

## KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 11, 2021 - 9:30 A.M.

#### CALL TO ORDER

The February 11, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order remotely in accordance with current guidelines, at 9:31 a.m. by Chair Kathy Schultz.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

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

#### ROLL CALL

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

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Call-in Location</u>
Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission	Van Buren County
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw	Paw Paw, MI
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning	Drummond Island, MI
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Augusta, MI
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County	City of Kalamazoo
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township	Oshtemo, MI
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg	Barton Lake, MI
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township	Kalamazoo, MI
Ryan Minkus, Vice- Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	East Grand Rapids
Kyle Mucha	City of Portage	City of Portage
Jesse Okeley	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Katie Reilly-Reigstad	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft	Schoolcraft, MI
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region	Mattawan, MI
Kathy Schultz, Chair	Central County Transportation Authority	City of Kalamazoo
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township	Portage, MI
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment	Wayland, MI
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	City of Kalamazoo
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	City of Kalamazoo

#### OTHERS PRESENT

	<u>Agency</u>
Philip Doorlag	Wightman & Assoc.
Lawrence Hummel	Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc.
Robert Maffeo	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis

Terry Martin  
Megan Mickelson  
Fred Nagler  
Elizabeth Rumick  
Paul Selden  
Steve Stepek  
Ali Townsend

Carrier & Gable  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Bike Friendly Kalamazoo  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

## **CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Stepek will discuss Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development during the New Business part of the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the February 11, 2021 Technical Committee Agenda with the addition of a TIP development discussion.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 3, 2020 MEETING**

Minkus noted JobNet is incorrectly spelled as JobnNet in the New Business section of the minutes.

MOTION by Vlietstra, SECOND by Arif, ***“to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting with the spelling correction in the New Business section.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Stepek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee met in December of 2020. The Committee approved Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and reappointed the same Policy Committee Officers for 2021.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Selden, Chair and President of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK), invited attendees to join the Bike Program Steering Committee. BFK is holding a joint Bike Program Steering Committee/Annual BFK Public Planning Meeting/Core Team Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday March, 24, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Western Michigan University Director of Transportation Research Center Jun-Seok Oh, Ph.D., PE, PTOE, and a BFK Advisory Council Member, will present the ten-year bike/auto crash analysis. This will lead the Kalamazoo County-wide messaging campaign and coincide with the traditional start of bike-riding season weather. The Tenth-Annual Kalamazoo Area Bike Week is May 8, 2021- May 15, 2021. As in the past, agencies are invited to offer maps and information.

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

Referring to the amendments included in the meeting materials, Stepek summarized that three amendments are Metro Transit Additions for both FY 20 and FY 21. There is a Sprinkle Road Bridge Rehabilitation, E R Avenue Road Rehabilitation, and an Oakland Drive Railroad Addition. The remaining amendments are Traffic Safety Projects.

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

## **TRANSIT SAFETY PLAN AND SAFETY TARGETS**

Stepek reported the Central County Transportation Authority Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Template for Bus Transit is included in the meeting packet. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) recognizes federal guidelines, the cooperation with Metro Transit, and the importance of a

safe transportation system. KATS staff recommends recommending adoption of the Resolution to Support the Transit Safety Targets, included in the packet, and for the Technical Committee Chair to sign on the Committee's behalf.

Vlietstra of Metro, added completion of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Template for Bus Transit was a Federal Transportation Administration mandate with a deadline of December 31, 2020. The Central and Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Boards approved the Plan on November 9, 2020. Although zero fatalities and injuries would be a goal, it is not reality. Safety targets are based on historical data with an attempt to reduce fatalities and injuries in the future.

MOTION by Arif, SECOND by Mallery, ***“to approve the Transit Safety Plan and Safety Targets and approve the Resolution of Support therein.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **BRIDGE CONDITION TARGETS**

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kalamazoo Urbanized area, Stepek reported Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is required to adopt the state's Bridge Condition Targets. KATS has the option of developing its own targets, but would then be required to support both its own and the states. In the past, KATS has opted to adopt the state targets. Since these adjusted 4-year targets end December 31, 2021, this is a short-term adoption. This is for the National Highway System only and does not include any local system bridges. If you'd like more detailed information regarding the targets, please let Stepek know.

