



Obligation Authority Update

On Friday, July 31, 2015, the President signed into law: H.R. 3236, the "Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015," which extends through October 29, 2015, authority and funding for the Department of Transportation's surface transportation programs and transfers \$8.1 billion from the Treasury General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund; and provides resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services and makes a number of changes to the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act.

With the extension (which expired at the end of July) the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County E. Main Street project was obligated and the Van Buren County Road Commission Red Arrow Highway project received \$403,983.13 (all that was available for the Surface Transportation Program-Urban funding). Project details are:

Project Name: East Main Street

Limits: East Main Street from East Michigan Ave to Sprinkle Road

Project Description: 4 to 3 lane conversion from Wallace Ave to Craft Ave. Install CLTL from E. Michigan Ave to Wallace Ave. Upgrade 3 signals.

Federal Cost: \$600,000; Fully obligated.

Local Cost: \$70,000

Project Name: Red Arrow Highway

Limits: CR652 South (24th St) to Van Kal Ave (22nd St)

Project Description: Rehabilitation of existing section and widening to 3 lanes. Includes all associated grade work, drive and street restoration.

Federal Cost: \$500,000; \$403,983 Partially Obligated (Awaiting additional funding)

Local Cost: \$138,000

Funding Issues for FY 2015

The following information regarding FY 2015 funding was received by KATS from the Michigan Department of Transportation on August 5, 2015.

- **The obligation deadline for FY 2015 is Monday, September 14, 2015 for all federally funded jobs.**
- The MAP-21 Extension is good through October 29, 2015; Eric Mullen is still awaiting numbers from FHWA. MDOT estimates another \$40-44 million for local obligations. They should be able to continue 2015 obligations either late next week or the week of the 17th.
- Priorities for obligations are: finish FY 2015 Advance Constructs, Fund FY 2016 MPO Program, fund any remaining local jobs, finish transit flex. The deadline to submit transit flex to FTA is **August 7th (Friday)**. MDOT Office of Passenger Transportation is working with FHWA regarding the matter.
- **The deadline to obligate state funded jobs is September 25, 2015.**



Pictured: FY 2015 Stadium Drive US 131 Interchange Improvements

August 2015

Next Issue:
November 2015



Pictured: Pop-up Bike Lane to evaluate the proposed connection from the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail to downtown Kalamazoo. The Pop-up Lane Event was held June 18-21.

Comstock Vision Master Plan 2025

Comstock Charter is in the process of updating its vision for the future of the community - the Master Plan. Throughout the process, they will be working with the residents, business-owners, stakeholders and local officials to help define the future of the community.

The township has launched a new website for the Vision at: <http://comstockvision.com/>

Comstock Vision Community Openhouse

August 12, 2015
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Comstock Township Hall

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

KATS has extended the deadline for Metropolitan Transportation Plan Projects until August 14. As part of the development of the 2045 MTP, member agencies have been asked to complete an application for:

- 1) Projects in an agency's current five year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) regardless of funding sources.
- 2) Planned, anticipated or illustrative projects that will make a network change (Road diets, expansion, new facility, corridor level ITS) regardless of funding sources.

The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan provides the foundation for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program. Project applications should be submitted to marndt@katsmpo.org. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to sstepek@katsmpo.org.

What's next? After receiving project applications, projects will be ranked by the Prioritization Subcommittee using the Project Ranking Process (adopted by KATS Policy Committee on June 24) and a draft list of projects will be prepared for a recommendation for inclusion in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Citizen Advisory Committee Draft Bylaws

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Draft Bylaws were presented to the Policy Committee for feedback and comments at the June 29 Policy Committee meeting. The CAC will continue revisions at the August 20, 2015, Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit, 530 N. Rose Street. Comments may be submitted to Monica Zehner at mzehner@katsmpo.org or in person at the August 20 meeting. A copy of the most recent draft is available on the KATS website at <http://katsmpo.org/committees/citizen-advisory-committee/>.

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 Unified Planning Work Program and contribute to work products.

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 \$43,888.60 in local match for KATS third 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:	\$97,767
Remaining:	\$9,533

So far, 15 agencies have met or exceeded their contributed service agreement. Thank you to everyone who reported time!

Timesheets for FY 2015 are due by 5:00 p.m. on October 15 so that KATS can begin preparations for our audit!

Kalamazoo Metro Ridesharing

Kalamazoo Metro Ridesharing is a ride matching service that allows commuters to find carpool, vanpool, transit, or bike options to get around Kalamazoo County and Southwest Michigan. Signing up has its benefits, including FREE carpool and vanpool matching services, transit information, and tips on how to save money on commuting to and from work or around town.

By registering and tracking your carpool/vanpool/transit/bike trips, you can also earn points towards fun gift certificates and monthly drawings. Employers can offer smart commuting options to employees to help get them to work. Register and start commuting smart and earning rewards!

