

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 28, 2021 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The April 28, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order remotely in accordance with Kalamazoo County State of Emergency Declaration, by Chair Randy Thompson at 9:02 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the meeting stated name and location 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
Thomas Brennan	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	City of Kalamazoo
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment	Comstock Township
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township	Richland Township
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning	Drummond Island Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County	Pavilion Township
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township	Arvada, CO
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Village of Augusta
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton	Village of Lawton
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	Comstock Township
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	City of Kalamazoo
Sarah Joshi	City of Galesburg	City of Galesburg
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission	Village of Decatur
Amy Lipset	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC	City of Kalamazoo
Tracy Locey	Brady Township	Brady Township
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township	Kalamazoo Township
Sarah Moyer-Cale	Village of Paw Paw	Village of Paw Paw
Dennis Olson	Village of Vicksburg	Village of Vicksburg
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Patricia Randall	City of Portage	City of Portage
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee	Kalamazoo Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township	Kalamazoo
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Daly	<u>Agency</u> Village of Mattawan
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township
Nick Loeks	Texas 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
Paul Selden	Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
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 April 28, 2021 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 (APRIL 8, 2021)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 31, 2021 MEETING

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

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Steppek stated that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments are included in the meeting packet and explained in the meeting memo of the packet. The KATS Prioritization Subcommittee met and recommended allocating the COVID Relief funding to 4 projects. Two projects are already programmed and two projects would be future amendment requests.

Included in the amendment packet:

- FY 2022 Sprinkle Road from N Avenue to I-94, \$427,666 to offset local costs.
- FY 2023, Portage Rd from E Centre Avenue to Romence Road, \$730,000 to offset additional costs due to Pfizer expansion.

Future amendment request:

- Two small agency projects at \$200,000 each, which will allow KATS to meet the adopted goals set forth in the prioritization process. KATS is working with the Village of Augusta and the Village of Schoolcraft on project details. They will be included in a future TIP amendment request.

The other amendment is a small segment of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway that was previously approved with the adoption of the FY20-23 TIP but ran into issues with the railroad. The project is now being programmed with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Aardema asked the location of the trail segment. Stepek responded it is from Eagle Drive in Galesburg north to the High School. Heppler asked if KATS will pursue completion of the related crossing at M-96 in Augusta. Stepek explained the process is ongoing and current decisions between Amtrak and The Office of Rail at MDOT will guide progress on future projects.

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

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2022 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

Stepek reported the meeting minute memo from the Finance and Personnel Subcommittee is included in the packet. The Subcommittee agreed with Stepek’s recommendations for KATS Staff and went into closed session to determine the Executive Director salary adjustment of 2.5%.

MOTION by Britigan, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Salary Adjustments as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Subcommittee.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Stepek referred to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program included in the meeting materials and presented last month for comment. The Technical Committee and KATS Staff recommend approval of the Work Program. Drouin asked what the changes were to the Work Program. Stepek responded the changes were minor with the principal change being the addition of verbiage for the System Performance Report in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan work item.

MOTION by Drouin, SECOND by Sorensen, ***“to approve the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

Stepek referred to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Freedom of Information Procedures and Documents draft included in the packet. The draft documents were presented last month and sent to several member agencies for comment. KATS thanks those agencies that submitted feedback. All recommended comments were incorporated.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Miller, ***“to approve the Freedom of Information Procedures and Documents.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema reported there are temporary Metro fixed-service route reductions resulting from a bus driver shortage. Metro staff is meeting essential service demand. The Kalamazoo Central

Transportation Authority (KCTA) and Central County Transportation Authority Board has set the millage levy amounts. The KCTA levy amount continues to be below the allowable amount. More information can be found on kmetro.com. Metro is preparing to conduct procurement processes over the summer for its Comprehensive Operational Analysis. This analysis is completed every 10 years. The final report from the last analysis, conducted in 2010, is available on the kmetro.com website under resources/documents. Public comments and feedback will be solicited for the analysis. Drouin asked if a November millage request is still planned and if so, what the amount will be. Aardema answered the KCTA county-wide millage request is still planned for November. The current KCTA levy is .3131 and no significant changes are expected. Aardema will follow-up with the proposed new levy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stepek reported two letters are included in the meeting packet from Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) to Congressman Fred Upton for project funding consideration. Potential funding would be provided through the surface transportation reauthorization (earmark) process and the Community Project Funding (CPF) initiative. Agencies that let KATS know of their projects received a support letter for their applications in a very short turnaround time. Stepek reminded agencies to please continue sending contributed service timesheets to KATS. Non-Motorized draft chapters of the KATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan have been posted to katsmpo.org for review and feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Lipset for the Michigan Department of Transportation, announced that Portage Road at I-94 will be closed and detoured this coming weekend to remove the eastbound I-94 bridge. Drouin asked if information could be shared with attendees to pass along to the public. Lipset shared the following information and press release in the meeting chat. The same information was also emailed to all Policy Committee members.

