

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES MARCH 12, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The March 12, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Kathy Schultz.

ROLL CALL

The sign in sheet was circulated during the meeting. Introductions were made by those present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Ben Clark	Oshtemo Township
Jeff Franklin	MDOT, Statewide Planning
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Jesse Okeley	City of Kalamazoo
Michelle O'Neill	MDOT, TSC
Sherman Potter	City of Portage
Katie Reilly	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Brian Sanada	MDOT, Region
Kathy Schultz, Chair	Central County Transportation Authority
Joe Stark	City of Kalamazoo
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vliestra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Mike West	City of Portage
Tim Woodhams	Village of Mattawan

OTHERS PRESENT

Philip Doorlag	Wightman
Lawrence Hummel	Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jesse Morgan	Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jonathan R. Start	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the March 12, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2020 MEETING

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Franklin, ***“to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Steppek reported Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee met last month and adopted the Title VI Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments, both action items Technical Committee recommended for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Steppek noted amendments are presented today instead of during next month's meeting where quorum may be affected by school spring breaks. The three amendments included in the meeting packet are a railroad project in Prairie Ronde Township, and two change in scope non-freeway signing Michigan Department of Transportation projects.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Bittner, ***“to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

KATS METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Steppek reported Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study underwent the required certification review in November 2019 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The final report, dated February 2020, is included in the meeting materials for review. The FHWA and the FTA certify the transportation planning process for the Kalamazoo urbanized area meets the requirements of Federal law and identified three commendations, six recommendations and no corrective actions. There is improvement since there were no commendations in the past. The three commendations include the public private partnership- Youth Mobility bus pass program, Transportation Improvement Program public involvement and amendment information and Public Participation Plan performance measures. The six recommendations include use of cash vs. in-kind match, freight planning, Michigan Department of Transportation project selection transparency, Environmental Justice outreach, freight shipper participation and update Title VI and ADA Plan. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study already adopted a new Title VI Plan and continues addressing recommendations. Aaron Dawson from Federal Highway Administration will present at the March 25, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting.

DRAFT KATS CONSULTATION PLAN

Steppek referred to the draft Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Consultation Plan included in the meeting packet. During the KATS 2016 Certification Review, it was recommended that KATS develop a formal, documented and agreed to consultation process identifying methods for outreach. KATS is accepting comments on the draft. Mickelson added KATS Citizens Advisory Committee comments have been incorporated into the draft. The plan will be presented for approval at the April or May meeting.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

For the Metro/Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) millage election on the March 10, 2020 ballot, Schultz reported 40,000 votes were cast and 70 percent voted yes in support. Of the precincts that voted, 69 voted in support and 2 voted no, both in Comstock Township. Of the 69 precincts that voted in support, 18 percent had 75 percent support, showing overwhelming support.

Kalamazoo Central Transportation Authority is planning a millage rate request on the March 2021 ballot to fund the Metro Connect program. The transit system is working with Kalamazoo County Emergency Management and Health Department to monitor the Coronavirus situation in the community including at schools and universities. Metro is communicating preventative hygiene practices including handwashing and using hand sanitizer. Although areas are regularly cleaned, Metro is performing additional cleaning of buses and the transportation center. Since the beginning of the Youth Mobility program in September 2019, 120,000 rides have been given. Staff will meet with group partners in April to plan fall 2020 program changes and to discuss program successes and areas for improvement. Recently, fewer behavior incidents related to Youth Mobility have been reported.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has no new projects but is beginning prework for the I-94 widening project that will happen next year. In April, construction will begin on two I-94 emergency pullouts that were previously let. The eastbound pull-off will be close to exit 85 and the westbound pull-off will be close to the Business Loop. Paving on I-94 will occur in July. Due to winter maintenance savings from the mild winter, MDOT added a mill and resurface project in the Village of Richland on M-89 from 32nd Street to the east village limits. The project will be turned in for June letting and will be done by the end of the fiscal year. Since this project is 100 percent state funded, it will not appear on the Transportation Improvement Plan amendments.

