

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The August 13, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order remotely at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Kathy Schultz.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Chris Forth	City of Portage
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township
Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Don Mayle	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Jesse Okeley	City of Kalamazoo
Michelle O'Neill	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Katie Reilly	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Kathy Schultz, Chair	Central County Transportation Authority
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vliestra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo
Tim Woodhams	Village of Mattawan
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

OTHERS PRESENT

Ryan Gladding	MDOT
Kathleen Hoyle	City of Portage
Robert Mafeo	MDOT, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Paul Seldon	Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	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 O'Neill, SECOND by Arif, ***“to approve the August 13, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 11, 2020 MEETING

MOTION by Stefforia, SECOND by Minkus, ***“to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee met in June. The committee approved the extension of KATS contract with Southcentral Michigan Planning Council through fiscal 2023. The Committee Chair agreed with and signed KATS response to Federal Highway proposed changes to how Metropolitan Planning Organizations determine Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Seldon, Chair of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) thanked attendees for their efforts related to BFK. Seldon has worked with Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) since 2011 on Map 7. The map is part of the KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Seldon is also part of the Kalamazoo Region Bike Route Committee that focuses on the implementation of the bikeway separate from the KATS planning. Please refer to the BFK website for helpful resources.

FY 20-23 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. The largest amendment is for a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) I-94 2021 project with the budget increasing over the 24 percent threshold. The five other amendments are additions of smaller projects for MDOT, Village of Paw Paw and City of Kalamazoo. Schultz inquired if the Drake Road project has an anticipated construction date of 2023. Stepek replied it did, but it may be moved back due to Amtrak. Minkus added boundaries were changed to align with jurisdictions. Road Commission of Kalamazoo County took over the safety project which goes down to KL Avenue. City of Kalamazoo jurisdiction takes over the project at KL Avenue south. Arif asked for more information on the MDOT M-43 project. O'Neill responded MDOT is:

- Extending the right turn lane from Drake Road to US-131
- Constructing dual left turn lanes at eastbound M-43 at Maple Hill
- Extending US-131 northbound off ramp
- Widening southbound US-131 off ramp
- Adding two signals on the west side of the interchange both southbound on and off
- Adding a right turn lane at eastbound West Main between 10th Street and southbound US-131 on ramp
- Adding dual lefts at Mall Drive
- Closure of the north driveway to the commercial opening near the Shell gas station
- Adding pedestrian crossing at driveway closure area

MDOT secured 7.5 million dollars of operational funds that were competitively sought after statewide. The same funding source for the freeway side was used to secure the 10.2 million dollars to add a second ramp lane from westbound I-94 to northbound US-131. These PE phases are in this M-43 amendment. O'Neill thanked MDOT Transportation Service Center Traffic Safety and Operations Engineer Athira Jayadevan for making the projects competitive, submitting them, and bringing funding to the Southwest region when competition included larger Metro Regions, Urban areas and other statewide competitive projects. Minkus inquired whether the M-43 project name should be M-343 or whether this would impede the project. O'Neill stated it would not impede the project. Jobnet hasn't switched over to the new naming convention yet. Stepek responded the project name comes from the

Geographic Interface Systems layer. Framework has not updated to the new name. A project description note will be added stating the name as M-343.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by O'Neill, ***“to approve the FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

KATS NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Steppek stated the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Non-Motorized Subcommittee meetings have started. Per KATS bylaws, subcommittees are open to members of the KATS Policy and Technical Committees and anyone else committee members would like to add such as Parks Department personnel, bike group members, or others with non-motorized knowledge. KATS Non-Motorized Subcommittee is looking for members and township presence. Schultz inquired whether or not a Non-Motorized Subcommittee meeting notice was sent to the Policy and Technical Committees. Mickelson responded that emails were sent to people that volunteered and attended the first in-person Non-Motorized Subcommittee meeting which included some members of the Technical Committee. The subcommittee discussed data currently available, adjustments needed and prioritization of projects for the new plan. No feedback has been received. Members of the Technical Committee currently involved in the subcommittee are Minkus, Arif, Reilly and Gwin. Stefforia, Comstock Township and Schultz, Central County Transportation Authority volunteered to join. Minkus asked if the Citizens Advisory Committee was notified of this subcommittee. Mickelson said the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was notified. Two subcommittee members are from the Citizens Advisory Committee. Minkus asked for clarification on whether subcommittee members outside of the Technical Committee indirectly end up with voting rights. Steppek responded subcommittee meetings do not vote, but discuss a process and reach consensus, so align with KATS bylaws. Voting occurs at either the KATS Technical or Policy Committee meetings. Minkus asked if the KATS Non-Motorized Subcommittee would establish a Chair, what is the goal and timeline of the subcommittee? Minkus noted this subcommittee coincides with the 2050 Metropolitan Plan draft. Steppek responded the Metropolitan Plan draft will be out in December and is gathering input now. In September or October there will be a public meeting. At the beginning of September, agencies will receive the application process for projects. Public engagement will follow. The 2050 Metropolitan Plan draft will be issued in December or January with anticipated adoption April, 2021.

