

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The November 5, 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
Tony Dacoba	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Kyle Mucha	City of Portage
Michelle O'Neill	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
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 Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation
Ryan Gladding	Michigan Department of Transportation
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Robert Maffeo	MDOT, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
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 Minkus, SECOND by Jarnefelt, ***“to approve the November 5, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 8, 2020 MEETING**

Jarnefelt noted on page four, the Kalamazoo County agreement with the State of Michigan should be changed from a "My Sale" to a "MiSAIL" Agreement.

MOTION by Stefforia, SECOND by O'Neill, ***"to approve the minutes with the incorporated revision above, from the October 8, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting."*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Steppek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee met and adopted the presented Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and the Goals and Objectives for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Committee was alerted that the KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be presented for reaffirmation at the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

## **REAFFIRMATION OF KATS 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Referring to the resolution 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). All parties agree with the recommendation to 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. Extending the current plan for an additional 7 months will give KATS staff and member agencies additional time to engage the public in the planning process. The KATS MTP would also than align with the Battle Creek Metropolitan Planning Organization Long-Range Plan adoption. Stepek added the extension does not interfere with the law requiring a 20-year plan horizon. Stefforia noted the last paragraph states reaffirming the KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan until November 30, 2020 instead of November 30, 2021. Stepek said the date will be corrected before signed.

MOTION by Stefforia, SECOND by Mallery, ***"to approve the Reaffirmation of KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with the date correction in the last paragraph as discussed."*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **2021 SAFETY TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Included in the meeting materials is the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study's (KATS) annual Resolution to support State Safety Targets and a Michigan Department of Transportation guide on Safety Performance Measures and Targets. If approved, Stepek reported this would be KATS' third year of adopting and supporting the State Safety Targets. Targets were adjusted to reflect traffic changes resulting from the COVID environment. Minkus inquired if there is a way to see increases or decreases or progress in the KATS Kalamazoo Urbanized Area. Stepek will look into it.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Jarnefelt, ***"to approve the 2021 Safety Transportation Performance Measures."*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Referring to the meeting schedule included in the packet, Stepek stated the 2021 schedule follows the current schedule of meeting the second Thursday of the month with the exception of November and December where the meetings are moved to the first week of the month due to the holidays.

Once in-person meetings resume, there has been discussion of moving the meeting start time from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. This would:

- allow more time to prepare the meeting room at Metro
- allow more travel time for agencies with far commutes
- improve remote internet meeting quality where typically top-of-the hour is a more common meeting time

Arif asked if we can continue remote meetings with almost half of attendees having long commutes. Stepek responded Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is subject to Michigan Open Meetings Act and must abide by rulings and parameters. Remote meetings are currently approved through 2021; KATS continues to monitor rulings. Minkus asked if the June or July meeting date should be changed since in the past it had conflicted with the State-wide Metropolitan Planning Organization Conference. Stepek answered the current proposed schedule can be set now. KATS remains flexible to date changes closer to when the meeting will be held considering the unknown possibility of a cancellation of the conference.

**MOTION by O'Neill, SECOND by Minkus, "to approve the 2021 Technical Committee Meeting Schedule." MOTION APPROVED.**

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Dacoba reported Van Buren Public Transit began contracted runs but after only a week they were shutting down again.

Schultz reported due to COVID positive drivers and quarantine, Metro reduced Monday through Saturday service to 6:00 p.m. and eliminated Sunday service. As of November 2, 2020, busses are running Monday through Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and no Sunday service. Route 12- Duke is still not running. Metro had enough drivers to bring back Western Michigan University service. However, there will be no bus service when the campus is shut down from November 20, 2020 through January 11, 2021. Informational updates can be found on the Metro Facebook page and Website. Metro continues the bus stop sign improvement project with Rathco Safety and Supply, Inc. Sign replacement is expected to be completed by the end of next summer. If agencies have any 2021 road construction projects along the Metro fixed route system, please contact Schultz to discuss route impact and possible bus stop improvements. Schultz thanked the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for work on the Nottingham Apartment bus stop and the City of Kalamazoo for Oakland and Cork Street bus stop improvement work. Metro is thankful for the return of non-delayed and non-detoured service in those areas.

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### **ROADS-**

Minkus reported most Road Commission of Kalamazoo County projects are wrapped up for the year other than some minor paving. Minkus will present a summary of what was completed at next month's meeting. All four applications submitted for safety program projects were selected. They will be added to the next Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and include:

- North Sprinkle Road in Comstock
- East Michigan and East Main
- North 24<sup>th</sup> Street and East A B Avenue near the Cooper Richland border
- North 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Ravine Road up to D Avenue

The Road Commission gladly entered into a partnership with the Comstock Fire Department to install traffic signal preemption equipment along the Sprinkle Road corridor. Minkus wished attendees a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked contractors, consultants, and all partner agencies for work this

year. Worden announced O Avenue on the south-side of I-94 has been raised and will be open today after being closed for multiple years.

Harmon updated City of Portage South Westnedge Avenue Signal Improvements continue. Mast arms are installed at Idaho Avenue and Dawnlee Avenue. Poles are installed at Mall Drive. Construction is scheduled to be complete on these projects this month. The traffic signal improvements at Romence Road and Lovers Lane will continue after the work on South Westnedge signals is complete. East Milham Avenue has been submitted; bidding will be in February.

O'Neill reported Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) paving on I-94 at the west end of the county is complete including the resurfacing of the car pool lot at Oakland Drive. Prework for the I-94 widening project is planned to be complete on November 14, 2020. Early Sunday morning traffic interruptions near Portage Road and Sprinkle Road are planned for Consumers Energy overhead electrical line work. For improved corridor operation, traffic detection equipment is being installed along the Stadium Drive corridor to the eastern limit of Seneca Lane. Traffic coordination will be a factor since signals will need to be taken out of service to install new equipment cabinets. Drivers can check the Mi Drive website for up-to-date information on closures.

#### **LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-**

Jarnefelt reported the Kalamazoo County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee and MiSAIL projects continue.

Sanada from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Southwest Region stated the MDOT Southwest Michigan Region Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was completed about two weeks ago. Digital copies are available. Physical copies of the maps were delivered yesterday to the Region Office and are available for distribution. If agencies would like a stack, contact Sanada.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Stepek reminded attendees the Federal Budget expires December 11, 2020. While we hope for an extension, project funding obligation authority based on apportionment is through December 11, 2020. Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorization was extended through 2021 but appropriation has not been. To remain financially constrained, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) cut 30 thousand dollars from a Road Commission of Kalamazoo County project, selected as the lowest ranking project. Stepek thanked the group for feedback and Minkus for processing changes.

Harmon announced the Southwest Branch American Public Works Association Award application deadline has been extended to November 30, 2020. Contact Harmon or Worden for an application or any questions.

O'Neill appreciates the good work done by the City of Portage on the Westnedge/Shaver Road and Centre Street intersection and railroad crossing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Schultz asked attendees to email Rumick at [erumick@katsmpo.org](mailto:erumick@katsmpo.org) if joined the meeting late and missed roll call. Following a motion by Worden and a second by Mallery, Chair Schultz adjourned the November 5, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting at 9:35 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.*