

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the November 28, 2018 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

The November 28, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Thompson at 9:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by all present.

**ROLL CALL**

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Curt Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
David Anderson	City of Kalamazoo
Dan Bishop	Village of Lawton
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Pamela Goodacre	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Rob Heasley	City of Parchment
Libby Heiny-Cogswell	Oshtemo Township
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Nicolette Leigh	Kalamazoo Township
Eric Mullen	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region
Ronald Smith	Village of Vicksburg
Randy Smith	Brady Township
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Greg Thomas	Pavilion Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rob Baker	Ross Township
John Clement	Van Buren Public Transit
Keith Gunnett	Village of Schoolcraft
John Hinkle	Texas Charter Township
Tony Hyet	Alamo Township
Judy Lemon	City of Galesburg
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw
Greg Rosine	Western Michigan University
Paul Schincariol	Van Buren County Board of Commissioners
Don Schultz	Climax Township
Michael Scott	Village of Richland
Donald Stull	Paw Paw Township
Tom Swiat	Prairie Ronde Township
Bill VanTassel	Almena Township

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dusty Farmer	Oshtemo Township
Max Hornick	Disability Network Southwest Michigan
Sean McBride	Metro
Megan Mickelson	KATS
Fred Nagler	KATS
Jon Start	KATS
Steve Stepek	KATS

## **CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No changes to the agenda were requested.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION by Ron Smith, SECOND by Randy Smith, ***“to approve the agenda of the November 28, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No Citizens' comments were made.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Ush, SECOND by Heasley, ***“to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda as listed.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **FY 2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

The recommended amendments to projects in the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) consist mainly of clean up after moving projects from the old system to the new system. The suspension of a 2019 MDOT project to reconstruct Stadium at Howard continues until MDOT and Amtrak reach a new agreement. The suspension is also due to the pending transfer of some MDOT roads to the City of Kalamazoo. A cost change for Romence Road in the City of Portage for rehabilitation work between Oakland and Constitution is due to the addition of underground utility work.

There was some discussion among committee members on the continued suspension of MDOT projects due to the pending contract with Amtrak.

Start clarified a question by Leigh on the term “special pavement markings” in the TIP which refers to longitudinal pavement markings.

Stepek made note of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail project added to the TIP for FY 2019. The trail project has been a long time coming and once completed, will go all the way out to Battle Creek.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Johnson, ***“to approve the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **KATS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN IN TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING**

MOTION by Johnson, SECOND by Daly, ***“to approve and adopt the KATS Public Participation Plan in Transportation Decision Making.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 STATE SAFETY TARGETS**

Annual action to be taken for the MPO to support the state targets. Our actions will be towards supporting those statewide efforts. There is a difference between the goal of no fatalities and reductions in severe injuries and the targets which show increases compared to the base year. The state's performance is held against these targets, KATS as an MPO is choosing to support those targets.

Committee members discussed the safety targets in terms of rates and funding if targets were not met by the state.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Ron Smith, *“to approve the Resolution of Support for Calendar Year 2019 State Safety Targets.”* MOTION APPROVED.

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

Start noted there are proposed changes in voting member status in the Policy Committee Bylaws. The proposed changes classifies voting members to active voting members and inactive voting members based on meeting attendance of the members or their alternates. The purpose of the proposed change is to avoid future quorum problems by only counting active voting members for quorum. Active voting members would become inactive voting members by missing three consecutive regularly scheduled Policy Committee meetings. Active voting membership would be restored by attending two consecutive regularly scheduled Policy Committee meetings.

The KATS staff recommended that the Policy Committee review the proposed bylaws and provide comments. Policy Committee Bylaws will be brought to the December meeting for action and approval.

Committee members discussed potential suggestions to encourage attendance for members and their alternates.

#### **FY 2020-2023 CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Start reported that member agencies have submitted projects for evaluation during the FY 202-2023 Call for Projects. The KATS staff has been reviewing projects and scoring them using the newly updated Project Prioritization Process. A subcommittee will be working with the KATS staff to review the points assigned and refine the ranking of projects for possible inclusion in the FY 2020-2023 TIP.

#### **NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 OFFICERS**

Started noted that the Policy Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer need to be elected during the December meeting for calendar year 2019. Nominations should be ready for the December meeting by a volunteer nomination subcommittee. Existing officers may serve additional terms.

Pamela Goodacre, Jeff Sorenson and Marsha Drouin volunteered to be on the nominating subcommittee.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Aardema reported that the branding project for Metro, is continuing as well as new signage on the facility. Approved purchases of medium duty buses (midsized bus/van) in lieu of the anticipated grant the Central County Transportation Authority received. Bus stop study has been reviewed by the board and Metro staff is working on a plan in implement the results of that study which will be a multiple phase process. Continuing to work on new bus routes such as the east side of Comstock including 35<sup>th</sup> Street and River street corridor. The new route will run Monday through Friday from 6-10 am and 2-6 pm to service the working residences.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Start reported that the auditors have completed the onsite portion of the FY 2018 financial audit for KATS and will be completing the process soon.

The current Metropolitan Transportation Plan covers future years out to 2045. The KATS staff along with the model consultant and MDOT, are discussing the review and action to either reaffirm the plan or complete a new one to match the base year to that of the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study. With the court order for 1997 Air Quality Conformity standards back in place, it is possible the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will be revised in its entirety.

Aardema asked about what triggers the change in boundaries for an MPO. Start mentioned the census determines what the urbanized area boundaries are. Part of the planning process for the MTP includes looking at what areas currently outside the urban area might be tied to the urban area in the next 20 years. Aardema inquired if it was a possibility that the Battle Creek area would merge with the

Kalamazoo MPO area. Start noted that discussion regarding a merge may make sense going forward, however, there is no legislation to force one MPO to merge into another.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No citizens' comments were made.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Johnson reported that the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County board approved the Primary Roads Capital Plan. The infrastructure mapping project is looking for submittal of projects by agencies for the next 3 to 5 years by December 14, 2018. Heppler mentioned there may be changes in projects that were already submitted and inquired if those projects should be resubmitted. Johnson noted there will be a regroup meeting next year to make such adjustments.

Heppler reported that the funding for the bridge project the Village of Augusta applied for did not make the cut for funding this year. The Village will submit the project again next year and is planning to ask for support from the committee when the time comes.

Heiny-Cogswell commented on the amendments to the Oshtemo Township Non-Motorized Public Streets Policy that will be completed in December. Dusty Farmer will be the designated alternate member for the next calendar year.

Thompson gave special thanks to the Central County Transportation Authority for the new Mero route in Comstock.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Chair Thompson adjourned the November 28, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:52 a.m.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.***