



To: Policy Committee
From: Monica Zehner, Office Manager
Date: April 13, 2018
Subject: Technical Committee Report (April 12, 2018)

The Technical Committee met April 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Metro. Action items on the agenda included approval of Resolutions of Support for the Village of Mattawan and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County applications for the FY 2021 Local Bridge Program. These are action items on the agenda of April 12, 2018 Policy Committee meeting and are discussed in the information memo.

Discussion items on the agenda included the proposed amendment to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for Transportation Performance Measures, an update on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, and public transportation updates.

There were status reports on roads and planning activities which included:

ROAD STATUS REPORTS

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC)

RCKC Non-motorized: The RCKC is finalizing right of way acquisition for the Drake Road Trail Project. The target date for final plan submittal is April 20. The RCKC is working with Kalamazoo County Parks on agreements for the next two phases of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

RCKC Road Updates: The KL Avenue Project at Almena and 1st Street is in the May letting. The KL Avenue Project from 11th Street to Drake Road was in the April letting and came in 32% under estimate. The 42nd Street Project from the county line to north of Y Avenue came in 12% under estimate. The Q Avenue Project at 10th Street and 9th Street Project at Quail Run Drive and KL Avenue are expected to begin in late June. Four of the five 2017 construction projects are being closed out.

RCKC Other Updates: RCKC news releases will be starting soon. Members were reminded to sign up for RCKC Connect to get updates throughout the construction season. The RCKC Chip Seal Program is scheduled to start mid-May. This week is National Work Zone Awareness Week. Members were encouraged to check the FHWA and MDOT websites and social media for information to share with residents.

The Village of Augusta: The Village continues to participate in planning for the extension of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. The Village has been working with the RCKC on coordinating projects for its Road Improvement Plan. The Village is hoping to receive funding from the 2021 Local Bridge Program for the Washington Street Bridge.

Village of Vicksburg: 2018-2019 Road Projects will go to the Village Council for approval on April 16.

City of Kalamazoo: The Pitcher Street Project will be in a special bid letting. The preconstruction meeting has been held for the Vine Street Project. The preconstruction meeting for the W. Michigan and Howard Street Project is expected to be held this week. The City is working with Western Michigan University on tree removal and lighting required along the route for the Howard Street Non-motorized Project. Project submittal is planned for later this year with construction in 2019.

City of Portage: The S. Westnedge Avenue Project from Romence Road to Mall Drive came in \$100,000 under estimate. However, due to the cost of storm sewer improvements at J L Hudson Drive, the project is \$600,000 over the budget. Bids for the signal at J L Hudson were expected to be opened on April 12. The W. Centre Avenue Project from 12th Street to Oakland Drive was moved to the May letting. The Oakland Drive Project also came in approximately \$100,000 under estimate. Construction will begin after school lets out. Railroad improvements at the E. Milham Railroad Crossing have been scheduled with Grand Elk from May 7-12. Road closure is expected while work is completed. The City is hoping to close on the property needed this week for the Portage Road at Lakeview Drive Project. The Stryker Way Project has begun. Lane closures are expected. Engineering proposals have been received for the 2019 W. Milham Avenue Reconstruction Project and the re-alignment of Lovers Lane from Milham Avenue to Ramona Avenue. Engineering proposals were scheduled to be opened on April 12 for the 2019 Romence Road Reconstruction Project.

Michigan Department of Transportation: Resurfacing of US-131 BR (Westnedge Avenue/ Park Street) from W. Michigan Avenue north to Hopkins is scheduled to begin on April 16 contingent upon the weather. Construction is expected to last through August. There will be a public meeting for the I-94 Widening Project from Lovers Lane to Sprinkle Road in late June to present geometric modification alternatives to the Portage Road Interchange. MDOT recently learned that the Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport had plans to extend its runway 150 feet north to the Kilgore Road Bridge. The airport was unaware that the I-94 Widening Project would raise the freeway elevation. Meetings will be held regarding the issue. FHWA will be allowing the use of rapid rectangular flashing beacons in projects. Typically, the statewide winter maintenance budget has approximately \$10 million in contingency funding to allow for severe weather such as a blizzard. In the event the funding is not used, it is then redistributed to the regions for non-winter maintenance. Annually, the Southwest Region has normally received approximately \$1 million from the redistribution. MDOT Southwest did have projects planned for the potential redistribution including work at I-94 and Kings Highway. However, this winter there was a failure on I-696 and contingency funding was expended on repairs. Therefore, no funding from redistribution is expected at this time.

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study: Members were reminded to submit bid tally sheets to KATS staff so that bids savings could be reprogrammed and amendments to the TIP could be approved in May.

LAND USE, PLANNING, AND ZONING STATUS REPORTS

Kalamazoo County Planning and Development: Image capture for the Pictometry contract has begun. The rural 9-inch resolution area is approximately 90% complete. The urban 3-inch resolution area is approximately 65% complete. Image capture is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The initial data will be available on the Pictometry website by early summer. A public meeting will be held on May 3 regarding the County Master Plan with final approval targeted for May or June. The County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator is working on the Local Unit Census Update (LUCA) Project to update subdivision data and addresses in the census database. The GIS Coordinator will also be working with on GIS updates for the dispatch authority.

MDOT: MDOT Southwest Region is contracting with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to update its Trail and Bicycle Guide. Stepek reported that the data from KATS Moves would be submitted for the update. The Southwest Region Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee will meet on June 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the MDOT Southwest Region office.

City of Kalamazoo: There are 7 neighborhoods actively working on Neighborhood Plans. The plans will be amended into the Master Plan.

Texas Township: The township has received many phone calls regarding access to Al Sabo Drive and the Texas Drive Trail. The township will be contacting the City of the Kalamazoo to discuss the matter. The 9th Street and I-94 Overpass Project is expected to start this summer.

City of Portage: The City Council has approved a tax abatement for a potential Pfizer project for a half-billion sterile manufacturing facility which is expected to bring in 450 jobs to the area. The project still has to be approved by Pfizer's corporate offices. If approved, the project is expected to begin in September.