to the committee members. Rogers will forward a copy of the Functional Classification Map in PDF format and then bring hard copies to the next meeting.
- F) Roadway Classifications – Tabled to a following meeting.
- G) Natural Beauty Road Classification – while the GTCRC has not formally adopted the program, it is possible to do by following the State of Michigan's guidelines. A public hearing is required by the County Commissioner's, to be held in our Township upon submission of a petition with at least 25 signatures. 51% of the folks living on the petitioned road can stop the action from moving forward. The cost to the Township would include the costs associated with the public hearing and signs which run approximately \$350 for two installed signs.

- H) Speed Limits on gravel roads – Currently the rule is “whatever conditions allow not to exceed 55 mph.” Traffic control orders are required for reductions in speed limits. Questions were raised about 25 MPH residential postings on gravel roads in the metro Detroit area. Meyers will contact Oakland County Road Commission and Macomb County for information.
- I) Working with MDOT regarding future improvements for M-72 – Chairman Miller stated that he had spoke Rise Rasch, Manager of the MDOT TSC in Traverse City to find out what if any improvements are proposed for M-72 in the next 5 years. The answer is nothing is planned and that with the exception of the Grand Vision study, no studies have been undertaken either. The last request of any kind was from Acme and Whitewater asking about the possibility of converting M-72 into a boulevard. No formal action or consideration was taken.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2009 at 4:00 PM. Purpose of the meeting will be to look at a draft of the plan and review the private road ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Meyers, Recording Secretary