In response to Arif's inquiry, Stepek clarified the targets relate to a percentage of bridge deck area in the National Highway System (NHS). In the Local System, 38.6% of Bridge Deck area is in Good Condition. Minkus stated the last page of the report breaks out data by MPO Region. The Kalamazoo Urbanized Area has 44% of Bridge Deck Area in Good Condition. In response to Heppler's inquiry, Stepek reiterated only bridges part of the National Highway System are included in the targets. KATS Staff recommends the Technical Committee recommend adoption of the adjusted 4-year National Highway System (NHS) Bridge Condition Targets which are also supported by the Michigan Department of Transportation, and authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution on the Committee's behalf.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Vlietstra, ***“to approve the Bridge Condition Targets and approve the Resolution of Support therein.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Schultz reported Metro continues to provide service on a limited basis. Beginning January 18, 2021, Friday and Saturday service was extended from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Metro Connect service is running from 10:00 p.m. to midnight and provides Sunday service for passengers that have scheduled an appointment. The Bus Stop sign replacement project with Rathco Safety and Supply, Inc. is approximately half-way done and has an anticipated completion by June, 2021. Schultz thanked partner agencies for assisting with the project. Metro fielded passenger calls on a Westnedge Bus Stop removal. Schultz explained removing Bus Stops will improve bus route on-time performance. Please report any public feedback to Metro. Alert Metro on agency construction projects with a Bus Stop on them.

Vlietstra reported the Metro Transportation Center is partially open, with limited occupancy, and a Kalamazoo County Sheriff present.

## **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	Plantings remain.
2021		KRVT #6 –McCollum to 35 <sup>th</sup> St	Finalizing plans for GI submittal

**RCKC Road Updates:**

FY	Job No.	Description	Status
2021	205408	R Ave – 36 <sup>th</sup> St to E. County line	Awaiting letting confirmation
2021	206265	Sprinkle Rd. – Milham to N Ave.	Awaiting letting confirmation
2021	2062672 06271	Nichols Rd & Solon Rd – City of Kalamazoo limits to Ravine Rd	Awaiting letting confirmation
2021	210388	Systemic Signs – North County	Bid: 8% over estimate
2021	210438	U Ave – Oakland Dr to Portage Rd	Bid: 24% under estimate
2021	211597	G Ave – Riverview Dr to Mt Olivet	Bid: 38% under estimate
2022	205411	S Ave – 29 <sup>th</sup> St to 34 <sup>th</sup> St	NEPA underway, DSTR done, 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 submitted, in design

**RCKC Other Updates:**

- We welcome Road Commissioner Keshia Dickason as our new Road Commissioner, and her first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- MDOT's 2023 HSIP and HRRR Safety Call for Projects is now out with a deadline for submittal on May 3, 2021.
- MDOT's LAP All Region Spring Workshop for Locals is Wednesday, February 17, 2021; 8::30-12.
- Non-Motorized subcommittee needs existing routes and project applications turned in **ASAP**. Only two agencies have turned in applications totaling 16 projects. Previous plan contained 43 projects, and KATS Moves contained 137. We are either doing an incredible job of implementing non-motorized, or applications need to be completed. If you have planned projects please get the information turned in to Megan.

Ladd reported City of Kalamazoo will be completing Bus Stop improvement projects and adding 15 additional stops this Spring. The City has Portage Street and Howard Street Pedestrian Pathway local agency projects. The Bank Street realignment project, Farmers Market project, and the continuation of the city's portion of Kalamazoo River Valley Trail is in process. The Foundation for Excellence funded a City \$700,000 sidewalk improvement project. The City plans to pave 15 streets in-house this year. To elaborate on Schultz's inquiry, Ladd responded, the streets will be low volume, low speed, residential roads. Postcards have been sent to affected residents. Further, extensive public outreach will follow. Chip-seal on 18 local streets is out to bid.

