

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES APRIL 8, 2021 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The April 8, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order remotely in accordance with COVID-19 emergency orders, at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Kathy Schultz.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the 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>
Christina Anderson	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw	Florida
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning	Drummond Island Township
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit	Bangor, MI
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Augusta, MI
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission	Lawrence, MI
Lotta Jarnefelt	Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Iris Luppert	Oshtemo Township	Oshtemo Township
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg	Vicksburg, MI
Ryan Minkus, Vice- Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI
Kyle Mucha	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Michelle O'Neill	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC	Kalamazoo, MI
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft	Kalamazoo, MI
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region	Antwerp Township
Kathy Schultz, Chair	Central County Transportation Authority	Kalamazoo, MI
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township	Comstock Township
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	Kalamazoo, MI
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Tim Woodhams	Village of Mattawan	Plainwell, MI
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI

OTHERS PRESENT

	<u>Agency</u>
Phil Doorlag	Wightman and Associates (Battle Creek, MI)
Ryan Gladding	MDOT, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis (Lansing, MI)
Todd Hackenberg	Village of Lawton (Lawton, MI)
Larry Hummel	Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. (Grand Rapids, MI)
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

Fred Nagler
Elizabeth Rumick
Steve Stepek, AICP
Ali Townsend

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CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Stefforia, ***“to approve the April 8, 2021 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 11, 2021 MEETING

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Mallery, ***“to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee took action to support Bridge Resolutions for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County. Two Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) members were approved for additional 2-year terms. One member stepped down, and KATS is seeking one member to meet the minimum required for the bylaws. Let KATS Staff know of any citizens interested in transportation that live in the Metropolitan Planning Organization area. The FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment was approved. The FY22 UPWP and FOIA procedures and documents were presented for comment. Both will be action items for April's meeting. Minkus asked who the CAC reappointments were. Stepek responded Marc Irwin and Brendan Molony.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) announced BFK will supply information agencies can distribute to the public such as bike safety tips. To coincide with the upcoming annual Kalamazoo Bike Week, request information on the bikefriendlykalamazoo.org website. Bike-related yard signs are also available free to the public.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Chair Schultz mentioned an email went out yesterday with an updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment schedule. Stepek explained there was a late arrival of a Michigan Department of Transportation- Transportation Alternatives Program project. The project was already adopted, this is the amendment of putting it into the TIP. The project is for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT) connection north of Galesburg. The other two projects are amended because of KATS Prioritization Subcommittee meeting project selection for HIP and COVID Relief funding. One project is a Sprinkle Road project that originally had a very high local match. The other project is additional costs resulting from the expansion of Pfizer related to the COVID vaccine production. KATS is working with the Village of Augusta and the Village of Schoolcraft on two smaller projects totaling 250 thousand dollars. If they move forward, the projects will be in a future TIP Amendment. Funding these two smaller projects will allow KATS to meet one of its Transportation Improvement Program Goals and Objectives ensuring all agencies in the KATS region receive federal funds within two TIP cycles. Minkus thanked Stepek for adding the KRVT project at the last-minute elaborating that this is for a section of the trail that was cut out last year because of a rail crossing conflict. Minkus added that since the COVID Relief Funding must be spent by 2024, there is no urgency to get the money spent now. Stepek agreed that there is time to spend the COVID funding, but stressed the advantage of spending it sooner allows KATS to reprogram and spend any savings by the 2024 deadline. Schultz asked what was the amount of the COVID Relief Funding available to KATS.

Steppek responded it was approximately 1.5 million dollars, combined with the new Highway Infrastructure Program funding. Heppler asked Minkus for clarification on the scope of the KRVT project. Minkus responded this project is from Eagle Drive in Galesburg up to the High School. Trail connection in Augusta will be a future project. Heppler stated the Village of Augusta engineers are working on the potential Augusta Drive project. The project was brought to the Board's attention at last Monday's meeting.

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

FISCAL YEAR 2022 DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Chair Schultz stated the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is included in the meeting packet and was included in the March meeting packet. Stepek thanked those that provided comments. All comments were incorporated. KATS Staff recommends presenting the UPWP to the Policy Committee for their approval at their April meeting later this month.

