

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OCTOBER 8, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The October 8, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order remotely at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Kathy Schultz.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| Muhammad Arif | City of Portage |
| Rebekkah Ausbury | Road Commission of Kalamazoo County |
| Mickey Bittner | Village of Paw Paw |
| Jeff Franklin | Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning |
| Kendra Gwin | City of Portage |
| Jamie Harmon | City of Portage |
| Jeff Heppler | Village of Augusta |
| Joel Hoort | Van Buren County Road Commission |
| Lotta Jarnefelt | Kalamazoo County |
| Anthony Ladd | City of Kalamazoo |
| Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair | Road Commission of Kalamazoo County |
| Kyle Mucha | City of Portage |
| 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 |

OTHERS PRESENT

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| Phil Doorlag | Wightman & Associates |
| Ryan Gladding | Michigan Department of Transportation |
| Anna Horner | Oshtemo Township |
| Larry Hummel | Hubbell, Roth and Clark |
| Colten Hutson | Oshtemo Township |
| Robert Maffeo | MDOT, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis |
| Megan Mickelson | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study |
| Jesse Morgan | Hubbell, Roth and Clark |
| Nick Morrow | City of Kalamazoo, Engineering |
| Fred Nagler | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study |
| Elizabeth Rumick | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study |
| Hailey Savola | Hubbell, Roth and Clark |
| Paul Selden | 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 Heppler, SECOND by Minkus, ***“to approve the October 8, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING

MOTION by Jarnefelt, SECOND by Arif, ***“to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Steppek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee met last week. The committee discussed the Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and heard an excellent, informative presentation by Pete Pfeiffer of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on three large upcoming construction projects. KATS appreciates and thanks MDOT staff for putting together the presentation. Schultz asked if the same presentation would be given to the Technical Committee. Stepek responded it could be and that the presentation is available on the KATS website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) congratulated and thanked the City of Portage Parks and Recreation for a highly publicized and successful Bike Light Giveaway held last evening at Celery Flats. Selden suggested other agencies hold similar giveaways. They could be held in conjunction with the 10th Annual Kalamazoo City Bike Week planned for May 8, 2021 to May 15, 2021.

FY 20-23 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Steppek reported the TIP Amendments were included in the packet. Changes were incorporated into a new version which was issued, distributed, and updated in the packet yesterday. The last-minute changes are mostly local cost additions to a large number of Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) jobs. None of the amendments have federal cost changes. The local East G Avenue project was an addition that will use another apportionment of the Highway Infrastructure Program funding. This was the next job down on the prioritization list. It will be programmed for obligation in 2021 with construction in 2021 or 2022. Schultz inquired what the limits of the Sprinkle Road project are. Stepek and Minkus explained Sprinkle Road is actually two different jobs. The first one is an advance construct from N Avenue to I-94, to be done in 2021. Both projects together covering Sprinkle from Milham to I-94, have a federal cost of \$1 million dollars, the conversion of which is in 2022. RCKC hopes to bundle both jobs together for bid. Schultz and Minkus discussed that Sprinkle Road will be used for a detour route on the upcoming MDOT I-94 project. The hope is this project will be done quickly and possibly early, keeping in mind possible flexibility to move detours. Minkus thanked Stepek for work to get the last-minute amendments processed.

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Steppek reported the Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan have been out for feedback for several months. Two copies are included in the packet. One is a clean draft incorporating all comments received; a second copy highlights changes in red. Also included in the packet is the National Transportation Performance Measures Fact Sheet which outlines the baseline federal requirements for performance measures. Minkus reiterated that Goal 2 states use of

International Roughness Index (IRI) measures for bridge decks and non-interstate pavement. Stepek stated IRI will be taken off bridge deck and non-interstate pavement condition and the correction will be made for the Policy Committee. Minkus said it was previously discussed that a goal would be added that the remainder of the federal system would be based on Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating. Stepek responded that KATS has not yet established a measure for that goal. The committee can discuss it and add a measure and establish what the goal would be.

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Vliestra, “to approve the Goals and Objectives for Metropolitan Transportation Plan with the correction of taking out IRI Index measures related to bridge decks and non-interstate pavement as discussed.” MOTION APPROVED.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN CALL FOR PROJECTS DISCUSSION

Stepek stated this is a reminder to fill out the project application for all planned, anticipated, or illustrative transportation projects within the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Planning Area. Projects should reflect an agency’s five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and additional large-scale capacity change projects including expansions or diets. KATS needs to model the projects and put them in the long-range plan or the agency will not be eligible for federal dollars. The deadline for Metropolitan Transportation Plan Projects is October 23, 2020. Heppler asked if only those roads eligible for KATS or federal funds should be included. Stepek responded that is correct, it only applies to federal aid eligible roads. KATS can assist in determining which roads are eligible.