Hoyle, City of Portage Parks volunteered to join the subcommittee. Steppek noted KATS would like to get as many volunteers as possible, emphasizing the entire process is open to public involvement. Seldon volunteered to join the subcommittee. Schultz reported attendees will look for emails from Mickelson to establish the next subcommittee meeting. Steppek suggested attendees reach out to people outside of planning and engineering that would be a better fit for the KATS Non-Motorized Subcommittee.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

Steppek reported the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Survey Results are summarized in the meeting packet for review.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Steppek requested feedback on the enclosed Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The goals and objectives will be presented at next month's meeting for adoption.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz reported Metro continues the reduced service schedule of hourly bus service Monday through Friday with four routes running every half-hour. Saturday is limited service. Sunday service is 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Buses enforce an 18-person capacity limit. Riders are required to wear a face covering which has been an issue in some cases. Free fare continues but Metro may return to fare charges in Mid-September. Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) implemented plexiglass

shields for drivers and well as the center of the bus. Metro got seven new buses with the plexiglass dividers. Contact Schultz if you would like a preview. CCTA is taking over Western Michigan University (WMU) Bronco transit from Indian Trails. Two new bus routes will begin September 2, 2020 for WMU, Ring Road and Parkview, running Monday through Friday. The routes are open to the public. Metro is actively hiring bus drivers, with a Commercial Driver License (CDL). Metro made recent ADA improvements to 23 bus stops. Northern Construction is 3 weeks ahead of schedule on the project that cost 87 thousand dollars.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Non-motorized:

- Drake Road Trail: North section wrapping up. South section is about one-third complete with one of the walls going up the hill.
- KRVT: Starting to put concrete back in Galesburg along Battle Creek Street
- Stadium Drive in Oshtemo: Started last week

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Road Updates:

- D Ave: Complete
- 8th Street: Expected completion next week or two
- Local Bridge Program: Half-way through four in about two weeks
- Drake Road: Delayed paving until October 1, 2020 to allow Oshtemo Trail south section work
- S Avenue: Complete
- U Avenue: Complete
- Systemic Signs: Complete
- G Avenue: Expected completion next week

RCKC Other Updates:

- Minkus stated the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County is looking for CDL drivers. O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation approved authorization of 60 winter plow drivers, so is also looking for CDL drivers.
- RCKC is updating and getting a new board room in the basement.

Harmon reported City of Portage South Westnedge Shaver Road project is underway. Water main replacement is complete. Storm sewer is 95 percent complete. Traffic signal replacement will wrap up next week. The South Westnedge project north of I-94 is complete. The East Centre project is complete. Traffic signal project at Melody and Shaver is underway. Lovers Lane and Romence intersection project will start in the next few weeks. Milham Avenue pedestrian bridge rehab project began Monday August 10, 2020. There are lane restrictions on Milham and detours set up on the Bicentennial Trail. Estimated completion before Labor Day. The City had a grade inspection for East Milham in July. The project will have a December bid letting. A request for proposal for engineering services for the 2022 Lovers Lane project will go out later this week.

Ladd updated City of Kalamazoo Cork Street and Oakland Drive projects are on schedule, going well, and expected to wrap up in Mid-November. Local street paving has restarted and is progressing. The City is working on the Capital Improvement Plan for next year. The City will begin forestry projects in the fall that includes tree planting and trimming.

O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) 131 project will start Monday, August 17, 2020, requiring total closure of the 131 Business Route. The project is expected to be complete in Mid-October. The I-94 widening project is on-going. A paving project from 12th Street west to the County Line is ongoing.

Anttila reported Van Buren County Road Commission is doing a mill and fill project on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 on Red Arrow Highway from the Paw Paw Village limits east to County Road 657.

Woodhams from the Village of Mattawan stated Amtrak is requesting more clearance on the Mattawan Bridge Project. The Village culvert project was bid at the August letting. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Reilly reported the City of Kalamazoo Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan was approved by the Planning Commission and is on the agenda for the next City Commission meeting for amendment into the Master Plan. The City is mid-engagement on updating downtown zoning.

Forth reported the City of Portage completed a 3-day charrette with Farr and Associates on the Lake Centre District project. The consultant gathered lots of public comments. They will present alternatives in a couple weeks to be considered by the public and subsequently approved by the City Council. The City is working with Gibbs Group to redesign the Crossroads Mall area. The City completed a residential analysis to determine demand for residential unit types and where improvement can be made. An update to the City Comprehensive Plan, budgeted for this fiscal year, is expected to begin after the first of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek introduced the new Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Associate Planner Ali Townsend.

Minkus asked for an update on PASER rating. Steppek reported the Asset Management Council voted to continue the funding of this year's contract into next year. Full Federal Aid Network PASER ratings will be completed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Seldon thanked the Chair, Technical Committee, and KATS staff for inclusion in the KATS Non-Motorized Subcommittee. Seldon is a recent graduate of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Advanced Bike Facility Design Program by Webb, the Training Wheels Program and recommends the program. Utilizing skills from the program, Seldon updated the Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) Website with technical resources and links. Let Seldon know if you have suggestions for the website. Seldon thanked the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and the City of Portage for non-motorized improvements. Seldon thanked attendees that are also members of the Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Program Steering Committee. The Committee is an open committee and welcomes participation. Seldon thanked MDOT for hosting BFK meetings. September 1, 2020 is the deadline for the Bike Booster Mini Grant Program, that is discussed on the BFK website. Recipients of the mini grants will be announced during the Fall Bike Celebration. See The Fall Bike Celebration website at fallcelebration.org. On the website, sign up for a webinar by West Michigan University on the effect of safe passing laws.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the August 13, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.