O'Neill provided the following Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) update although unable to attend today's meeting. The I-94 Widening contract is out for bid. The Gull Road Roundabout project construction will begin in March, 2021. With maintenance/state funds, MDOT will be adding a project to repair the Michigan Avenue bridge over the Portage Creek in Kalamazoo this summer (July-August, 2021). This bridge remains under MDOT jurisdiction even though it is on the turn back route. MDOT is coordinating with the city of Kalamazoo staff on traffic control for this project. MDOT thanks the City of Kalamazoo staff for partnership work on traffic control planning for the grand opening of Chick-Fil-A last month. The site traffic seems to be functioning without adverse impact on the roadways. Sanada added the I-94 at Portage Road construction is wrapping up.

Harmon reported for the City of Portage:

- Portage received bids on the East Milham Avenue Reconstruction project from South Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road last week and the low bid was 7% under the engineer's estimate. This project is planned to begin April 5<sup>th</sup> and be complete October 15<sup>th</sup>. This project includes TIP and CMAQ funding and consists of water main and storm sewer replacement, traffic signal replacement at Oregon Avenue and Newport Avenue, extension of fiber network to Portage Road, sidewalk and ramp upgrades.
- Design is underway on the Lovers Lane Reconstruction project from East Milham Avenue to Kilgore Road scheduled for 2022.
- Design is underway on the South Westnedge Avenue micro surfacing project from Mall Drive to Trade Centre Way scheduled for 2022.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta will begin five road replacements this Spring that have already been bid and awarded. The projects are part of the Village of Augusta 5-Year Rolling Replacement Plan. The Village will be again requesting a Letter of Support for the replacement of the Washington Street Bridge. M-96 has had to close twice recently due to utility poles coming down. Re-routing traffic is a 23-mile detour around town.

Mallery stated the Village of Vicksburg 11-million-dollar infrastructure project is underway. New streetscapes and a more walkable downtown will result.

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

Reilly stated City of Kalamazoo Zoning work is on-going. Zoning along the East Main Corridor is being updated to Live Work 1 and Live Work 2 Zones.

Schultz thanked Luppert for obtaining Transit System feedback for the proposed Oshtemo Township Maple Hill Mall Zoning request for Bus Stop Removal. Based on feedback, the Bus Stop removal was denied.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Stepek suggested the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program development be moved from this Fall to the Spring. This would allow more time for development and better representation of projects in the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Long Range Plan. Contact KATS to volunteer for the Prioritization Process Subcommittee.

Minkus reminded attendees to ensure 2-person PASER teams have completed training since the whole network must be rated in 2021. Local agencies should get training completed as soon as possible.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo announced the Tenth-Annual Kalamazoo Area Bike Week is May 8, 2021- May 15, 2021. Selden highlighted the following virtual presentations that will occur during Bike Week:

- May 11, 2021. The Michigan State Police and the University of Michigan will present a seminar on how to use the crash analysis database.
- May 12, 2021. A series of presentations will be on local bicycle developments for 2021 and beyond.
- May 13, 2021. The Michigan Department of Transportation will present a statewide overview of bicycling.

If agencies have bicycle-related projects or progress they would like publicized during Bike Week, contact Selden at [president@bfk.org](mailto:president@bfk.org). For more information, refer to websites: [bikefriendlykalamazoo.org](http://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org) or [Kalamazoobikeweek.org](http://Kalamazoobikeweek.org).

Heppler shared the National Highway Safety Administration data that national traffic fatalities through September 30, 2020 was 11,260. This is a 13.1% increase from September 30, 2019. The increase is surprising since there are fewer cars on the road. The data shows we need to educate motorists and enforce laws for the safety of drivers and citizens. Selden noted this data impacts cyclist safety as well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion by Heppler and a second by Stefforia, Chair Schultz adjourned the February 11, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:29 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.*