FY 21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

Referring to the FY 21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Schedule included in the packet, Stepek explained the schedule shows when TIP Amendments are due to Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for each amendment cycle. The schedule is included for your information. Note that the schedule continues every other month.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz reported Metro is experiencing a shortage of bus drivers and will be eliminating routes currently operating at the half-hour down to operating only at the hour. Routes impacted include Westnedge, Gull Road, Portage Road, West Main, and Lovell. Effective Monday October 12, 2020, service hours will end at 6:15 p.m. as opposed to the current 10:00 p.m. Most of Metro staff is on quarantine due to COVID impact. Metro does not have enough staff to maintain the current fixed route system. Metro Connect is not affected and can be used as back-up. Metro continues to service Western Michigan University. Metro staff are welcoming feedback from the community on the reduction in service. As part of a Housing and Urban Development project with the City of Kalamazoo, Metro continues improvements of bus stops and shelters. Another 20 or 30 bus stops will be updated in Spring of 2021. Metro plans to participate in the first ever virtual Bronco Bash and invites attendees to log-in tonight from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Non-motorized:

- Drake Road Trail: Paving is complete. Doing restoration work and some curb ramps. Looking to wrap it up.
- KRVT: In Galesburg, working on restoration, mostly done, punch list items.
- Stadium Drive in Oshtemo: Sidewalks 90% done.

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County Road Updates:

- Drake Road: Currently paving. Only one lane open in each direction. Lots of delays.
- U Avenue West of 131: Paving.

RCKC Other Updates:

- Working to project design for 2021 and 2022.

Harmon updated City of Portage South Westnedge Avenue/Shaver Road Reconstruction project is complete with punch list items remaining and a walkthrough will be scheduled soon. South Westnedge Avenue Signal Improvements at Idaho Avenue and Dawnlee Avenue are under way. East Milham Avenue Reconstruction project is finishing up water permit and easements, planning to submit in October for January bid letting.

Ladd reported the City of Kalamazoo Oakland Drive project is complete. The road will open later today to both north and southbound traffic. The Cork Street project is scheduled to finish in early November. The City is making final preparations on the Howard Street pathway and Portage Street which are going to bid later this year for construction in 2021.

Sanada of the Michigan Department of Transportation, reported today's Pedestrian Bike Committee meeting was changed to October 29, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The main agenda item will be the updated pedestrian bicycle guide/map. The agenda and Teams Meeting notification were sent to 70 people. Contact Sanada for an invitation.

O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) US-131 Business Route project is complete and slated to open tomorrow. Paving on I-94 is complete. I-94 work between Lovers Lane and Sprinkle Road will continue into November with lane and ramp closures at night. MDOT construction season is wrapping up. O'Neill stated MDOT has discussed the possibility of staff shortages during a winter storm event caused by the COVID illness and asked what other agencies are doing. Would it be possible to partner with local agencies for plowing if needed? Minkus stated the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County has had conversations with the City of Portage and the City of Kalamazoo to pull drivers if or when needed and would be willing to include MDOT. It is a good idea to ensure there is an agreement and plan in place.

Heppler stated the Michigan Department of Transportation trailway work on the east side of the Village of Augusta is complete. The Village of Augusta is preparing bid lists for next year and as part of the 5-year road improvement plan.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Reilly reported the City of Kalamazoo is working on updating downtown zoning. Downtown 1, 2, and 3 zones were approved by the Planning Commission and are headed to the City Commission. An update to the Natural Feature Protection Map is on next month's Planning Commission Agenda.

Jarnefelt reported a Kalamazoo County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee continues to be formed. The draft guideline for the revision of the street naming and addressing policy process is ongoing. Kalamazoo County approved a data exchange agreement called a MiSAIL Agreement, with the State of Michigan. The County provides parcel data and address point data to the State for their internal use. In return, the County gets aerial imagery from the State. The State flies on a five-year cycle. The eastern half of Kalamazoo County was flown in 2019, the western half was flown in 2020. Although the State aerials are much lower resolution than the County's Pictometry imagery, they offer more recent data. Stefforia asked if the entire County was flown in 2020. Jarnefelt responded only the western half was flown in 2020. The 2020 aerials are in quality control and Jarnefelt will let everyone know when they are available. The 2019 aerials of the eastern half of the County are available now.

Stoddard announced the City of Parchment Master Plan has been out for public comment for 63 days. The City will be working on Planned Unit Development at the end of the month and is close to finishing the Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Minkus with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County stated he met with a member of the Regional Bridge Council. The Village of Augusta and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County previously submitted Resolutions of Support for Bridge Funding Applications. The Council received 77 applications for the region, for a total request of \$42 million dollars. The Council had over \$4 million dollars to award. Forty-five resolutions were for preventative maintenance totaling \$5 million dollars, 5 were for rehabs for \$5 million dollars and 27 were replacements for \$32 million dollars. The Council selected 2 preventative maintenance resolutions, 3 rehabs and 2 replacements to recommend to the state for funding.

O'Neill who resides in Texas Township, noting no representative from there is present today, mentioned the Township enacted a special assessment of \$60 per buildable parcel for road funding 9 years ago which expires after 10 years. The Township has proposed doubling that amount for the next 10 years. At the first public hearing held earlier this week, the assessment district boundary was set, and public comments were taken. A second public hearing will be held to set the dollar amount of the special assessment.

Schultz announced Metro is hiring bus drivers. Please along the information to anyone with a CDL interested in driving a bus. Metro is also looking for operations supervisors and maintenance staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden, from Bike Friendly Kalamazoo thanked the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and all agencies for work on non-motorized projects. The next Kalamazoo Bike Program Steering Committee meeting will be held December 9, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The next Kalamazoo Region Bike Route Committee meeting is October 20, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Schultz cited the possibility of the cancellation of the November meeting. There being no other business, the October 8, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.