

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The June 24, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order remotely by Chair Randy Thompson at 9: 01 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the conference call stated name.

ROLL CALL

Remote meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Rob Britigan	City of Parchment
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township
John Hinkle	Texas Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
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
Nicolette Leigh	Kalamazoo Township
Tracey Locey	Brady Township
Don Mayle	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Paul Schincariol	Van Buren County
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Greg Thomas	Pavilion Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Tom Swiat	Prairie Ronde Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry Vander Roest	Charleston Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Megan Mickelson
Fred Nagler
Elizabeth Rumick
Steve Stepek

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
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CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Britigan, SECOND by Johnson, ***“to approve the agenda of the June 24, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (JUNE 11, 2020)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 27, 2020 MEETING

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

SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL KATS AGREEMENT FY 2021 - 2023

Referring to the agreement included in the meeting packet, Stepek stated as discussed previously, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) agreement with Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) expires at the end of this fiscal year. This new agreement aligns with the recently updated Master Agreements and is essentially an extension of the prior agreement. The SMPC board adopted this agreement at their last meeting. SMPC and KATS have a great relationship and KATS Staff recommends your approval of the agreement. The Technical Committee recommended adoption of this plan at their last meeting.

Britigan inquired whether or not it makes sense on page three, number eight to indicate the KATS contact as Chairperson only as opposed to specifying a name since the name may change. Stepek responded, the current Chairperson Randy Thompson will sign the agreement today, as stated on the contract. Therefore, when the agreement is renewed that would be a good idea to make the suggested change. Referring to page four, number eleven, Britigan asked for clarification on what the Prime Contract is. Stepek responded the Prime Contract is the one between Michigan Department of Transportation and the Region- Southcentral Michigan Planning Council.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to accept and approve the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council KATS Agreement FY 2021 - 2023.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY COST BASED AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Stepek referred to the white paper included in both today’s and last month’s meeting packet.

As previously discussed, Federal Highway (FHWA) is proposing changes to how Metropolitan Planning Organizations determine Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. Stepek appreciates Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) comments which were incorporated into the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) response. Included in the packet is KATS response on the FHWA proposal, with input from KATS Technical Committee and KATS Staff. KATS prefers to maintain current public engagement processes for TIP Amendments as well as maintaining the current cost-based amendments as a 25% change (plus or minus) of the total project cost. KATS looks forward to further discussions and comments on this topic with FHWA, Federal Transportation Administration, and MDOT. KATS recommends Chairperson sign the response.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Janssen stated Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is working on installing driver security barriers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stepek announced the report is part of the meeting packet. In addition to what is included in the report, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study selected a candidate for the Associate Planner position. Ali Townsend accepted the offer and will start July 6, 2020.

Typically, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study July meeting is cancelled based on lack of agenda items. Stepek asked the Committee for opinions on cancelling this year's July meeting.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Janssen, ***"to cancel the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study July 29, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting."*** MOTION APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Britigan reported City of Parchment has had many local road projects completed. Parchment and the City of Kalamazoo worked to replace remaining lead service lines. Riverview Drive has been repaved south of G Avenue to Oak Grove. City of Parchment partnered with the City of Kalamazoo to repave Parchment from Riverview Drive south. Commerce Lane repaving work will begin soon.

Heiny-Cogswell reported the Oshtemo Township Board voted and passed a resolution to acquire land for the Fruit Belt Trail. The trail will be extended from Texas Township toward Mattawan. The Oshtemo Township Board plans to acquire land currently owned by AT&T.

Thompson reported the Comstock Township two-year park reconstruction project as well as the Comstock Fire Memorial projects are ongoing. Thompson inquired if the Committee plans on an in-person meeting for August. Stepek responded that based on current conditions, the August 26, 2020 meeting can be in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Randy Thompson adjourned the June 24, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.