

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The February 19, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Randy 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

Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
David Anderson	City of Kalamazoo
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Tracey Locey	Brady Township
Robin Madaras	City of Parchment
Don Mayle	MDOT, Planning
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw
Pete Pfeiffer	MDOT, TSC
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Tom Swiat	Prairie Ronde Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Bishop	Village of Lawton
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan
John Hinkle	Texas Township
Don Martin	Kalamazoo Township
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Paul Schincariol	Van Buren County

OTHERS PRESENT

Deb Buchholtz	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Jonathan R. Start	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to approve the agenda of the February 19, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 29, 2020 MEETING

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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek stated since the Policy Committee meeting was moved up one week this month, the report was removed from the consent agenda. The Technical Committee took recommended action for approval of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Title VI Plan and Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.

FY 2020 – 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek referred to the amendments in the packet that include some additions and cost changes. The largest change is the Michigan Department of Transportation US-131 M-216 to U Avenue project, which is part of the governor’s new bond program and will obtain a job number shortly. Drouin inquired why the M-43 Roundabout project cost has increased about 1 million dollars. Pfeiffer explained the initial high-level cost estimates are refined with the design process where unknowns come to light and are addressed and features are added. Ulsh inquired whether the US 131 project includes U Avenue interchange. Pfeiffer answered it does not, but Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is looking into addressing minor traffic challenges in that area. MDOT is studying results of the Road Safety Audit and addressing complaints of low man hole covers in the Village of Schoolcraft. Start inquired if other intersections will be changed to a Michigan Left as opposed to allowing a direct left turn. Pfeiffer answered Michigan Department of Transportation is considering and discussing this especially at XY Intersections where lots of crashes occur. VanderRoest inquired what part of the I-94 from Lovers Lane to Sprinkle project will be done this year. Pfeiffer responded, around Labor Day preparatory work will begin. This will include repaving and building-up of the outside and inside shoulders, building crossover lanes and medians to shift traffic from one bound to the other bound on each end of the job. The main construction will begin in 2021. Drouin inquired how long this project will last. Pfeiffer answered it is roughly a two-and half-year project. In 2021, work will be completed on one bound of the roadway. In 2022, work will be completed on the other bound.

MOTION by Ush, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

TITLE VI PLAN

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan was included in the packet. Stepek stated the draft has been out for review since the beginning of last month. KATS appreciated feedback which is in the appendix. The Title VI Plan was approved by the Technical Committee to recommend approval by the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Johnson, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to accept and approve the Title VI Plan.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 AUDIT PRESENTATION AND REPORT

Stevens of Maner Costerian presented Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study fiscal year 2019 financial audit overview and opinion. Preparation of the financial statements, internal controls and fraud detection is management’s responsibility. Based on the audit, Maner expresses the unmodified opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study as of and for the years ended September 30, 2019 and 2018 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. There were no audit findings or recommendations and internal controls are solid. As of September 30, 2019, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study current ratio was 2.19. Total revenues and expenses decreased by 21 percent. Most revenue continues to be from federal grants. Most expenses related to Data and Performance Management Measures but fluctuate based on projects.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema reminded attendees of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) millage request to fund fixed route bus service that will appear on the March 10, 2020 ballot. Staff has been and will continue municipality visits before voting. Taking over from Kalamazoo Public Safety, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office will now handle security at The Downtown Kalamazoo Transit Center. Drouin inquired why the city is no longer providing the service. Aardema explained the city is focusing on a different area, so CCTA turned to the County for security, similar to what is done at the airport. The County provides service at the nearby County Administration building as well. VanderRoest inquired if the security is 24/7 to which Aardema reported it is not, and will align with Transit Center hours and bus and train schedules. McBride stated they are looking into funding two full time officers. Gisler asked if the cost of the changeover is a wash. Aardema responded the approval for the annual service is under the allotted budget of about 260 thousand dollars. Due to the amount of people and activity when Metro, Amtrak, Indian Trails and Greyhound schedules overlap, there is a strong need for security presence. McBride added CCTA continues to finalize the details of the arrangement while prioritizing the importance of public safety at the Transit Center. Metro implemented changes at the end of 2019 to the trial, partnership Youth Mobility program in response to high demand levels and behavior incidents. The changes have been effective and service is still available to students. Attendees discussed and agreed on the challenges facing agencies to not only recruit but retain public service and other employees.

Anderson inquired if the airport is looking to expand into the Millwood neighborhood. Aardema, as a member of the airport board, responded the airport is studying extending the runway which may be required as airplanes get larger. Since the Federal Aviation Administration requires airports to study all possible options, expansion both north and south must be researched. With I-94 on the north end

of the airport runway and dozens of individual properties in Millwood, expansion north is unlikely. Extension south is more likely but the project is still probably 2 to 3 years out. In response to inquiry, Aardema responded the new FedEx facility in Portage will be serviced by trucks and have no direct connection to the airport.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steppek thanked attendees for the strong turnout of approximately 32 people for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) 101 Training and a reminder that additional training is available upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

Sorenson reported the Personnel Committee met and will additionally meet before the March 25, 2020 Policy Committee meeting and present its transition recommendation at that meeting. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Executive Director, Jonathan Start's last day will be May 6, 2020. The April 22, 2020 Policy Committee meeting will be held at Cooper Township 1590 West D Avenue because Metro 530 N. Rose Street is unavailable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Heppler requested and appreciates support from attendees for a resolution of support for the Village of Augusta Washington Street Bridge project to replace the 26-foot-long bridge.

Gisler stated Kalamazoo County voted to extend Tracie Moored's term another three years.

Kinney announced the Van Buren County Road Commission public information meeting regarding its proposed county-wide road millage renewal on the March 10, 2020 ballot will be February 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence.

Sorensen reported there is an open Township Supervisors Meeting with Congressman Fred Upton immediately following this meeting.

Johnson invited attendees to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) Speed Limit, School Zone, No Parking Michigan State Police presentation on March 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. open to local officials. Contact Johnson for an invitation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Randy Thompson adjourned the February 19, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.