

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The September 10, 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

Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
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
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County
Julie Johnston	Texas Township
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township
Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Dexter Mitchel	Kalamazoo Township
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
Greg Vliestra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo

OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Doorlag	Wightman & Assoc.
Ryan Gladding	Michigan Department of Transportation
Robert Maffeo	MDOT, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Nick Morrow	City of Kalamazoo, Engineering
Fred Nagler	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
Chris Valvano	Michigan Department of Transportation

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Jarnefelt, SECOND by Stefforia, *“to approve the September 10, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda.”* MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2020 MEETING

Minkus mentioned two minor spelling errors on pages 3 and 4.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Heppler, *“to approve the minutes with spelling corrections, from the August 13, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting.”* MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Steppek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee met at the end of August. The committee approved the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments which were then subsequently approved by Federal Highway. The committee approved the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study audit contract with Maner Costerisan for three-years beginning in fiscal 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Steppek reported the Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan have been out for feedback for the past month. Included in the packet is an updated draft showing changes in red. Thank you to the City of Portage, Oshtemo Township, and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for comments. Instead of presenting the plan for approval this month, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is leaving the draft out for comment for another month in efforts to receive bigger picture feedback such as the addition or revision of goals or objectives. Regarding Goal 2- Measures, Minkus inquired if International Roughness Index was only required on National Highway System routes. Stepek responded this is all National Highway System (NHS) for International Roughness Index. A goal could be added that the remainder of the federal system would be based off Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating. KATS will clarify that Goal 2 relates to the NHS system only. Minkus didn't think bridges were measured on the International Roughness Index per Goal 2- Measures. Stepek confirmed bridges are a separate performance measure. Comments are due to KATS by September 28, 2020. Referring to Goal 1, Stefforia suggested something should be added about transit rider safety. Stepek responded it was a good idea. Schultz added Metro's Transit Draft Safety Plan will be forwarded to KATS to incorporate into the Goals and Objectives. Schultz asked how progress for meeting long range plan goals and objectives is monitored. Stepek responded that prior to this plan there was no legislative requirement for measurement. With this plan, when fully compliant with performance measures, KATS will require an annual performance report. A systems performance report will set the baseline. Data collection, monitoring and reporting on measures is required.

2050 TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL VOLUME/CAPACITY MAP

Steppek stated the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) 2050 Travel Demand Model Volume/Capacity Map portraying potential congestion issues, is enclosed in the packet for your information. KATS will be contacting agencies near the end of the month for agency anticipated future projects to add to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. In an attempt to alleviate congestion, KATS compares the most congested areas in red on the map to the projects planned in those areas. This base model run will be updated over the next few months as projects are added. Minkus commented

the colors in the legend are hard to decipher; some colors are not visible in the map. There appears to be disjointed road sections jumping from minimal to maximum capacity. Stepek explained the map shows the predicted traffic assignment based on current information. The map covers volume and capacity during a 24-hour period. Alternatively, maps for peak morning and evening capacity are also available. Maffeo thought a different type of map besides the current pdf file may help with visualization. Stepek explained the urban area could be zoomed in. Maffeo recommended looking at the one-hour peak period for am and pm as opposed to the 24-hour map. Stepek added KATS will be contacting previous Model Subcommittee members to schedule a meeting for this model. In response to Schultz's inquiry, Stepek said this model will be presented for adoption prior to April. A draft is anticipated in January or February. KATS project request will be the same one-page pdf file format used in the past. Agency primary road projects consisting of road configuration (i.e. one-way to two-way) and capacity changes (i.e. three to five lanes) are of greater interest. Projects in agency five to ten-year Capital Improvement Programs with established funding should also be reported to KATS.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz reported Metro began Western Michigan University (WMU) Bronco transit routes on September 2, 2020, taking over the contract from Indian Trails. The new Bronco routes include 19-Ring and 25-Parkview. Student ridership is significantly lower than prior years as a result of lower student enrollment. Metro continues previous policies of rear door boarding and free fares. Buses have 20-person capacity limits and no standing is allowed. Reduced service hours continue through 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rathco bus stop sign improvements are complete on five routes. Contact Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) of any known sign issues as areas continue to be identified. As part of a Housing and Urban Development project with the City of Kalamazoo 20 bus stop improvements are complete with another 20 anticipated. Concrete and landing pads were improved. Some stops were relocated to improve placement and lighting. Metro has received positive feedback on the upgrades. Vliestra of Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority expressed gratitude to federal and state partners for a 2.8-million-dollar competitive grant used to purchase 7 new buses. Schultz added the busses from Gillig, have an anti-bacterial seat coating, expected to last a year, which will reduce required bus cleaning time.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Non-motorized:

