



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Kalamazoo Area

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TO: Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee  
FROM: Jonathan Start, Executive Director  
DATE: March 1, 2016  
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 - 9:00 A.M.  
KALAMAZOO METRO TRANSIT  
530 N. ROSE STREET, KALAMAZOO

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit. The following materials are included in your meeting packet:

1. Agenda for the March 10, 2016 Meeting
2. Draft Minutes of the February 11, 2016 Meeting
3. Proposed Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

**Please remember that time sheets are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month**

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2016 - 9:00 A.M.  
KALAMAZOO METRO TRANSIT

AGENDA

*Please limit public comments to 4 minutes.*

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL (Sign-in Sheet Circulated)
3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA **(ACTION)**
5. MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2016 MEETING (ENCLOSURE) **(ACTION)**
6. POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT (FEBRUARY 24, 2016)
7. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Non-agenda Items)
8. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
  - a. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2014-2017 TIP (ENCLOSURE) **(ACTION)**
  - b. FY 2017-2020 TIP UPDATES
9. 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATES
10. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES
11. STATUS REPORTS
  - a. ROADS - *Questions on written status reports. Verbal reports will be limited to 4 minutes per agency.*
  - b. LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING - *Questions on written status reports. Verbal reports will be limited to 4 minutes per agency.*
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. ADJOURNMENT

***Next Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.***



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The February 11, 2016 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit by Chair Hummel.

**ROLL CALL**

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign in sheet. Introductions were made by all present.

***Members Present***

Muhammad Arif	City of Portage Engineering
Chris Barnes	City of Portage Engineering
Joe Bonhomme	City of Parchment
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Tony Dacoba	Van Buren Public Transit
Chris Forth (Vice-chair)	City of Portage Planning
Darrell Harden	Michigan Department of Transportation (Southwest)
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County/City of Kalamazoo
Lawrence Hummel (Chair)	Van Buren County Road Commission
Rick Fowler	Michigan Department of Transportation (Lansing)
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County Planning and Development
Matt Johnson	City of Kalamazoo Engineering
Julie Johnston	Oshtemo Township
Debbie Jung	City of Kalamazoo Engineering
Rebekah Kik	City of Kalamazoo Planning
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Doug Plachcinski	Texas Township
Daniel Roberts	Michigan Department of Transportation (TSC)
Ken Schippers	Village of Vicksburg
Mike Schwartz	Village of Schoolcraft
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township
Tyler Sutkowi	Village of Mattawan
Geoff Wilson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Rob Wilson	City of Galesburg

***Members Absent***

Alan Smaka	Village of Lawton
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***Others Present***

Megan Arndt	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage Engineering
Robert Maffeo	Michigan Department of Transportation (Lansing)



Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Michelle O'Neill	Michigan Department of Transportation (TSC)
Kathy Schultz	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
Laura Smith	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
Jon Start	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jim Woods	Michigan Department of Transportation (TSC)
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Rachael Tupica	Federal Highway Administration
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Monica Zehner	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

## CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Harden requested added overdue project finalization under new business.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Stefforia, SECOND by Harden, ***“to approve the agenda of the February 11, 2016 Technical Committee Meeting as amended.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## MINUTES FROM JANUARY 14, 2016 MEETING

Draft minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting were included in the meeting materials.

MOTION by Harden, SECOND by McBride, ***“to approve the Minutes from the January 14, 2016 Technical Committee meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT (JANUARY 27, 2016)

Start reported on the January 27, 2016 Policy Committee Meeting. The Policy Committee took action to approve the recommended amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. Discussion items included 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan updates, Public Transportation updates, and information on KATS Education sessions. KATS Education sessions will be held at KATS Offices on February 15 at 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m., February 17 at 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. and February 18 at 9:00 a.m.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS-NONE

## FY 2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT DISCUSSION

A copy of the initial draft funding distribution for FY 2018-2020 Surface Transportation Program projects and National Highway Performance projects was included in the meeting materials.

Start reported The TIP Prioritization Subcommittee met following the January Technical Committee meeting to begin prioritization of projects for FY 2018-2020. Stepek noted the draft funding distribution is an initial iteration and starting point for the development of a recommendation for action. Since the release of the draft funding distribution, members have raised questions and concerns with accuracy of project application data.

