

**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2017 MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The March 29, 2017 meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee was called to order at Kalamazoo Metro Transit at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Michele McGowen.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair Michele McGowen, Kay Chase, Marc Irwin, Linda MacDonald

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jun-Seok Oh, Brendan Molony, Paul Sotherland

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Stepek, Megan Arndt

**CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Add 'Election of Officers' after item six. Add 'Discussion' to item nine.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION by MacDonald, SECOND by Chase, ***"to approve the March 29, 2017 agenda as amended."***  
MOTION APPROVED.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

MOTION by MacDonald, SECOND by Irwin, ***"to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2016 Citizen Advisory Committee."*** MOTION APPROVED.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS – NONE**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

MOTION by MacDonald, SECOND by Irwin, ***"to elect McGowen as Chair and Sotherland as Vice Chair for another year term."*** MOTION APPROVED.

**FISCAL YEAR 2017 PROJECT UPDATE – STEVE STEPEK.**

Stepek highlighted the big MDOT jobs for Fiscal Year 2017. MDOT will give a spring update at next month's Policy Committee meeting as part of the construction season update. The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for downtown Kalamazoo is starting the planning phase. Includes preliminary design work and cost estimates and well as public engagement. There is a design alternative analysis for the core downtown area that includes analyzing shifts in traffic for two-way conversions.

### **KATS PEDESTRIAN, GREENWAY AND TRANSIT PLAN – STEVE STEPEK**

Steppek reported that Technical Memo #2 will be released in three days and will include a summary handout of the feedback from the first public engagement meeting. The next step is looking at the potential routes and connections to transit to aid ridership. AECOM is also working on prioritizing funding based on public input. The next public meeting is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo College Hornet Suite. Location was set to engage more students to participate in the study. McGowen asked if KATS was pleased with how the study has been moving thus far. Steppek reported that KATS is pleased with the public engagement the study has received and the AECOM consultants have been great to work with. KATS is looking for CAC member input on the Pedestrian, Greenway and Transit Plan and are encouraged to attend the next public meeting. Flyers for the public meeting will be sent out by the end of the coming week.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

Steppek explained that the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study received a recommendation as part of the certification review by Federal Highway Administration to improve the Public Participation Plan (PPP). KATS is currently updating the PPP to improve public engagement. Steppek requested that CAC members provide any information on newsletters and events in the KATS area that KATS staff can attend to target particular populations that have been neglected in the past. Steppek reported that KATS is also looking to develop long term strategies for public engagement.

McGowen explained how she and other professionals in the area are discussing how professional processes are confusing for average citizens. McGowen raised the question of how do professionals effectively interact with citizens? A monthly question regarding transportation on the KATS Facebook page was a suggestion by McGowen for engaging real people for comments and opinions. Chase raised the issue of citizens not knowing how to ask the right questions at public engagement meetings and suggested that a short presentation be shown with time at the end for questions.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Steppek reported that Brendan Molony from Bronson Health was appointed to the CAC by the Policy Committee. Brendan is the Sustainability Coordinator for Bronson Health.

McGowen requested that Jun-Seok Oh be formally asked if he wishes to continue serving on the CAC. If not, someone else in the field of higher education should serve as a CAC member to keep Western Michigan University informed.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS – NONE**

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chase inquired if KATS staff was aware of the Midwest Regional Rail plan study that is currently underway. The plan is a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) sponsored study that had money appropriated in 2014. Currently there are 40 member stakeholders with a variety of interests being represented. Chase reported that there will be four stakeholder meetings and anyone can register as an interested party and will be supplied with all of the plan materials. Chase reported there was a webinar for MPO's a couple months ago and would be willing to give a short form with highlights that are relevant to Kalamazoo. Chase stated that we are part of a really active network in the Midwest and

Kalamazoo connects rail to the rest of the transportation system. [MidwestRailPlan.org](http://MidwestRailPlan.org) is the website with contact information and link to sign up as an interested party. The Michigan Rail conference is broadening its focus this year to a Midwest rail conference and will be in Kalamazoo August 15 through the 17. Chase asked how KATS staff might want to be involved in the conference.

Stepek answered that KATS staff will talk about how passenger rail can be implemented into the KATS Pedestrian, Greenway and Transit Plan.

Following discussion, the next meeting of the next CAC will be Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the March 29, 2017 meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Citizen Advisory Committee was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.