

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the October 28, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The October 28, 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
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
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Megan Mickelson
Fred Nagler
Elizabeth Rumick
Steve Stepek
Ali Townsend

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
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CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Stepek stated there are no changes or additions to the agenda; however, there is a change to action item number eight and an additional document related to agenda item number nine. A project will be removed from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. This will be further discussed under the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2023 TIP Amendment agenda item. Additionally, the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Fact Sheet will be emailed after the meeting and included in the minutes. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan support these measures.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to approve the agenda of the October 28, 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 (OCTOBER 8, 2020)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 MEETING

MOTION by Hinkle, SECOND by VanderRoest, ***“to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek referred to the nine Transportation Improvement Program Amendments included in the meeting packet. The majority of the amendments are readjusting local money. As referred to at the beginning of the meeting, the fourth job, number 206294, for Sprinkle Road, will be removed and excluded from the amendments as presented for approval. This project was an Advance Construct which requires the local agency to pay upfront and get subsequently reimbursed with federal funds. After further review, the Kalamazoo County budget did not allow for this one-million-dollar project. Drouin inquired how the G Avenue from Riverview Drive to 24th Street project concurrent with the I-94 project would impact traffic. Stepek added the project will be obligated in 2021 for construction in 2022. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study received additional Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds. This project was the highest rated project on the KATS illustrative list and was recommended to receive the funding. Worden explained the G Avenue project is a simple project that can be completed quickly. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County will monitor and work around the Michigan Department of Transportation I-94 project.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to approve the FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments as amended excluding Job Number 206294.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Steppek stated the Goals and Objectives for Metropolitan Transportation Plan have been edited and included in the packet for three months. Page 27 of the meeting packet shows National Transportation Performance Measures. As mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Fact Sheet will be emailed after the meeting and included in the minutes. The Fact Sheet details how measures are calculated. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan support these measures. KATS traditionally supports statewide measures and continues to. Current measures are addressed later in the planning process with data gathering. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) and the Technical Committee recommend adoption of the Goals and Objectives for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as presented.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Locey, ***“to approve the Goals and Objectives for Metropolitan Transportation Plan.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

Referring to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Schedule provided in the meeting materials for informational purposes, Stepek explained the schedule shows when TIP Amendments are due to Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) for each amendment cycle. The schedule continues the every-other-month schedule that KATS has maintained for the last few years.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 CONTRIBUTED SERVICES BY AGENCY

Steppek reported the final total of Fiscal Year 2020 Contributed Services is included in the packet. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study exceeded the in-kind service requirement. Thank you to all the agencies that continue to fill out and submit timesheets.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema from Central County Transportation Authority and Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority reported Metro is experiencing a bus driver staff shortage due to COVID. As a result, service hours and route frequency have been decreased. While the situation continues to be a challenge, it is managed as safely and as best as possible while continuing essential service. Metro Connect continues to run and has been necessary to fill in service gaps. Prior to recent COVID issues, ridership was starting to pick up. The current slight dip in ridership is expected to increase. Western Michigan University routes continue to operate and are successful. Metro continues data gathering to install screens/shields on busses. The screens would not only offer driver health/safety but also allow separation between the customer fare box so fares can be charged again. Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority will be presenting a millage request in 2021 for all municipalities in Kalamazoo County. Further information from Metro will follow.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Referring to the memo included in the meeting materials, Stepek highlighted that Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) had discussions with Michigan Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration regarding the development of the KATS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). At the November meetings, KATS staff will be

recommending the Technical and Policy Committee reaffirm the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan until November of 2021 from the current April of 2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, KATS staff has been limited in their ability to engage the public and had a significant delay in receiving the Travel Demand Model from the consultant. Reaffirming the current MTP will give KATS staff and member agencies additional time to engage the public in the planning process. All related parties are in agreement with the idea. Flint and Lansing Metropolitan Planning Organizations have also reaffirmed their current MTP. There will be public notice, emails, and opportunity for comments. Sorensen commended Stepek and KATS staff for nice work.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Representing the City of Parchment, Britigan stated the Planning Commission and City Commission have completed the City of Parchment Draft Master Plan. The plan has been distributed to surrounding agencies for comment. Britigan wishes agencies a smooth election process next Tuesday.

VanderRoest reported the Charleston Township board approved a motion at last night's meeting to apply for a Michigan Rural Development Grant. This is because improvements will be necessary at the Watkins Road intersection at Exit 92 along I-94 due to the planned 11-million-dollar economic development there.

Sorensen alerted Britigan that neither Cooper Township nor Schoolcraft Township were in receipt of the City of Parchment Draft Master Plan. Britigan will ensure copies are distributed. The Cooper Township water extension project continues. The Township is in receipt of 5.8 million dollars for the 8.1-million-dollar project. Sorensen thanked the City of Kalamazoo and all attendees for assisting and appreciates the inter-governmental cooperation.

Heiny-Cogswell appreciates work completed on non-motorized routes of Drake Road and Stadium Drive in Oshtemo Township. Heiny-Cogswell thanked the Michigan Department of Transportation and Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study for work on obtaining financial support through the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Gisler reported the Kalamazoo County 2021 budget is complete. The budget is similar to prior year with an operating budget just over 110-million-dollars. Questions remain about state revenue sharing, property tax rates, and what the 2022 budget will look like.

Worden stated the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is developing contingency plans for snow removal in case RCKC staff are impacted by COVID. Worden thanked Stepek for removing the Sprinkle Road project from today's Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. RCKC is hopeful to obtain a portion of the Kalamazoo River Superfund money to replace the Travis Drain.

Thompson reported Comstock Township growth continues. A Dollar General opens downtown today and other businesses are coming in. Thompson's term as Policy Committee Chair expires. Thompson remains optimistic and would like to be re-elected; he thanked the group for support.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Randy Thompson adjourned the October 28, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.