Jung noted standard data sources should be used for project applications. For example, she noted that traffic count data should be those on the KATS website. She opined that PASER ratings should be the

current TAMC data. Lastly, she asked for further discussion on safety prioritization and the extra 10 safety points. She also suggest a limit on applications for STP funds for a specific road. She noted that if a road needed to be fixed every few years, the fix needed to be evaluated. Schwartz expressed concerns with the prioritization process and the ability of smaller communities to receive funding due to higher priority being given to areas with higher traffic counts and populations. Start noted that the prioritization process was built to reflect the goals of the area and to identify the projects best for the transportation system and the limited funding available.

Minkus inquired about the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project prioritization. Stepek reported TAP projects are given priority if paired with a road project. Therefore, development of the prioritized TAP projects will follow after the TIP project list had been reviewed and drafted for a recommendation for approval.

Johnson indicated further discussion on the 10 point allocation for safety and what constitutes a safety improvement would be beneficial. The application left this to the discretion of the applicant. Harden stated that discussion noted the points were geared toward reducing crash patterns rather than a single improvement. Start reported it is part of the discussion of the subcommittee. Tupica noted that regular STP might have to be spent on projects for safety improvements as performance measures are set to avoid having a directive to spend a percent of STP on correcting safety issues. Harden opined that once safety performance measures are set by FHWA, it will assist in refining the safety prioritization process and safety measure targets.

Stepek reported an invitation for a TIP Prioritization Meeting would be emailed to members after checking availability of a room.

O'Neill brought up prior discussion regarding mapping of projects in the same fiscal year for operational analysis and negative impacts on the system and communities. Stepek reported an online version of the Transportation Improvement Program will be implemented. The online version will allow mapping of projects in the database. Harden noted the electronic version would also be beneficial for identification of impacts on environmental justice areas.

Adoption of the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program is targeted for May.

## **2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATES**

Start reported the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan chapters are close to complete. Alternative model runs have been completed. There is not a significant difference between vehicle hour travel between existing plus committed projects and unconstrained projects. Nagler has completed a chapter on estimated funding needed to maintain a PASER rating of either six or eight for the Transportation System. Start noted that due to the timeline for public involvement, the adoption of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be April. An open-house, public meeting will be held on the draft on March 7 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

It was reported a scenario had been run on the transit model for doubling public transportation ridership. Stepek reported scenarios included 1) Existing plus committed projects 2) Unconstrained project list 3) Constrained project set which meant only capacity changes without significant changes to the roadway, for example moving curbs and 4) Illustrative public transportation scenario to increase ridership.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

McBride reported that Metro County Connect Sunday service began last Sunday. Planning is underway for fixed route enhanced service which will begin after Labor Day. Increased route frequencies are anticipated on Portage and Westnedge Route, Sunday service and late night service will be expanded



beginning September 7. There are two public transportation millages in Kalamazoo County. The millage passed in August was to fund fixed route services in the urban area. In May, there will be a county-wide millage to fund Metro County Connect and the Community Service Van Program. The current millage is 0.4 mills. The proposed millage for the May ballot is 0.315 mills. Start inquired about the W. Main Route service to Meijer. McBride reported that three jurisdictions opted out the Central County Transportation Authority boundaries:

- Pavilion Township which includes service to Pavilion Estates. No discussions are currently underway regarding public transportation services.
- Texas Township which includes service to KVCC. An agreement for service is being reviewed to continue service to KVCC.
- Oshtemo opted out part of the Jurisdiction which includes fixed route service to Meijer and Walmart. Service will not be provided on the W. Main Route beyond Evergreen North after September 6. Start noted that opting in and out was by voting precinct and the area in question extends to the west county line is increasingly rural.

## STATUS REPORTS

### *Road Status Reports*

**City of Kalamazoo:** The city is preparing to submit final plans for Kilgore and E. Michigan Avenue project in March. The Portage Street Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) project was bid. Preliminary reports indicate the project will come in under-budget. The city is working with Oshtemo Township on the Drake Road safety project for a trail between W. Michigan and Green Meadow. Grade inspection plan submittal is targeted for March, and the city hopes for 2016 construction.

**Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC):** The D Avenue, E. Michigan Avenue, U Avenue and W Avenue projects are targeted for an April letting. Local S Avenue and Q Avenue projects are targeted for a March letting. The 9<sup>th</sup> Street project from I-94 to Meridian is in the March letting. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street project is targeted for an April letting. The Texas Drive Trail project and E. Main project from E. Michigan to Nazareth will be starting construction in the spring. (This is a joint project with the City of Kalamazoo).

**City of Portage:** The Portage Road project is out for a March bid letting. The E. Oosterhout project is out for bid. A preconstruction meeting has been held for the Eliason Trail project. Construction will begin when weather is favorable. The Lovers Lane CMAQ project has been awarded and is on schedule for spring construction. Final plans are about to be submitted for the Westnedge and Romence Safety project.

**Oshtemo Township:** Oshtemo Township has two sewer projects, a 10<sup>th</sup> Street project from W. Main to H Avenue project and an Atlantic Avenue project. Construction will begin once school lets out for the summer and complete prior to fall to avoid conflicts with school bus routes. Atlantic Avenue will also be closed for a sewer project this year to avoid the RCKC project on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It was suggested there should be signs for Kalhaven trail detours.

**City of Galesburg:** Tree removal for the 35<sup>th</sup> Street project begins on March 1.

**Michigan Department of Transportation:** The Sprinkle Road and I-94 interchange restoration items are finished. Lights will be installed in spring. Lane closures are anticipated in April for the US-131 project from U Avenue North to I-94 Interchange. Tree removal in March. There will be ramp closings at Centre. Tree removal for the I-94 and 40<sup>th</sup> Street project begins in March. Lane closures are anticipated in April.

**Van Buren County Road Commission:** Tree removal for the Red Arrow Highway project will begin at the end of February.

### **Land Use/Planning and Zoning Status Reports**

**Federal Highway Administration:** KATS will be having its first Federal Certification Review. A public meeting will be held on March 22 at Kalamazoo Metro Transit approximately from the 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The on-site visits will be on March 23 and 24. This is a new requirement since KATS has been re-designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The certification review will be held every 4 years.

**Kalamazoo County Planning and Development:** Kalamazoo County has a new administrator, Terrence Neuzil. The Brownfield Authority continues to be busy. New applications have been received. The county also continues with its Master Plan process. Pictometry flights are anticipated for the end of March or early April. Initial data is anticipated to be available in July. Additional data options which will incorporate the FEMA LIDAR flight is anticipated at the end of the year.

**City of Portage:** The Planning Commission is reviewing new comments on the Capital Improvement Program. It is targeted to go back to the Planning Commission in March. It is anticipated to go to the City Council for approval as part of the budget package in May. Pfizer has approval for a 100,000 square foot addition to its main manufacturing facility on Portage Road south of Romence. More investment in the facility is anticipated. Hinman is anticipated to begin construction this year on a five story lot at Westnedge and I-94. Another assisted living facility project has been submitted. Full Circle Communities is going through the planning process for a multi-family residential development project on E. Centre Avenue. The proximity to public transportation service played a significant role in choosing the site. Forth noted the project would help fill the gap in Kalamazoo and Portage for affordable housing.

**Oshtemo Township:** Oshtemo has been working with Western Michigan University regarding plans for the Business, Technology and Research (BTR) Park along Drake Road. The project is called BTR 2.0. The design team has put together concepts. A public meeting will be held on March 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to present the preferred option for the design. An advisory committee was put in place to address and alleviate public concerns.

**City of Kalamazoo:** Last year 67 site plans were reviewed. Thus far, 12 new site plans have been submitted in 2016. The Frank Street Project at Frank St. and North St. will include 48 mixed income apartments and a restaurant. The project will be the first micro-unit apartment project for the city. The plans include sixteen 330 square foot apartments. Community meetings will begin in March for the development of Arcadia Commons West. The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Healthy Living Campus Food Innovation Building is open. The Culinary Art School will be opening on March 7. The city kicked off its Master Plan updates at the February Art Hop. The city has developed a tool-kit called "Meetings on the Go" with resources which will allow individuals to host a meeting for their own social and community groups regarding Imagine Kalamazoo 2025.

