

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The December 16, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order remotely by Chair Randy Thompson at 9:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the remote meeting stated name and agency from which he/she is attending the meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Call-In Location</u>
Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority	City of Portage
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment	Comstock Township
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan	Village of Mattawan
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township	Richland Township
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township	Wakeshma Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County	Pavilion Township
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township	Oshtemo Township
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit	Van Buren County
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Village of Augusta
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton	Village of Lawton
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	Washtenaw County
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission	Village of Decatur
Tracey Locey	Brady Township	Brady Township
Sean McBride	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	City of Kalamazoo
Don Mayle	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning	Lansing
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw	Village of Paw Paw
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC	Otsego
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee	Kalamazoo
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township	Comstock Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township	Charleston Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township	Schoolcraft Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

	<u>Agency</u>
John Hinkle	Texas Township
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Don Martin	Kalamazoo Township
Patricia Randall	City of Portage
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

	<u>Agency</u>
Paul Ecklund	Southwest Michigan Disability Network
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 requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Drouin, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the agenda of the December 16, 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 (DECEMBER 3, 2020)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING

Heppler stated the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting should reflect his attendance/participation.

MOTION by Johnson, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda reflecting the above attendance amendment in the minutes.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek stated the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment handout is included in the meeting packet for your consideration. The majority of the amendments are new additions. They include funding for Metro Transit facilities, an MDOT regionwide preventive maintenance job, and newly awarded FY 2022 Safety projects. Congratulations to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and the City of Kalamazoo on receiving the competitive Safety

funding. The other major job amendment is Sprinkle Road. This project was originally proposed as an Advance Construct project for FY 2021. It is listed twice on the proposed amendments to take care of two actions. The first listing is to remove the Advance Construct funding in FY 2021 (100% local). The second is to fully fund the project in FY 2022 with an adjustment to the local cost. Daly requested confirmation that the Kalamazoo County Job Number 206271 local cost is increasing from \$112,000 to \$1,462,000 million dollars. Stepek confirmed there was a dramatic increase in local costs for the job for additional curb and gutter work. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) additional infrastructure work for the job must be funded locally because the federal program is fixed. Johnson of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County added project cost is estimated well in advance. Additional engineering and significant scope changes were made to the project. These changes do not affect federal funding so additional local funding is necessary. The RCKC is happy all four submitted Safety Projects received funding including a Comstock Fire Department project. Support is appreciated.

MOTION by Drouin, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – ELECTION FOR 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Thompson explained member of the Nominating Committee, Sorensen, could not attend and asked Stepek to speak on his behalf. The Policy Committee elects officers to serve on an annual calendar year basis. The Nominating committee’s recommendation is a continuation of the current 2020 officers:

- Randy Thompson, Chair
- Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair
- Marsha Drouin, Treasurer

Officers agreed to continue another year term and no nominations were received.

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Britigan, ***“to Reappoint the Policy Committee Officers for 2021.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

2015 – 2019 KATS SAFETY INFORMATION

Stepek stated the 2015-2019 Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Information is included in the meeting packet for review. To help answer questions received after last month’s committee meetings, KATS prepared a summary of safety related data from 2015-2019. The three charts show trends of serious injuries, fatalities, and pedestrian and bicyclist serious injuries and fatalities. Data for calendar Year 2020 data is expected to be significantly different due to the COVID-19 environment. State-wide fatalities have increased in 2020 so far, even though traffic volume has decreased. Heppler noted Village of Augusta is experiencing increasing speeds with decreasing volume. Driving at higher speeds has caused more traffic accidents, injuries, and deaths not only locally but throughout the state. Public awareness and education along with strict traffic enforcement will help. Drouin asked if the cause has been determined. Heppler reported the opinion from the Village is drivers seem to think going faster is okay since there is less traffic, along with ignoring stop signs and other basic traffic laws. In the COVID-19 environment, driver attitudes seem to have changed. To keep communities safe, agencies can bring the problem and importance of the situation to everyone’s attention, educate the public, and support law enforcement.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema from Central County Transportation Authority reported the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority and the Central County Transportation Authority Board met earlier this week. There is a new bus advertising company. New advertisements on buses will be installed in the next few months. Due to the continuing COVID-19 environment, barriers between the bus drivers and passengers are still in place. Bus fares are still not being collected. The downtown Kalamazoo Transportation Center where Metro, Indian Trail, and Greyhound buses and Amtrack trains congregate, is working on a plan to have a limited level of indoor service as cold, winter weather approaches. Western Michigan University (WMU) Metro routes are currently not operating. WMU service will resume January 11, 2021 when students return to campus.

McBride added the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) was able to make bus stop pad, shelter, signage, and sidewalk connection improvements over the past summer. Thanks to assistance from partnership agencies including the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, City of Portage, City of Kalamazoo, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. In March, 2020, voters approved a millage to fund the public transit fixed route system. A millage to fund Metro Connect will be proposed in November, 2021. This is a county-wide millage and currently is at .3145.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steppek stated to continue to send contributed service timesheets to Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. Steppek thanked agencies for processing the dues invoices and the FY 2022 Contributed Services Agreements. Johnson asked for confirmation that there were no changes to the Third-Party Agreements. Steppek confirmed there were no changes. It is a possibility the January meeting will be cancelled due to a lack of action items. Representatives agreed to allow Thompson and Steppek to make the final decision on cancellation of the January meeting, at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

VanderRoest of Charleston Township, reported the 11 million dollar I-94 Exit 92 project steel has been installed. There is a lot of construction traffic there.

Heiny-Cogswell reported Oshtemo Township has 3 new township board members that are seated and have started, but will continue with the same representatives for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee. Oshtemo Township Deputy Director of Public Works Anna Horner is off for maternity leave until mid-February, 2021.

Gisler representing Kalamazoo County, stated bids will be requested beginning January 15, 2021 and are due by February 10, 2021 for the new Justice Center Building planned for the area just west of the current County Building. The actual project cost will be determined by March 1, 2021 with ground breaking planned for April 1, 2021. At the recent Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioner's Meeting, new commissioners were sworn in by Judge Lipsey and will be seated in January, 2021. The County passed a State of Emergency Resolution extending the ability of jurisdictions in the county subject to the Open Meetings Act, to continue virtual meetings through December 31, 2021. The Resolution enables every jurisdiction in Kalamazoo County to make their own decision on either in-

person or virtual meetings. Stepek appreciates Kalamazoo County taking action on the State of Emergency Resolution.

Thompson reported Comstock Township has new Board Members. Comstock Township Supervisor votes were recounted with Thompson still winning. Thanks to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for working with the Comstock Fire Department on the Safety Project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, following a motion by VanderRoest and a second by Heppler, Chair Thompson adjourned the December 16, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.