How is KMetroRide funded? The program is provided through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and Metro Transit is part of a statewide ridesharing program that provides carpool, vanpool, and other commuting options to communities throughout Michigan. They receive Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds to provide the services. The funds are part of a multi-faceted approach to improving air quality in Southwest Michigan. Staff for the program operates out of Kalamazoo Metro Transit. For more information on Kalamazoo Metro Ridesharing's services: (269) 342-7433 or visit <http://www.kmetroride.com>.

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Applies for FY 2017 Local Safety Program Funding

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is applying for FY 2017 Local Safety Program Funding for 2 projects. The KATS Policy Committee approved Resolutions of Support for the applications at the July 29 Policy Committee Meeting.

Stadium Drive and 11th Street Safety Project: Between the years of 2010- 2014, this area has experienced 78 accidents. Of these, there were 23 possible injury accidents, 3 non-incapacitating injuries, 2 incapacitating injuries, and one fatality. Data indicates that rear-end type accidents are prevalent at this location and account for 59% of total accidents reported. Data also indicates that all severe injuries were the result of left turning traffic from Stadium Drive onto 11th Street.

For this safety project, the RCKC proposes the following:

- Construct northbound and westbound right turn lanes
- Modify the traffic signal to have protected left turn phasing on Stadium Drive

The cost of construction is estimated to be \$350,000 with \$315,000 as Local Safety Program funding. As part of this program, the project would be federally funded at 90% with a 10% local match. The estimated time of return on investment is calculated to be 3.57 years.

Sprinkle Road Intersection Safety Project: Between the years of 2010-2014, this area has experienced 122 injury accidents. Of these, there were 78 possible injury accidents, 41 non-incapacitating injuries, 16 incapacitating injuries, and two fatalities. Data indicates that many of the crashes were a result of vehicles failing to stop for a red or yellow indication.

For this safety project, the RCKC proposes the following:

- Install Advanced Dilemma Zone Detection for approaches on Sprinkle Road and high-speed side street approaches.
- Updated, optimized, and coordinated traffic signal timings for the corridor.

The cost of construction is estimated to be \$800,000 with \$600,000 as Local Safety Program funding. As part of this program the project would be federally funded at 75% with a 25% local match. The estimated time of return on investment is calculated to be 1.06 years.

Commuting Smart around Kalamazoo pays off!

Since June 1, 2015...

- 234 miles of shared commutes
- \$55.00 money saved
- 11 gallons fuel saved
- 0.17 lbs NOx saved
- 2.17 lbs CO saved
- 215 lbs green house gases saved

Get rewarded!

Register with KMetroRide at www.KMetroRide.com. Once you have registered with MetroRide, log your trips.

After you have logged 10 days worth of trips using a carpool, vanpool, transit, or bike*, KMetroRide will send you a gift certificate to an area business as their thank you for smart commuting! They will also be holding monthly drawings with those that have recorded at least 5 days worth of trips*.

***The rewards program is subject to change.**



What is KATS?

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study or KATS, as it is commonly referred to, is the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

A MPO is a transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local government and transportation authorities. In 1962, the United States Congress passed legislation that required the formation of an MPO for any Urbanized Area (UZA) with a population greater than 50,000.

Congress created MPOs in order to ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive ("3-C") planning process. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this planning process.

Regional Transit Mobility Initiative

On June 2, 2014, Governor Snyder released a special message to the legislature on the topic of aging, titled "Making Michigan a Great Place to Live Well and Age Well." The special message included the following regarding access to transportation: "Michiganers, including many older adults, need regional mobility and transit providers to become more regionally focused. This is both an urban and rural issue." In that message, the Governor asked the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to partner with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) to work on the issue of regional transit mobility.

In response, MDOT has requested the assistance of the Southcentral Planning Commission (through its contract with KATS) and others in obtaining data related to the transit systems across Regional Prosperity Initiative Regions. KATS and partners will be documenting and assessing the need and the ability of individuals to make use of available local transit services for trips that cross county lines and/or transit service areas.

How is the Regional Transit Mobility Initiative Funded? The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council has received a project authorization for Comprehensive Transportation Funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the Regional Transit Mobility Initiative. This fund is restricted for public transportation programs.

Contact Us:



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
August 13	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
August 14		Project Applications Due for 2045 MTP	
August 15		KATS Timesheets Due	
August 20	4:00 p.m.	Citizen Advisory Board	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
August 26	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
August 26	Following Policy Committee	Finance and Personnel Subcommittee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
September 7	All Day	Labor Day (Office Closed)	
September 10	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
September 15		KATS Timesheets Due	
September 30	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
September 30		FISCAL YEAR END	
October 8	9:00 a.m.	Technical Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit
October 15		KATS Timesheets Due For Year End	
October 28	9:00 a.m.	Policy Committee	Kalamazoo Metro Transit