

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
VIRTUAL WORKING SESSION MINUTES OF  
March 16, 2021**

**Present:** Road Commissioners Barbara Fuller – Chair, Rodrick Green – Vice Chair, Douglas Fuller, Gloria Llamas, Jo Ann McCollum

**Staff Present:** D. Ackerman, J. Harmon, E. Kizer, M. MacDonell, N. Peterson, C. Quinter, C. Ryan, B. Schlack, S. Siddall, E. Yadykina

**Others Present:** G. Cummings, MCRCSIP; B. DeVries, MCRCSIP; G. Kamp, MSP; S. Shink – County Commissioner, District 2; A. Tountas, MCRCSIP

Roll Call of Attendance:

Barbara Fuller, Chair – remote from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Rodrick Green, Vice Chair – remote from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Douglas Fuller, Member – remote from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Gloria Llamas, Member – remote from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Jo Ann McCollum, Member – remote from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director  
Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering/County Highway Engineer  
Jim Harmon, Director of Operations  
Dan Ackerman, Director of Finance & IT

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public comment.

**SETTING SPEED LIMITS WITH MICHIGAN STATE POLICE**

Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director, introduced Michigan State Police representatives Lance Cook and Greg Kamp who provided a presentation on Establishing Safe and Realistic Speed Limits. Lance stated that there has been a downward trend in traffic crash fatalities. Lance provided a review of the different types of speed zones. Statutory (Fixed) speed limits are set by the legislators, modified speed limits are set by a traffic control order, defined speeds are established by the Michigan Vehicle Code. There has been some discussion on increasing the 65mph speed limit to 75mph. Lance provided a review of the steps needed to change a speed limit.

Greg Kamp provided a review of how modified speed limits are established. Greg stated that the 85-percentile speed is the safest motorist speed. Greg reviewed statistics of crash involvement vs. speed. Several studies have been done on determining raising or lowering of speed limits. The findings of these studies determined that artificially lowering speed limits did not reduce speeds. Greg provided a review of school zone speed limits. The school zone parameters are 1,000 feet from the school in any direction. The purpose of school zone speed limits is to protect children walking to and from school. The school zone time limits are 30 minutes before school begins and 30 minutes after school ends.

## **10 MINUTE BREAK**

### **OVERVIEW OF MCRCSIP**

Gale Cummings, Administrator of MCRCSIP, introduced Adam Tountas, Chief Litigation Counsel for MCRCSIP and Bob DeVries, lobbyist for MCRCSIP. Gayle provided an overview of how MCRCSIP works for the Road Commission providing all liability coverage. Gayle also stated MCRCSIP covers insurance on buildings and Road Commission vehicles.

Adam Tountas provided a presentation on how legal representation is provided to the Road Commission and the role of road commissioners.

Bob DeVries provided a review of his duties in his role with MCRCSIP. Road Commissions are political bodies, so they need to have political effectiveness. Bob provided a review of the various political liabilities a Road Commission may face and what could trigger a political liability.

Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director, extended her thanks to Gayle Cummings for her assistance on various questions in handling the COVID situation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

D. Fuller moved; J. McCollum to adjourn the March 16, 2021, Working Session at 11:17 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, R. Green, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

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Barbara Ryan Fuller, Chair  
Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners

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Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, Deputy Clerk  
Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners