

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES DECEMBER 3, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The December 3, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order remotely in accordance with current guidelines, 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
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
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township
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-Reigstad	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 Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
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**

Minkus will update attendees on the recent Local Rural Task Force (RTF) meeting during New Business.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Stoddard, ***“to approve the December 3, 2020 Technical Committee Agenda noting an RTF update will occur.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 5, 2020 MEETING**

Schultz stated the minutes are included in the meeting packet.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Arif, ***“to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Steppek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee approved Reaffirmation of the KATS 2045 MTP and 2021 Safety Transportation Performance Measures following the Technical Committee recommendations. The Policy Committee also set up a nominating committee for next year's officers.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

## **2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

Referring to the amendments included in the meeting materials, Stepek highlighted that the Kalamazoo County Sprinkle Road project is listed twice. The first amendment is to remove the project from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County's Advance Construct due to budget shortfalls. The second amendment is to add the additional funds for the project back into the correct fiscal year of 2022. Most of the other amendments are Traffic Safety Projects. Congratulations to agencies that received Safety Grants for 2022.

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

## **2015-2019 KATS SAFETY INFORMATION**

Steppek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Information is included in the meeting packet as requested at the last Technical Committee Meeting. Stepek thanked O'Neill for research. The statewide safety goals KATS adopts for fatalities and serious injuries is difficult to translate down to the MPO area since statewide goals include all urban areas which traditionally have higher serious injury and fatality rates. Statewide goals similarly include all rural areas which traditionally have lower serious injury and fatality rates. The charts included in the packet show Kalamazoo Urban Area trends for the last 5 years of 2015 to 2019. Looking at the charts, notice Serious Injuries have trended upward while fatalities have trended downward. Agency work to decrease fatalities is commendable. The Michigan Department of Transportation region has an upward trend of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Serious Injuries and Fatalities.

Heppler representing the Village of Augusta, noted even with less cars on the road in 2020 due to COVID, fatalities and serious accident rates are spiking. While the majority of drivers are following traffic laws, about 10 percent of drivers are significantly disregarding laws. Better driver education and enforcement are needed. Stepek reiterated that the data is for 2015 through 2019. It will be interesting to see next year's data which will include 2020 where significant changes are expected. O'Neill notified attendees that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Toward Zero Death statewide safety campaign continues. Google MDOT Toward Zero to get to the website for more information and to sign up for email updates. Fatalities are trending upward in 2020 compared to 2019. Franklin of Michigan Department of Transportation shared the following data from the Michigan State Police in the Zoom meeting chat box: Dec. 1, 2020 - 16 people died on Michigan roadways since last week making a total of 947 this year. In addition, 96 more were seriously injured for a statewide total of 4,893 to date. Compared to last year at this time there are 58 more fatalities; and 245 fewer serious injured. Schultz thanked Stepek for including KATS Safety Information. Stepek added based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) statewide Serious Injuries goal is 5.6 and the KATS

MPO goal is 9 since this is an urban area. The Fatalities goal is 1 for the state and 1.4 for KATS MPO. Minkus thanked Stepek for the 2015-2019 KATS MPO Safety Information. The data allows comparison to how KATS MPO urban area safety correlates to state trends since KATS adopted the State Safety Targets.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Schultz reported Metro continues the service schedule in place as of November 2, 2020 of 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. Metro continues free fare and passenger use of only bus rear doors. Metro finished installing safety shields that block bus drivers from the fare box area. Metro is communicating that rides should continue to be for essential use only. As temperatures get cooler, loitering on buses is anticipated. Although it is unknown when fares will be reinstated, they may be reinstated to discourage loitering. Metro continues the bus stop sign improvement project with Rathco Safety and Supply, Inc. If agencies have a sign concern, contact Schultz. Sign replacement is expected to be completed by the end of next summer.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**ROADS-**

Minkus provided the following Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) updates:

**RCKC Non-motorized:**

FY	Job No.	Description	Status
2020	127385	Drake Rd Trail – KL Ave to Green Meadow	2021 plantings and punch list remain.
2020	205109	KRVT #6 – 35 <sup>th</sup> St to McCollum	Punch list remains.
2020	206301	Stadium Dr Sidewalk – Quail Run to 11 <sup>th</sup> St.	Punch list remains.

**RCKC Road Updates:**

FY	Job No.	Description	Status
2021	205408	R Ave – 36 <sup>th</sup> St to E. County line	Targeting March letting
2021	206265	Sprinkle Rd. – Milham to N Ave.	Targeting March letting
2021	2062672 06271	Nichols Rd & Solon Rd – City of Kalamazoo limits to Ravine Rd	Targeting March letting.
2021	210388	Systemic Signs – North County	January letting
2021	210438	U Ave – Oakland Dr to Portage Rd	January letting.
2021	211597	G Ave – Riverview Dr to Mt Olivet	Targeting February letting
2022		S Ave – 29 <sup>th</sup> St to 34 <sup>th</sup> St	NEPA underway, in design
2022	206297 206298	Barney Rd & Mosel Ave – Nichols Rd to Riverview Dr	NEPA submitted, in design.
2022	206273	Sprinkle Rd – E. Main St to G Ave	NEPA underway, in design

**RCKC Other Updates:**

- On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the RCKC Board approved the 2021-2025 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and it is now available on the Engineering section of the RCKC website.
- In compliance with Public Act 325, the RCKC Board has also approved, and we have submitted to the TAMC our 2020 Transportation Asset Management Plan. This is also available on the Road Data section of the RCKC website.
- 2020 Projects Summary: 246 Projects with 115 being chip seal. This equates to approximately 116 centerline miles, using 588,000 gallons of emulsion and 17,500 tons of aggregate.

Ladd reported City of Kalamazoo is officially done with all 2020 projects for the year. Despite obstacles and challenges, the projects were successful and went well. The City is shifting focus to

2021 and getting bids together that will come out in December and January. The City is happily in receipt of 2022 Safety Funds and looks forward to safety projects that will benefit the City.

O'Neill reported all Michigan Department of Transportation projects are wrapped up for this year. A minor signal project at Stadium and 131 is essentially complete. A utility permit will allow a total stoppage of freeway traffic on I-94 from Portage Road to Sprinkle Road, on December 13, 2020 for Consumers Energy to install new power lines. Michigan State Troopers will assist in the effort which is expected to last 15 minutes and fall between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. A Weather Delay date is scheduled for December 20, 2020. There are other utility permits ongoing. The I-94 widening project is scheduled for spring bid letting. The Gull Road Roundabout will be let this winter. Schultz asked for the start date of the Portage Road and I-94 project since it will impact Metro bus routes. O'Neill responded the project bid letting is targeted for February followed by an anticipated start date of late April or early May.

Harmon reported for the City of Portage:

- Traffic signal projects on South Westnedge Avenue at Idaho Avenue, Dawnlee Avenue and Mall Drive are almost complete. Signals are in place and operational.
- Traffic signal project at Romence Road and Lovers Lane continues with mast arms being installed earlier this week.
- East Milham Avenue Reconstruction project from South Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road has been submitted to MDOT and awaiting bidding.
- Lovers Lane Reconstruction project from East Milham Avenue to Kilgore Road was awarded for engineering services and design is underway.
- South Westnedge Avenue Microsurfacing project from Mall Drive to Trade Centre Way will open proposals for engineering services this afternoon.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta has received bids for five projects scheduled to begin in Spring of 2021. The Village has a rolling 5-year plan to keep roads safe and make improvements while pursuing partnership opportunities with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and State Highway.

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

Stoddard stated the City of Parchment Master Plan draft is available for residents. A public hearing is scheduled for December 21, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Minkus provided an update on the recent Local Rural Task Force (RTF) meeting for Kalamazoo. The meeting included the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, Village of Climax, and Metro. The meeting objective was to address and resolve the 9-thousand-dollar reduction in state funding targets by allocating it across projects. The state is now requiring RTF Project Form Submittals to include preliminary engineer design and construction costs for an overall project cost. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) applications may in-turn require this information. Stepek commented that Federal requirements are for total project costs but JobNet did not allow these engineer costs to be added in. JobNet now has the capability to add engineer design and constructions costs. Franklin of the Michigan Department of Transportation, assisted making KATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments compliant by adding a default 10 to 15 percent estimate to all jobs. The next TIP Amendment will include an option of either a default 10-15 percent addition, or space to input the estimates, if known. Total project costs do not change TIP Amendments or thresholds but make projects federally compliant.

Stepek reminded attendees that:

- February of 2021 is the next TIP Amendment month
- The Federal Budget expires December 11, 2020
- KATS needs time sheets; please turn them in as soon as possible

Mickelson introduced baby Harper born November 18, 2020. The Committee extended congratulations to Mickelson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Schultz wished attendees a safe and healthy 2020 Holiday Season with the next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2021.

Following a motion by Heppler and a second by O'Neill, Chair Schultz adjourned the December 3, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting at 9:34 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.*