

Letts Road Connector Study

12/11/2023 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Chuck Goodman – Larkin Township Planning Commission Chair/Zoning Administrator
- Lisa Benter Rich – Larkin Township Clerk
- Alicia Snook – Consumers Energy
- Greg Koontz – Consumers Energy
- Tom Hoblet – City of Midland Water
- Ryan Smith – City of Midland Planning
- Myron Greene – Midland County Sherriff
- Gary Rogers – County Connection
- Cory Wale – Bay County Road Commission
- Jon Myers – Midland County Road Commission
- Russ Inman – Midland County Road Commission
- Ashley Hiles – Midland County Road Commission
- Jeff Brown – Midland County Road Commission
- Travis Havercamp – Midland County Road Commission
- Paul Barbeau – Dow (met separately 12/19/2023)
- Matt Seitz – Rowe
- Cheryl Gregory – Rowe

Invited, but was unable to attend or did not attend

- Maria Sandow – Larkin Township Supervisor
- Brad Kaye – City of Midland City Manager
- Matt Lemon – City of Midland Engineering
- Shane Bjorge – City of Midland Engineering
- Jacob Kain – City of Midland Planning
- Josh Mosher – City of Midland Fire Chief
- Nicole Ford – City of Midland Police Chief
- Jenifier Boyer – Midland County Emergency Services
- Amy Bidwell – City of Midland Dial-A-Ride
- Robert Balzer – Consumers Energy
- Maja Bolanowska – Midland Area Transportation Study
- Jim Lillo – Bay County Road Commission Manager
- Robert Hammond – Larkin Township Fire Chief
- Peter Schwarz – City of Midland Water

Notes

- Consumers Energy noted that a new roadway would provide improved access to high voltage lines.
- Consumers Energy stated it would provide an additional alternative route when construction activities impact traffic on other nearby roadways.
- Midland County Sherriff noted that another east-west connection would be a positive, improving emergency response time.
 - Wetland impacts are a concern.

Letts Road Connector Study

12/11/2023 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

- City of Midland
 - Definitely in favor
 - Consistent with Midland City Modern Plan
 - Noted that “congestion” may not be a major issue now but may be in the future; safety and accessibility are a concern now.
- Discussed utility corridor/easement.
 - Significant expansion of the water main system is needed to connect to any water main facilities on Letts Road.
 - Letts Road is within MUGA boundary.
 - The Road Commission has a policy for placement of utilities within the road right of way, but if there is justification to modify this it will be considered.
- Bay County Road Commission noted that long term Beaver Road will likely need upgrades, and possibly wider shoulders if there is traffic growth.
 - Will need to evaluate shift at the Midland/Bay County line.
 - BCRC may be able to assist with traffic data collection.
- County Connection - serves many clients in this area, especially due to school of choice. Increased connectivity from the Letts Road Connector would be a benefit.
- General agreement that the Letts Road Connector would provide better long-term commercial access.
- Larkin Township noted there is always interest in bike lanes and other non-motorized amenities. Although currently there is limited walking, biking activity on Letts Road, plan for non-motorized amenities to be part of the roadway as part of the design now or in the future.
- Curb and gutter cross section might be preferred long-term. Discussed similar new roadways through wetland areas in City of Midland along Sugnet Road near Northwood.
- Discussed potential of ROW donation for non-motorized – assumed to be unlikely.
- Concerns with Letts/Commerce/Jefferson intersection were noted.
- Make sure outreach is being done via social media and make it clear this is a Planning study, not a scheduled capital improvement project.
- Coordinate with City of Midland’s Community Affairs Director and Communications Coordinator for future announcements or notifications.
- Is posting a sign on Letts Road or in the vicinity an additional way to notify the public?
- City noted that lower density residential may be planned north of Commerce and there are other future connections planned between Joe Mann and Commerce.
- Larkin Township noted that future rezoning is possible.
- Safety and accessibility should be a priority.
- Dow indicated that they are neutral regarding the construction of a Letts Road connection.
- The Larkin Center is a Dupont facility, but Dow still owns land.
- Letts Road connector could make Dow property more developable.
- Dow has marketed property in the past but has not gotten much interest.
- Other stakeholders to engage include City of Midland Fire Department and Midland Public Schools.