RCKC Non-motorized:

FY	Job No.	Description	Status
2019	202047	Drake Rd Trail – Green Meadow to W. Main.	Carry over to 2020.
2020	127385	Drake Rd Trail – KL Ave to Green Meadow	04/2020 Letting
2020	205109	KRVT #6 – 35 th St to McCollum	Bid 03/2020 (18% under estimate) Waiting award.
2020	206301	Stadium Dr Sidewalk – Quail Run to 11 th St.	Final plan prep.

RCKC Road Updates:

FY	Job No.	Description	Status
2019	120246	D Ave – Rolling Meadows to Douglas D Ave – 17 th St. to Riverview Dr.	Contractor strike. Carry over to 2020.
2019	202857	8 th St. – S Ave. to R Ave.	Awarded. Scheduling Precon.
2020	202433	Local Bridge Program (29 th St, 35 th St, 9 th St, Portage Rd) Preventive Maintenance	Awarded. Scheduling Precon.
2020	130824	Drake Rd. – Parkview to W. Main	Bid 02/2020 (4% over estimate) Waiting award.
2020	207248	S Ave. – 34 th to 36 th St.	March tree removals, June start.
2020	130143	U Ave. – 29 th St. to 32 nd St.	March tree removals, April start.
2020	207188	Systemic Signs	Started.

2020	207249	G Ave. – 2 nd St. to 6 th St.	05/2020 Letting.
2021	206265	Sprinkle Rd. – Milham to N Ave.	Preliminary plan development

RCKC Other Updates:

- Utility & Plat Development Meeting scheduled at RCKC for March 13, 2020 @ 9:00 AM.

Heppler stated several streets will be redone in the Village of Augusta this year including Fayette, Chestnut, and West Jefferson Street. Augusta was able to add an extra road project because of favorable bids and started work on planning next year's projects. The village will be asking Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for a letter of support for the Washington Street bridge project which was not appropriated last year.

Harmon stated City of Portage preconstruction meeting for East Centre Avenue will be later this month. The preconstruction meeting for the South Westnedge from Trade Centre Way to Kilgore will be held in April. All projects are planned to begin at the end of April or beginning of May. About 80 percent of the design for the 2021 East Milham Road project is done. The City is waiting for comments back from the National Environmental Policy Act. The project will go to bid letting later in 2020.

Sanada updated that the Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill yesterday for 1.8 million for engineering to occur on Business Route 131 and US 131 north of Kalamazoo. Interchanges for Westbound Business Route 131 to Southbound US 131 and Northbound US 131 to Eastbound Business Route 131 were studied. Interested parties presented preliminary plans and cost estimates to congressman Fred Upton in late February. Representative Upton presented to the House. Today the bill will go to the Senate and then to Governor Whitmer. Even though no funding is yet identified and it will take four to six months to get a consultant and engineer on board for the work, the project is moving forward. Clark, O'Neill and Stepek discussed the 1.8 million is part of the mid-year supplemental additional revenue bill.

Mallery reported the Village of Vicksburg held a preconstruction meeting with Michigan Department of Transportation March 11, 2020 and the non-motorized TU Avenue trail mark project is expected to start April 13, 2020.

Hoot stated the Van Buren County Road Commission Red Arrow project from 20th – 26th has been awarded. County Road 653 project from Red Arrow south to I-94 will be in the April letting.

Ladd reported City of Kalamazoo Cork Street Water Main resurface project started two weeks ago. In mid-April, Oakland Drive from Parkview to Howard water main and resurface project will begin. By May, 2020 sidewalk improvements will be planned.

Stepek added the Michigan Department of Transportation started planning their environment link study for the I-94 M-40 interchange reconstruction. The recent Paw Paw meeting was well attended and meetings will continue.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Jarnefelt reported Kalamazoo County will be sending letters to agencies at the end of April regarding the planned Pictometry 2021 flight. The County is asking for commitment from townships and preference on upgrading from the standard 9 inch to 3 inch resolution.

Reilly stated the Oakland/Winchell and Parkview Neighborhood Plans will be presented at the April Planning Commission to begin the process of being added to the Master Plan. Reilly reminded attendees to participate in the upcoming 2020 Census.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the March 12, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Metro, 530 N Rose St.