

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

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 - 4:00 P.M.  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by those present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brendan Molony

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lewis Whalen, Max Hornick and Megan Mickelson

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2019 MEETING**

MOTION by Sotherland, SECOND by Irwin, *“to approve the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes.”* MOTION APPROVED.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Whalen discussed the delay of Section 298 until October 2020. Section 298 relates to the privatization of mental health system. This change would run mental health in conjunction with physical health, making community mental health a contractor to provide services. Disability Network is not in favor.

Mickelson gave an update on Metro transit. The new Metro Youth Mobility project has provided Kalamazoo Public School Students MyCity kids just under 11,000 rides between June 24, 2019 and August 23, 2019. It has been determined that 370 students in Kalamazoo are transportation dependent meaning they are without someone to get them to some place during the day. 3,500 Kalamazoo Public High School students have bus passes available to them. The project is now in Phase 2. A one-day study conducted last Thursday (September 5) shows nearly 900 rides were given with the busiest routes being Duke- by Loy Norrix High School and Alamo- for Kalamazoo Central High School. Central County Transportation Authority continues to ensure students are responsible bus riders. Ten new bus stop signs

have been installed on the streets. Another 11 more will be coming out in the next couple weeks with Rathco and will give them a broader reach and better public involvement. Mostly positive feedback has been received on the new signs which include the stop number, which bus comes to this stop and the anticipated time the bus will get here. CCTA is working with Rathco to hopefully complete the East Main route this year and are coordinating with Consumers Concrete on updating concrete bus stop pads in some areas which has had significant impact on our service.

## **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mickelson gave an update on the FY 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) lost \$2 million dollars because two projects were not obligated soon enough. One is with the City of Kalamazoo which they are revamping to fit it back into future projects. There will be a future TIP Amendment on that. The City of Portage project will be more difficult to fit in to future years because it was an \$800,000 project that didn't get obligated and there is now only \$400,00 available each year through 2023.

## **TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL**

KATS staff is updating the model and have two iterations, one for this fiscal year and one for the next fiscal year. In preparation Megan is gathering socio-economic data, population and employment data and going through projections and plans to get them in the model. For those who came to KATS yesterday, thank you. If you haven't and would like to, contact Megan Mickelson, there is still time to schedule and come in.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Whalen mentioned the City of Kalamazoo walking audits which are pathways on popular routes between places and neighborhoods. The City wants comments on everything including feedback on how to make paths better. Hornick is attending a walking audit tonight in the Vine neighborhood to cover major routes like Westnedge and Park.

## **MEMBER COMMENTS**

MacDonald had a hand out for the members regarding Michigan's new auto insurance law. Urging members to pass along the information so other can be informed.

Chase shared some results from the State of Michigan Long Range Transportation Plan. Chase will be emailing the results to committee members.

Irwin mentioned "Map 7" and Paul Selden asking Steve Stepek about integrating bike routes and cars based on infrastructure and traffic. Several jurisdictions on the Kalamazoo Regional Bike Route Committee have agreed on signage and signs going up. 8 out of 10 agencies will be finished putting up signs by the end of 2020. Signs can be seen on Parkview heading west from Oakland and on Oakland from Lovell to Centre Ave. City of Portage and City of Kalamazoo will not have signs done by the end of next year.

Sotherland talked about his position on the committee that organized walkability audits for the City of Kalamazoo. Enforcement is the issue. Sidewalks and bike routes are not clean. There is also the issue of signs not being placed with good visibility.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the KATS Citizen Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 4 p.m.

DRAFT