

**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of the August 26, 2020 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

The August 26, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order remotely by Chair Randy Thompson at 9:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Participants in the conference call stated name.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING**

Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan
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
John Hinkle	Texas Township
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Nicolette Leigh	Kalamazoo Township
Tracey Locey	Brady Township
Don Mayle	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Tom Swiat	Prairie Ronde Township
Jerry Vander Roest	Charleston Township

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING**

Max Hornick  
Megan Mickelson  
Fred Nagler  
Elizabeth Rumick  
Paul Seldon  
Steve Stepek  
Ali Townsend

Disability Network of Southwest Michigan  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Bike Friendly Kalamazoo  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
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 Drouin, SECOND by Sorensen, ***“to approve the agenda of the August 26, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Paul Seldon of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo and a Kalamazoo County resident announced the Fall Bike Celebration will be held September 18, 2020 – September 20, 2020. See [fallbikecelebration.org](http://fallbikecelebration.org) for more information. Some highlights of the celebration include:

- Cycling tour that will start and finish at the Historic Village in the Village of Vicksburg.
- Benefit concert by the Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Band at the Gilmore Car Museum.
- \$1,750 in cash prizes announced for the Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Public Bike Art competition.

Seldon reminded attendees Fall waning daylight hours leads to more bike motorist crashes. Pay close attention to road safety.

Gisler added the first-rate Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Band features the Pavilion Township supervisor John Speeter on mandolin and singing.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (AUGUST 13, 2020)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 24, 2020 MEETING

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

## **FY 2020 – 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

Referring to the FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments in the meeting packet, Stepek reported the amendments are mostly new additions. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) project amendments include phase utility and engineering. The City of Kalamazoo has a 2023 Non-Motorized project for South Drake Road. The Village of Paw Paw project is for Michigan Avenue pedestrian safety and improvements. The largest amendment is for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) I-94 2021 project with the budget increasing over the 24 percent threshold. Drouin inquired why the budget increased so much. Stepek answered it is due to a sound wall, realignment of the Kilgore Service Road and general project increases. Leigh

inquired if I-94 will be closed for the widening project and if so, how long. Pfeiffer responded for the I-94 widening work between Portage Road and Sprinkle Road, traffic will be shifted onto the other direction of the roadway. When reconstruction is occurring on Eastbound I-94, Eastbound traffic will be moved to Westbound lanes. There will be two lanes in each direction. Temporary night-time only closures of I-94 will occur for bridge removal. Pfeiffer will present at the September meeting more detail on this I-94 project including project timeline and scope. Pfeiffer will also present more detail on additional future MDOT projects.

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

### **KATS AUDITOR PROPOSALS**

Steppek referred to the proposals and more detailed information included in today’s meeting packet. In June, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) advertised a Request for Proposal for three fiscal years of Auditing Services since our prior audit contract expired. A review committee including Stepek, Rumick, Drouin, and Thompson evaluated the four bids received. Two firms were eliminated for not following submittal instructions. The remaining two firms Seber Tans, PLC and Maner Costerisan were evaluated. It is recommended the Policy Committee approve the Audit Services agreement with Maner Costerisan as detailed in their proposals and authorize the Policy Committee Chair to sign on behalf of KATS.

MOTION by Leigh, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to approve the KATS Audit Proposal with Maner Costerisan.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN SURVEY RESULTS**

Steppek reported the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Survey Results are summarized in the meeting packet for review. The survey started pre-COVID and was extended due to COVID. Email KATS staff with any questions, comments, or concerns. The primary reason for the survey is to develop KATS Goals and Objectives for the MTP.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Referring to the enclosed Goals and Objectives for Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Stepek summarized that the draft shows the performance framework for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) transportation plan and how the goals and objectives support FAST Act planning factors. Stepek asked for feedback on the enclosed Draft Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The current goals and objectives format differs from past versions to align them with KATS national performance measures. Johnson likes the new format but suggested inclusion of an asset management comment. Johnson also suggested including a performance matrix of where KATS is now and how progress will be measured for meeting goals. Stepek responded a summary table of KATS current status and progress on meeting goals and objectives will be included. The goals and objectives will be presented at next month’s meeting for adoption.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Aardema reported Central County Transportation Authority Metro entered into an agreement with Western Michigan University (WMU) to take over their campus bus service. The campus routes will begin in a couple weeks, be open to the public, and be similar to last years routes. Buses will have WMU colors and logos. The Youth Mobility pilot program is coming back on-line with a limited

number of passes to Kalamazoo Public School students. The board is reviewing the Metro budget. COVID has had significant impact on Metro ridership numbers. Only rear bus doors continue to be used. Bus rides continue to be free. Plexiglass shields are present around bus drivers. Metro is doing a nice job of operating as an essential service in this challenging environment.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Stepak announced Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) will host on-line open houses on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in September or October. KATS is collecting local Pavement Surface Evaluation (PASER) data. KATS is working on the Transportation Asset Management Council PASER carryover budget amounts for collecting 100% of the Federal Aid system ratings in FY2021 with budget allocations for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and local reimbursements. Welcome to Ali Townsend, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study's new Associate Planner that started in July 2020.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought forth.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Seldon of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) invited the committee to email him at [president@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org](mailto:president@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org) to register for a BFK virtual Diversity and Bicycling Information Exchange on August 27, 2020. September 1, 2020 is the deadline for BFK Bike-Booster Mini Grant applications ranging from \$200 to \$2,000. September 21, 2020 is the next Kalamazoo Area Bike Week Planning Meeting. See the website [bikefriendlykalamazoo.org](http://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org) for more information. See [fallbikecelebration.org](http://fallbikecelebration.org) for more information on the upcoming Fall Bike Celebration September 18, 2020 – September 20, 2020. The Fall Bike Celebration includes a virtual presentation by Dr. Jun Oh of Western Michigan University, on the Effects of Safe Bicycle Passing Laws on Drivers' Behavior and Bicyclists' Safety. Preregistration is required and available at [fallbikecelebration.org](http://fallbikecelebration.org)

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mayle reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) extended the collection period of comments on the 2045 Statewide Plan Survey and encouraged attendees to give feedback at [mm2045.metroquest.com](http://mm2045.metroquest.com). Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) expires on September 30, 2020. Continuing resolutions are expected but uncertain.

Pfeiffer gave updates on several Michigan Department of Transportation projects:

- M-89 in the Village of Richland traffic signal and repaving project is complete
- I-94 between Portage Road and Sprinkle Road bridge widening in ongoing. This project is to widen bridges to prepare for next year's I-94 project, so bridges support two lanes of traffic. This will continue through fall and pause for winter. Pfeiffer will provide more details at next month's meeting.
- Resurface work on I-94 from US-131 to the Van Buren County Line is progressing. Lanes are open during the day.
- US-131 Business Route between US-131 and Hopkins Street is currently closed for concrete patching and paving. The road is anticipated opening on October 9, 2020 but so far is ahead of schedule so may open sooner.
- A new traffic signal project at M-96 and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street west of Galesburg is expected to start soon.

Praedel stated The City of Kalamazoo experienced catastrophic water main breaks on July 29, 2020 and August 8, 2020 between Westnedge and Park. The water mains, from 1911 and 1920, were

consolidated and repaired using approved Emergency funds. The Oakland Drive 4-million-dollar project is a coordinated construction project to improve water infrastructure, repave Oakland Drive and improve nonmotorized transportation. Expected completion is mid-November. The Cork Street project involves converting the road to three lanes, sidewalk, and bike lane improvements. This project is expected to be completed in mid-November.

Sorensen reported that the Cooper Township water main extension due to PFAS is continuing.

Heiny-Cogswell updated that the Oshtemo Township nonmotorized safety grant project on Drake Rd. and Stadium Drive is moving forward. A 10-million-dollar bond proposal for sewer expansion will be on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Drouin thanked Michigan Department of Transportation for completion of the Village of Richland project.

Hinkle stated the Texas Township Mater Plan is out for public comment.

Gatlin from Wakeshma Township and Thompson from Comstock Township welcomed Townsend.

Gisler reported Kalamazoo County Commissioners passed a proclamation to set-up a reparations commission. The Battle Creek Kalamazoo Airport received a \$196 million dollar grant to test and monitor for PFAS. Aqueous Firefighting Foam may have leaked onto airport property. July 2020 airport traffic is up 43 percent from June 2020 but down 77 percent from July of 2019. Pilots that have been grounded for an extended time due to COVID will require retraining before they can pilot planes again.

Johnson mentioned Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) chip seal is complete. Fog seal is expected to be done this week. Transportation Asset Management Council plans and bridge plans are due to the state on October 1, 2020. RCKC is collecting PASER on local roads. 100 percent of the Federal Aid system PASER data collection will be in FY 2021. Johnson thanked RCKC staff and all public service employees for service during this time. RCKC continues to monitor Michigan Transportation Fund Revenue for possible concerns next year.

Heppler noted all Village of Augusta road improvements are complete. The Village is hopeful to receive bridge grant funding for the Washington Street bridge.

Aardema, also an airport board member, noted in reference to Gisler's comments on the airport, that Battle Creek Kalamazoo Airport decreased numbers are on point with all airports across the country and internationally. Numbers are trending upward. There is not an issue specifically at the Battle Creek Kalamazoo Airport. American Airlines is discontinuing service at the airport for the month of October, when the CARES Act funding expires. American is not only dropping service here, but in 14 other cities as well. American Airlines is scheduled to reinstate service in November. United Airlines discontinued service will restart in October. Both American and United are committed to Battle Creek Kalamazoo Airport. Delta has added flights throughout the summer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Chair Randy Thompson adjourned the August 26, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:48 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.**