- Drake Road Trail: Both segments, close to finishing wall going up hill
- KRVT: Paved and concrete placed, most of Galesburg
- Stadium Drive in Oshtemo: Sidewalks 75% done

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Road Updates:

- D Ave: Complete
- 8th Street: Complete
- Local Bridge Program: Two bridges planned to get epoxy overlay
- Drake Road: Delayed paving until October 2020
- S Avenue: Complete
- U Avenue: Complete
- Systemic Signs: Complete
- G Avenue: Complete

RCKC Other Updates:

- Chip seal is done
- Working to close-out about 200 local projects for the year

Ladd reported City of Kalamazoo Oakland Drive project is expected to wrap-up at the beginning of October. The Cork Street project has an expected completion in mid-November. Local street paving will wrap up the first week in October. The Bank Street realignment project, Farmers Market project, and the continuation of the city's portion of KRVTV will go to bid later this year. The City is revisiting testing and implementing traffic calming measures.

Harmon reported City of Portage:

- Lovers Lane/Romence Road Signal Improvements – Work began last week and continues
- Melody/Shaver Road Signal Improvements – Work continues
- East Milham Avenue Reconstruction – Finalizing design
- Milham Avenue Pedestrian Bridge – Project was completed ahead of schedule
- Lovers Lane Reconstruction – Will open proposals for engineering services this afternoon

O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) 131 Business Route project is expected to be complete in Mid-October. The I-94 widening project is on-going and will continue through the fall. Arif asked about closure of the Park and Ride lot on Oakland. O'Neill responded the lot will be closed for resurfacing on the date specified on a message board at the lot.

Heppler stated the Village of Augusta completed all projects for rebuilding and replacing roads this spring and are working toward next year's projects including waiting to hear about the bridge replacement project. Michigan Department of Transportation is doing trailway work near M-96 on the eastside of the Village near Fort Custer.

Imus thanked Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for their assistance to the Village of Lawton. The Village received approval for a 2023 Transportation Alternative Program grant to upgrade M-40 through town. Lawton received Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B funding for five miles of chip seal for next summer.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Jarnefelt reported a Kalamazoo County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee is being formed as a result of a request for an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan. Draft guideline for the revision of the street naming and addressing process was presented at the August Kalamazoo County Planning Commission meeting.

Reilly reported the City of Kalamazoo is working on updating downtown zoning.

Forth reported the City of Portage Lake Centre Business District project is moving forward. A possible road diet reducing the road to three lanes between West Lake and Austin Lake was met with opposition from both residents and business owners. By the end of September, consultant Farr and Associates will present a plan for review by the Steering Committee. A public open house will follow in October. In response to Schultz's inquiry, Forth answered the Fed Ex facility is anticipating opening in Spring 2021. Kenco Logistic Services distributor next to Fed Ex is planning a 300,000 square foot expansion. Schultz said there are requests for a bus stop or bus stop improvement in this area. Central County Transportation Authority will relocate some routes including this Fed Ex, Kenco corridor during the I-94 bridge construction project. Forth stated Schultz can reach out to Paul Schram at Wightman and Associates, the engineering firm for the sight design.

NEW BUSINESS

Schultz inquired if Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study has updates on Surface Transportation Program funding dollars moving forward to 2021. Stepek replied there is no 2021 budget yet but a continuing resolution is fully anticipated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the September 10, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.