I-94 Information and Press Release

From Amy Lipset: Most of the work will be during the day (7am to 7pm), the City noise restrictions are 10pm to 7am, we don't foresee much night work besides the structure removals. The contractor has been working with the cities on their noise restrictions for any night work.

Press Release:

Portage Road to close for I-94 bridge demolition

Fast facts:

- Portage Road will be closed and detoured at I-94 for bridge demolition from Friday, April 30, to Monday, May 3.
- MDOT is widening 2.7 miles of I-94 from four to six lanes between Lovers Lane and Sprinkle Road in Kalamazoo.

- The two-year project is an \$87 million investment connecting several I-94 expansion projects from west of US-131 to Sprinkle Road completed since 2008.

April 27, 2021 -- The next step in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) project to [widen I-94 from four to six lanes from Lovers Lane to Sprinkle Road](#) in Kalamazoo is demolishing the eastbound I-94 bridge over Portage Road.

Portage Road will be closed at I-94 and detoured on Kilgore Road and Kilgore Service Drive from 8 p.m. Friday, April 30, through 6 a.m. Monday, May 3. This work is weather dependent.

MDOT is investing \$87 million to widen 2.7 miles of I-94 and rebuild the Portage Road interchange with a new alignment known as a single-point urban interchange (SPUI), similar to the [I-94/Westnedge Avenue interchange](#). The project also includes rebuilding four bridges and one culvert, traffic signal upgrades, new signs, freeway lighting, and noise barrier installation.

This \$87 million investment will connect expansion work completed in previous years along the corridor. A [video](#) explaining the project is available on MDOT's YouTube channel.

Praedel thanked neighboring municipalities for signing the water agreement with the City of Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo Downtown Street Conversion project update was included in the March meeting minutes, emailed to all KATS area agencies, and is available below. The City plans to continue in-house mill and overlay on 15 local streets. Eighteen local streets will be chip-sealed under the City's asphalt preservation program.

[Kalamazoo City Commission Business Meeting February 15, 2021](#)

Randall representing the City of Portage, reported a noise complaint received by a citizen in the Kilgore/Lovers Lane area and asked if the Michigan Department of Transportation can provide noise mitigation during construction. Lipset from MDOT will follow up on expected hours and days of the week of construction and whether construction will occur at night.

Sorensen reported the Kalamazoo County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association annual golf outing will be held June 25, 2021 at the Crestview Golf Club starting at 9:00 a.m.

Miller expressed appreciation for the efforts and quick turnaround time to apply for Congressman Upton's Community Project Funding and hopes funding is granted.

Heiny-Cogswell appreciated Praedel's comment on the signing the City of Kalamazoo water agreement. On May 11, 2021, Oshtemo Township will hold a discussion on Capital Project Planning including sidewalks and non-motorized.

Drouin reminded attendees to support election staff, many of whom are on edge, for next Tuesday's May 4, 2021 election. Drouin asked the Michigan Department of Transportation to follow-up on why there are still lights sitting at 33rd Street and M-96 in Richland Township.

Aardema added the KCTA county-wide levy is currently .3131 and the allowable levy is .3145. Aardema later emailed a correction that the allowable millage is .3415.

Gisler passed along a concerned citizen comment that there was no flag person for the Michigan Avenue construction project. Gisler invited attendees to his Kalamazoo Citizens for Responsible Government group meeting on May 3, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at The Crew Restaurant on Cork Street. A Palisades Nuclear Plant representative will discuss the anticipated plant shutdown scheduled for 2022 and the future of nuclear power.

Sotherland of KATS Citizens Advisory Committee mentioned with Heiny-Cogswell assistance, the Drake Farmstead Park in Oshtemo Township is scheduled for a soft opening, no event, on May 28, 2021. Sotherland asked Stepek to detail the process for development of the KATS non-motorized plan element. Stepek responded KATS is in discussion with federal partners and the non-motorized plan is out for comment. Public engagement is planned for July. Comments will be incorporated. The document will be assembled in August and presented for adoption in September or October. Stepek clarified further that the plan is first presented to the Technical Committee for recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Heppler thanked the Committee for assistance in obtaining a grant to repair Augusta Drive in the Village of Augusta.

Thompson stated Comstock Township will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for Merrill Park improvements near the Fire Fighter Memorial at the park entrance on May 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. The VFW Memorial Day parade will be held this year on May 31, 2021 for the first time in two years. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. Gathering in Merrill Park will follow the parade. Thompson announced the Supervisor's meeting will be held today at 10:30 a.m.

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) reminded attendees of the upcoming Bike Week scheduled for May 8, 2021 - May 15, 2021 and highlighted the following virtual presentations that will occur:

- May 11, 2021. The Office of Highway Safety Planning and the University of Michigan will present a webinar on crash facts.
- May 12, 2021. A fast-paced round-up of bicycling developments will be held.
- May 13, 2021. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will present a statewide overview of bicycling.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Thompson adjourned the April 28, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.