

IN THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 Resources

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

Disability Network

Americans with Disabilities Act is celebrating 30 years!

Metro

Latest updates on our local transit system.

New Employee

Meet KATS newest employee, Ali Townsend.

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Latest progress on the MPO's long range plan.

KATS Quarterly

July 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 Almena, Antwerp, Waverly, and Paw Paw within Van Buren County as the Metropolitan Planning Boundary, including all local governmental jurisdictions in transportation planning.

KATS office is back open. Calling or emailing ahead to schedule an appointment is recommended for in person visits. 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](#)

Contact Us

KATS

5220 Lovers Lane
Suite 110
Portage, MI 49002

269.343.0766

info@katsmpo.org

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.

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/>

Disability Network

Disability Network Southwest Michigan has developed a new presentation to help celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). You will learn about the disability rights advocacy that led to the passing of the ADA, the five titles of the ADA and what they cover, and why the ADA is called "the civil rights law for people with disabilities."

Presentations are being held Tuesday, July 14 from 2-4p.m. and Thursday, July 16 from 9-11 a.m. Contact Miranda at grunwellm@dnswm.org or 269.345.1516 x 120.

Metro

Additional hours for Metro's fixed route buses will started on Monday, June 8. Fixed route buses will operate hourly from 6:15 am to 10:15 pm Monday through Saturday. Additional half hour service will be available on Route 1-Westnedge, 2-Portage, 9-Gull, and 14-West Main Monday through Friday until 6:38 pm. Sunday bus service will resumed operation on June 14 from 9:15 am to 5:15 pm. Complete information is available at www.kmetro.com.

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

KATS staff has started 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 April 2021.

Staff is currently updating data for the plan. This data includes transit routes, proposed road projects, existing and proposed non-motorized facilities, and socioeconomic data.

New Employee

Ali Townsend is Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study's newest Associate Planner. She attended Grand Valley State University and received her B.S. in Geography and Sustainable Planning. During her time at Grand Valley, Ali studied abroad in the Netherlands and learned from local planning officials (pictured in Amsterdam). Ali is new to Portage and is very excited to explore the bike trails in the area.



Summer Construction Season

Projects are starting up! The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is committed to providing a safe, smooth road system in the most cost effective manner possible. Chip seal is one treatment RCKC uses as part of a total asset management approach of applying the right treatment on the right roadway at the right time. Using the right "mix of fixes" to maintain a roadway lengthens the effective life of that roadway and reduces the total cost of the pavement over its useful life. Chip seal treated roads are safe to drive on and are environmentally friendly. A chip seal treatment upon application, may appear to be a nuisance to the traveling public, but over time the treated surface improves. There is no reason to avoid them. The temperature of asphalt emulsion used for chip seal can exceed 165 degrees. Do not walk barefoot or allow pets on freshly treated chip sealed roads.

KATS Meeting Schedule

Technical Committee

August 13

September 10

October 8

Policy Committee

August 26

September 30

October 28

*meetings subject to be cancelled or meeting virtually. Follow KATS on social media and check our website for the latest updates.