

**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (KATS)
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 17, 2019 - 4:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The KATS Citizen Advisory Committee was called to order by Vice-Chair Sotherland at 4:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by those present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kay Chase, Linda MacDonald, Marc Irwin, and Paul Sotherland

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michele McGowen and Brendan Molony

OTHERS PRESENT

Lewis Whalen, Kathy Schultz and Megan Mickelson

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOITON by Chase, SECOND by Irwin *“to approve the April 17, 2019 Citizen Advisory Committee Agenda.”* MOTION APPROVED.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2019 MEETING

MOTION by MacDonald, SECOND by Irwin, *“to approve the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes.”* MOTION APPROVED.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Schultz gave an update on Metro.

- Rebranding about completed with buses.
- Took ownership of 5 new buses last week, 3 29 ½ foot buses on lower ridership routes and for better logistics. These are clean burning diesel buses. Metro is moving away from hybrid electric buses due to lack of cost benefit due to the hilly landscape of the area. \$2.8 million grant awarded from federal government for bus replacement. Metro has scheduled another 7 buses to be replaced next year. Sotherland inquired about documenting cost benefit of the hybrids and have a written document available to the public. Schultz replied the planning staff is getting those kind of figures together for the board.

- Metro is continuing with the bus stop implementation plan. Working with road agencies with bus stop signs. Prototype has been shut down. Metro logo, bus stop logo, phone number and a separate sign with route number and other route information as well as url. Estimates for brail brackets with bus in brail and will be mounted at the standard height per ADA. East Main, West Main, Westnedge and Center are the first routes being implemented. After first 4, issue RFP to get the rest of the routes done. Goal is to have all the routes signed by end of 2020.
- Youth mobility project with the City of Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence and Kalamazoo Public Schools. Having a formal announcement this summer. Small group starting in June with 7 day a week access. Student ID will become their bus pass. Unsure of the impact at this time, Metro will be keeping data to see how the youth mobility program is being used. Sotherland inquired if all these students take the bus, then their parents are not chauffeuring them around, so it should be making an impact on traffic. Schultz said it is something KATS might model.
- Milage elections coming up for CCTA in May of 2020.

Whalen reported that Disability Network Southwest held a transit forum in Berrien County (4 separate transit system that do not cover the entire county). Each system has a different funding/payment method. Too much complexity to get from one transit to another. There are only a couple fixed routes that go in a loop. Organized an opportunity for transit riders to talk to the transit agencies about the issues with the system in the county. Extremely well attended (over 50 people). Also an opportunity for agencies to discuss barriers to providing better services. A mix of officials were present as well. A county wide system? Maintaining individual systems? TCATA (twin cities area transit area) has some federal funds for the metropolitan area.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Mickelson gave an update on the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Chase commented there were lots of broken sidewalks on the way to KATS office. Duke Route not well used due to poor running hours. Inbound and outbound bus stops are not in the same place.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Disability Network has available space for meetings.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chase commented on the TIP, safety targets are confusing. Some explanation about the numbers and how KATS is addressing those numbers would be helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the KATS Citizen Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 4 p.m.