**Comstock Township:** The draft Master Plan is available online at [www.comstockvision.com](http://www.comstockvision.com). The Township Board voted to create a Township Superintendent position to provide continuity of management of staff in a growing community. The Township Supervisor position will become a part-time position effective with the November election. Nieuwenhuis will step down to part-time once the superintendent position has been filled and will be available to provide assistance and training.

**Kalamazoo Township:** Kalamazoo Township has also decided to go to a township manager.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Woods from the Michigan Department of Transportation distributed a list of projects that are overdue for project finalization. Projects on the list have exceeded 120 days or 4 months since project construction was completed. It was noted that the funding is not considered closed out until projects have been

finalized. Woods and Harden asked for discussion and collaboration of a process to ensure projects are closed within the four month time allotted.

Tupica reported that Federal Highway Administration places a high emphasis on project closure because nationwide there is a large balance of unused funding due to unclosed projects. When a project comes in under-budget, the funding cannot be de-obligated and reprogrammed until the project has been finalized. Congress has asked why there is the need for additional funding when these current funds are not being utilized. Tupica also reminded members that funding is only available to the state for the fiscal year it is programmed and three additional fiscal years. After that, the funding lapses and Michigan loses the funding.

Some discussion was given to leverage when waiting on information and paperwork to be submitted by contractors and applying liquidated damages for time spent trying to collect paperwork. MDOT is not allowed to withhold retainage on payments.

MDOT has not yet received information regarding FAST Act revenues or when those revenues will be available. Fowler noted that Jackson had reported a problem with obligation authority for the Local Agency Program. Stepek reported he had also received an email from Washtenaw regarding the matter. Tupica noted that she had not heard of any issues affecting obligation authority. Fowler reported he would discuss the matter with MDOT Finance.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business Chair Hummel adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.



## Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study FY 2014 - 2017 Transportation Improvement Program

6/26/2013 (3/30/2016)

Required Fields

Fiscal Year	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Phase	Advance Construct	Federal Cost (\$1000s)	Federal Fund Source	State Cost (\$1000s)	State Fund Source	Local Cost (\$1000s)	Local Fund Source	Total Phase Cost (\$1000s)	MDOT Job No.	Local ID No.	MPO/Rural Action Date	Amendment Type	Air Quality	Comments
2016	Kalamazoo	MDOT	US-131	GTW by Schoolcraft	0.00	Rail	Roadway approach and MOT at railroad crossing	PE		6	STRH	1	M			7	129521		03/30/16	Add	E	Addition of project phase 3/30/16;
2016	Kalamazoo	MDOT	US-131	GTW by Schoolcraft	0.00	Rail	Roadway approach and MOT at railroad crossing	Con		66	STRH	7	M			73	129521		03/30/16	Add	E	Addition of project phase 3/30/16;
2016	Kalamazoo	MDOT	US-131	GTW by Schoolcraft	0.00	Rail	Railroad crossing surface construction	Con		166	STRH	18	M			184	129522		03/30/16	Add	E	Addition of project phase 3/30/16;
2016	Kalamazoo	MDOT	US-131 BR	I-94 BL to south of Kalamazoo North City Limits	1.34	Resurface	Cold Milling and HMA One Course Overlay	Con		763	NH	169	M			932	127456		03/30/16	Add	E	Addition of project phase 3/30/16;
2016	Kalamazoo	MDOT	M-43	M-43 from US-131 to Stadium Drive (I-94BL) and on Kalamazoo Ave (M-43) from Pitcher Street to West Main Street	4.634	Resurface	Cold Milling and HMA resurfacing with ADA sidewalk ramps	ROW		33	NH	7				40	123262		03/30/16	Year	E	Addition of project 7/30/14; Scope change from US-131 to Stadium Drive (I-94BL) to M-43 from US-131 to Stadium Drive (I-94BL) and on Kalamazoo Ave (M-43) from Pitcher Street to West Main Street, change to total project cost 11/19/14; Change from FY 2015 to FY 2016, 3/30/16;