

KATS Quarterly

April 2020 Edition

A newsletter for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Kalamazoo Area.



City of Kalamazoo Welcome Sign

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area and is required by federal legislation to provide coordinated transportation planning for urban populations greater than 50,000.

KATS considers the entire area of Kalamazoo County, the four townships of Alma, Antwerp, Waverly, and Paw Paw within Van Buren County as the Metropolitan Planning Boundary, including all local governmental jurisdictions in transportation planning.

Due to the Governor of Michigan issuing a Stay At Home Order, KATS office will be closed until April 13, 2020. KATS staff can be reached by email or phone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact information can be found on the [KATS Staff page](#) of the website.

Stay up to date on important transportation updates, meetings, and other news during this time by checking the website and following the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study on social media.

Facebook: [Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study](#)

Twitter: [@KATSMPO](#)

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COVID-19 Resources

Stay in the know on news, resources and information related to COVID-19.

Kalamazoo County Parks

Spring is in the air but don't head to the park just yet.

Metro

Latest updates on our local transit system.

Transportation Survey

Let your voice be heard! Take a short survey that will shape the future of the transportation system in the greater Kalamazoo area.

Contact Us

KATS

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katsmpo.org

Stay Informed

For the most up to date information on KATS meetings, construction updates and more; follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

COVID -19 Resources

Kalamazoo County Department of Health and Community Services:
<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php>

State of Michigan: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Community members that have critical needs, please dial 2-1-1 for help.

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes Food Services for Kalamazoo Public Schools Students.

The City of Kalamazoo has suspended all water shut offs. As of Wednesday, March 18 the City has restored all water services for customers whose services were previously shut off due to delinquent accounts.

Consumers Energy has suspended shut offs for non-pay for low-income and senior customers beginning March 16, 2020 through April 5, 2020. More information from Consumers Energy:

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/media/news-and-information/emergency-response>

Southwest Michigan First has created a list of resources for business owners, including help with things like cash flow, human resources, taxes, and ecommerce:

<http://www.southwestmichiganfirst.com/what-we-do/covid-19-response/business-resources/>

Kalamazoo County Parks

The Parks Department will be operating but will only be accessible to customers through phone (269-383- 8778). Business will be accommodated over the phone and we will also have a drop box on the exterior of the building. All County Parks will be closed until further notice.

The events at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center through April 12 will be canceled or rescheduled for later in the year.



Metro

Metro continues to serve the community with Metro Connect on demand service. Regular fixed-route bus service will be suspended effective Thursday, April 2. The Kalamazoo Transportation Center has been closed. Complete information is available at www.kmetro.com.

Transportation Survey

KATS is kicking off the planning process for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan discusses the goals, investment decisions, policies, and priorities for the transportation system in the KATS Metropolitan Planning Area. Overall, this plan provides the backbone for the KATS planning activities and the future transportation system of the Metropolitan Planning Area. This plan is set to be adopted in March 2021.

Shape the future of the greater Kalamazoo area transportation system by completing a short online survey! It will take you less than 5 minutes and still provide KATS staff with vital information that is used to make decisions in the upcoming 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

[Take the survey here.](#)

Spring Construction Season

Projects are starting up! National Work Zone Awareness is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. Driving in and around work zones requires motorists to constantly be alert and prepared for changes that a distracted driver may not notice in time to prevent a potentially fatal crash. Please avoid distractions while driving!!

KATS Meeting Schedule

Technical Committee

May 14

June 11

Policy Committee

April 22*

May 27

June 24

*meeting subject to be cancelled, follow KATS on social media and check our website for the latest updates.