

FISCAL YEAR 2015 FEDERAL LOCAL OBLIGATION AUTHORITY STATUS

APRIL 2015

Based on the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2015, Title I of division K, Public Law 113-235, and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, Public Law 113-159 an obligation limitation was placed where obligation authority is only available from October 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. As a result the Federal Highway Administration provided the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) reduced obligation authority (approximately two thirds) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. This corresponds to approximately \$160 million of Local Obligation Authority for the local program.

MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) has processed a very aggressive FY 2015 program to the extent that the reduced Federal Local Obligation Authority has been exhausted. In accordance with established LAP policy, completed project packages that were eligible for obligation request were processed on a "first-come first-serve" basis for obligation.

In an effort to help deliver the remaining local program, MDOT is allowing local agencies to utilize the funding technique of Advance Construct (AC) where a local agency provides the project funding up front and can be converted to federal funds if/when additional federal-aid is available. Additional federal funding will be available if/when Congress passes new highway funding or extends the current funding act. If additional federal funding does not become available the local agency would be responsible for the AC amount.

If/when MDOT receives additional obligation authority, federal-aid for local projects will be utilized in the following order:

1. Current year AC projects will be converted.
2. MPO operations and Transit Flex funding will be obligated.
3. Current year Non-AC projects will be obligated in order received.

The Local Bridge Program has State funds available for obligation of on-system bridge projects. Off-system bridge projects utilizing federal funds are subject to the constraints and procedures listed above.

Local agencies can contact their LAP staff engineer to find out the obligation status of their project. Please feel free to contact Larry Doyle at 517-335-2233 or by email at DoyleL@Michigan.gov with any additional questions.

Meet Our New Planner

Frederick Nagler, P.E.

KATS is pleased to announce that Frederick Nagler, P.E. has been hired for the part-time Associate Planner position. Fred is a licensed professional engineer and his last position was as the City Engineer for the City of Kalamazoo. Fred's primary job duties will be the Regional Transportation Work Program for the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council.



FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program

Draft Available for Public Comment

The draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program is now available for public comment. Comments may be submitted until May 26 by email to: mzehner@katsmpo.org or mail to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, 5220 Lovers Ln, Suite 110, Portage, MI 49002. Link: [Draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program](#).

Strategic Plans for Bicycling

May 13, 2015
4:00 p.m.

Wile Auditorium
KRESA Main Campus
1819 Milham Road
Portage, MI 49002

"Long-Term Planning for an MPO-wide Bike Route Network"

Steve Stepek

Senior Planner,
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

"Major Aspirations: Bicycling and the City of Kalamazoo"

Matt Johnson

City Engineer
City of Kalamazoo

Rebekah Kik

City Planner
City of Kalamazoo

"Bikes Are People, Too"

Jason Latham

SW Region Planning Manager
Michigan Department of Transportation

"Bicycling and the Future of Kalamazoo Township"

Ron Reid

Supervisor
Kalamazoo Township

"KVCC: Health, Wellness and Bicycles"

Marilyn Schlack

President
Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Space is limited! Register by emailing
mzehner@katsmpo.org.

Kalamazoo Bike Week
May 9-16, 2015

Kalamazoo Bike Week is all about celebrating cycling. It promotes cycling advocacy, awareness, education and most importantly, fun! For events and information, please visit:

www.kalamazoobikeweek.com.

FY 2016 Local Safety Program Projects

Federal funds for the Local Safety Program are to be used for highway safety improvements on the local roadway system. All locally controlled roadways, regardless of National Functional Classification, are eligible for the Local Safety Program. Local agencies may submit more than one project for consideration. Four project applications were submitted by local agencies in the KATS planning area. Three have been selected.

Project Name: Drake Rd

Agency: City of Kalamazoo

Limits: Drake Road from West Michigan Avenue to Greenmeadow Road

Description: Construction of a shared use path

Federal Funding: \$320,800.00; Local Funding: \$80,200.00

Project: South Westnedge Avenue at Romence Road

Agency: City of Portage

Limits: South Westnedge Avenue and Romence Road Intersection

Description: Traffic Signal upgrade with backplates and countdown peds; lighting and fixed object removal

Federal Funding: \$261,000.00; Local Funding: \$29,000.00

Project Name: Stadium Drive

Agency: Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

Limits: Stadium Drive from 4th Street to 6th Street

Description: CLTL, intersection improvements, upgrade traffic signals and optimize signal timing

Federal Funding: \$600,000.00; Local Funding: \$147,000

Metro Hires a New Project Coordinator

Kalamazoo Metro Transit welcomes new Special Project Coordinator, Kathy Schultz. Kathy worked for KATS for 22 years. During that time she helped Metro Transit with activities such as the National Transit Data Survey and a Socio-Economic Study. In her role at Metro, she will be working on the Community Rideshare Program and the Ten Year Service Vision Plan among other special projects. KATS staff is looking forward to working with Kathy again!



Pictured Above: Kathy Schultz, Special Project Coordinator,
Kalamazoo Metro Transit

Flexible Match Update

Flexible match is used by KATS to cover local match required for FHWA funds as well as FTA funds.

Historically, the flexible match has taken the form of hours of service contributed by local governmental agencies, in activities that support the UWP and contribute to work products. Examples of eligible activities would include participation in the National Functional Classification Review, analyzing crash patterns for a project for the Local Safety Program, and attending public meetings regarding the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Activities must contribute to the planning process rather than the engineering area.

The local share of FTA funds must be contributed in sufficient magnitude to cover the local share of each progress billing. (payment by payment match). Thank you to Kalamazoo Metro Transit, Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) and Van Buren Transit for providing \$37,771 in local match for KATS second quarter billing.

The local share of FHWA funds may use tapered match. With tapered match, the local share is applied to the total project costs on an annual basis instead of applying to each billing.

Budget: \$107,300
YTD: \$44,341
Remaining: \$71,092
% Remaining: 66.26%

So far, 13 out of 32 agencies have met their contributed service agreement amount for FY 2015 for FHWA Planning Funds.

Thank you all for reporting your time!

Contact Us

KATS

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Visit us on the web

at www.katsMPO.org

Upcoming Meetings and Dates to Note

Date	Time	Event	Location
May 14	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
May 15		KATS Timesheets Due	
May 21	4:00 p.m.	Citizen Advisory Board	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
May 25	All Day	Memorial Day (Office Closed)	
May 27	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
June 11	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
June 15		KATS Timesheets Due	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
June 24	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
July 3		Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)	
July 9	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
July 15		KATS Timesheets Due For Third Quarter!	
July 29	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit