



S. Martin Luther King Jr. Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 17th, 2026 – 4:00 PM
UA Local 333 Plumbers and Pipefitters
5405 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Lansing, MI 48911

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call
2. Approval of S. MLK Jr. CIA Meeting Minutes (8.25.26)- **Action**
3. Update on SW Fest. (Sept. 20th)
4. Discussion on the Fall Cleanup
5. Update on ARPA Funds
6. Update on the Public Right-Of-Way Improvement Plan
7. Other Business
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



Andy Schor, Mayor

**South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Corridor Improvement Authority
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - 4:00 PM
UA Local Plumbers and Pipefitters
5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48911**

Members Present: Amanda Defrees, Kristina Schmidgall, Melissa White, Don "Moose" Sober, Dustin Howard
Mayoral Designee: None present
Members Absent: Jeremy Matthews
Facilitator Present: Kahleea Washington, Lansing Economic Development Corporation
Guests Present: Harold A. Pope
Public Present:
Recorded by: Kahleea Washington

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM. Washington took roll call. The board had a quorum to proceed.

2. Approval of June 18 and July 16, 2026, S. MLK Jr. CIA Meeting Minutes - Action

The board reviewed the S. MLK Jr. CIA meeting minutes from June and July, then moved to approve. Member Howard moved to approve both June and July meeting minutes.

MOTION: Howard

SUPPORT: Schmidgall

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the CIA Bank Account Transfer- Action

Washington explained that the City of Lansing is transferring some of their bank accounts from Comerica Bank to PNC. The S. MLK CIA bank account is included in the transfer. Board members inquired about being about to choose a local financial institution before moving to approve.

MOTION: Schmidgall

SUPPORT: Howard

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on SW Fest. (Sept. 20th)- Action

The board revisited the opportunity to sponsor SWAG's Southwest Fest as the presenting sponsor. Board members discussed their previous concern and the benefits of the event. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to support the event.

Board members proposed various swag and promotional items for the event and mentioned local businesses capable of producing them quickly.

- Pens and notebooks
- Tote bags/ string bags
- Cooling towels
- Clips

Member Howard made a motion to approve being the title sponsor of SWAG's 2026 Southwest Festival, donating \$10,000 to the event, and spending up to \$5,000 on swag and promotional items.

MOTION: Howard

SUPPORT: Sober

Motion carried unanimously.

5.Review of Board Procedures- Action

a.Subscriptions and Annual Costs

b.Reimbursement Procedure

Washington explained the proposed procedures and opened it up for questions from the board members. The board supported the procedures as is and moved to approve.

MOTION: Howard

SUPPORT: White

Motion carried unanimously.

6.Approval of Board Insurance- Action

The board reviewed the two insurance policies provided by Rathbun. Member Howard inquired about the volunteer coverage and the conflicting wording in the policy. Washington plans to ask for clarification from the broker.

MOTION: White

SUPPORT: Schmidgall

Motion carried unanimously.

7.Update on the Public Right-Of-Way Improvement Plan

Washington provided a recap of the board discussion with public service on how to improve the public right-of-way. She presented a Public Right-Of-Way Improvement Plan that the board can work with the City and MDOT to implement.

The board expressed support for the plan.

8.Discussion on La Mulata.

The board continued its conversation on supporting La Mulata with noise reduction. After a lengthy discussion the board decided to revisit this discussion after the Southwest Festival.

9. Other Business

To respect the guest present the board moved to go to item 10, public comment before other business.

The board briefly discussed their next fall cleanup and agreed to finalize the details next month.

Washington presented marketing updates from Inverve, including improvements to the website, business card design options, and name badge design options.

The board reviewed the design options before finalizing its decision for Inverve.

10. Public Comment

Harold Pope, who is running for the House of Representatives, introduced himself to the group.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

X

Amanda Defrees

Chairperson, South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Corridor Improvement Authority

Approved by the Board on: _____

DRAFT

South MLK Jr. Blvd. Corridor Improvement Authority

Public Right-of-Way Improvement Plan

Goal

The S. MLK CIA aims to create a functional, accessible, safe, and attractive corridor by investing in public right-of-way improvements. This work will focus on pedestrian accessibility, sustainable landscaping, crosswalk safety, and private property improvements that support the overall corridor vision.

- Improve public sidewalks along the corridor to ensure they are ADA accessible, functional, and safe for all residents and visitors.
- Replace public green space materials with lower-maintenance, sustainable natural materials where appropriate.
- Repave, repaint, and reprogram key crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety, visibility, and efficiency.
- Provide grant funding opportunities for corridor property owners to make improvements that align with the plan's goals.

Current Conditions to Assess

- Sidewalk width, condition, continuity, and ADA accessibility.
- Type, condition, and maintenance needs of grass and landscaping in public green spaces.
- Crosswalk visibility, functionality, safety, and pedestrian flow.
- Adjacent private property conditions and opportunities for improvements that support the corridor vision.

Work Plan and Timeline

- **August–September 2026: Assess existing corridor conditions.**
 - Coordinate with the City of Lansing's Public Service/EDP Department and MDOT to collect sidewalk, right-of-way, traffic, and corridor condition data.
- **September–November 2026: Conduct community engagement.**

- Share findings on existing corridor conditions, introduce the improvement plan, and gather feedback from residents, business owners, property owners, and other stakeholders.
- **November 2026–January 2027: Draft and refine the plan.**
 - Finalize project scope, priorities, and budget.
 - Complete internal review and secure board approval.
- **January–March 2027: Bid out the work.**
 - Prepare bid materials, confirm procurement requirements, and select qualified contractors for implementation.
- **March–September 2027: Phase One implementation.**
 - Revamp the CIA grant program to include multiple grant types that support corridor improvements.
 - Proposed grant types include micro grants (\$50–\$500), business development grants (\$500–\$10,000), and property improvement grants (\$10,000–\$25,000).
 - Complete sidewalk and green space replacement on the north side of the corridor from Victor Street to Holmes Street.
 - Repaint and reprogram the Holmes Street and S. MLK Jr. Boulevard crosswalk.
- **March–September 2028: Phase Two implementation.**
 - Complete sidewalk and green space replacement on the south side of the corridor from Holmes Street to Jolly Road.
 - Repaint and reprogram the Jolly Road and S. MLK Jr. Boulevard crosswalk.
 - Revamp landscaping on the pedestrian island with sustainable, lower-maintenance materials.
- **March–September 2029: Phase Three implementation.**
 - Complete sidewalk and green space replacement on the south side of the corridor from Jolly Road to Miller Road.