MOTION by Stefforia, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to recommend the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program for approval by the Policy Committee.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2024 LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS FROM THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO

Chair Schultz noted the two City of Kalamazoo Bridge Program Application Resolutions of Support are enclosures in the meeting packet. Stepek explained this is the annual time of year to apply for local bridge funding. KATS Staff support the applications for funding and recommend authorizing the Chair to sign the Resolutions on the Committee's behalf. Ladd elaborated that out of the City of Kalamazoo's bridges, these two bridges are the highest priority. These are warranted projects as the bridges serve an important purpose for the community and provide pedestrian safety. Due to the immense cost of bridges, they are not funded through Capital Improvement Project funds. Support is appreciated. Schultz commented there is most likely strong neighborhood support for the Inkster Avenue Bridge. Ladd confirmed strong neighborhood support as well as support in writing from the City Commission and Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Vlietstra, ***“to approve the Resolutions of Support for FY 2024 Local Bridge Program Applications from the City of Kalamazoo.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

KATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE MARCH 31, 2021

As requested at last month's meeting, Stepek referred to the year-to-date attendance record included in the meeting materials. Although a couple agencies have moved to inactive status, attendance has remained strong with virtual meetings. Attendance is reviewed annually in January where agencies can be reinstated. Schultz asked if changing the meeting start time from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. has had any impact on attendance. Stepek said it did not. Gwin asked if the City of Portage gets credit when an alternate or more than one of their representatives attends. Stepek responded, each individual representative counts and is marked for attendance. Schultz asked if an agency misses three meetings during the calendar year, they are prevented from voting the rest of the year. Stepek confirmed that to be correct per bylaws. Bylaws also state voting rights are reinstated every January upon attendance of three consecutive Technical Committee Meetings. If the Committee would prefer reinstatement after attending three consecutive meetings instead of waiting until January, this can be discussed. Minkus pointed out the quote from the Bylaws that voting membership can be reinstated upon attendance of 3 consecutive Technical Committee Meetings. Stepek confirmed this correct only if there is an action item. Staff only reviews attendance in January.

2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN NON-MOTORIZED ELEMENT

Stepek reported the draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Non-Motorized Element is on the katsmpo.org website. After reading the document, please submit comments to KATS Staff. Schultz asked the date for when the MTP is approved. Stepek responded it is in November. The MTP will be out for public comment over the summer and presented to the committees for approval later this fall.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz reported Metro continues to follow the same COVID restrictions including rear door bus access only, bus capacity limits of 20 people, and no Sunday service. The Duke Route is still not operating. Metro continues to struggle with hiring drivers and as a result may have to further reduce service. The Central County Transportation Authority continues the bus stop sign update program. The sign project is expected to be complete by the end of June. Contact Schultz if you become aware of any missing signs. Now that construction season is underway, contact Schultz when road closings and construction will impact bus routes. Metro has received complaints from riders impacted by service interruption and strives to communicate service changes to the public.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Minkus updated that the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) got all applications submitted for the Michigan Department of Transportation Local Bridge Program Call for Projects. RCKC tried something new this year and bundled bridge projects together as a package for consideration. The idea was accepted by the Bridge Program and RCKC was applauded for looking for a different way to get bridge funding for the region. RCKC expects over 170 projects this season. Project information meetings are held virtually again this year. Links are located on the Projects Page of the KalamazooCountyRoads.com website. Meetings are each Wednesday at noon through May 5, 2021. The National Association of County Engineers performed an infrastructure cost comparison from 2000 to 2020. Over that 20-year span, RCKC Hot Mix Asphalt prices have doubled and bridge replacement costs have tripled. Barry County experienced similar cost increases. Agencies are invited to the RCKC virtual informational session on Setting Realistic Speed Limits on April 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. If you did not receive the invite, contact Minkus for it. The Nichols Rd. and Solon Rd. project – City of Kalamazoo limits to Ravine Rd., bid came in 15% under estimate.

Representing the Michigan Department of Transportation, O'Neill reported freeway stoppages will occur Saturday April 10, 2021 on I-94 between Lovers Lane and Sprinkle Road from midnight to 5:00 a.m. State Troopers and law enforcement will be assisting. Ramps will also be impacted. Message boards will be deployed to advise the public. The Gull Road/G Avenue Roundabout project is underway. Tree clearing and fence removal on 27th Street is complete. All lanes are open on 27th Street and G Avenue. 28th Street is currently detoured and the bike path is closed. Gull Road traffic is shifted to the east-side of the road. On April 12, 2021, work will begin to install a new traffic signal at the north-bound off ramp of US-131 and D Avenue. Concrete pavement repair on east-bound I-94 near Mattawan will begin in Mid-May and last one weekend. After this project, work will begin on US-131 north of M-43. The contract was awarded yesterday for the I-94 Widening project in Kalamazoo. The contractor anticipates a project start date of April 13, 2021 with pavement repair on west-bound I-94 at night for 4 days. Once this is complete, a temporary concrete barrier wall will begin to be installed. The full project schedule will be released after it is approved.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta submitted the Bridge Application for the Washington Street Bridge. The Village is hoping to obtain funding for the Augusta Drive project and may add a Webster Street project.

Ladd reported the two City of Kalamazoo MDOT Local Agency Projects of Portage Street and Howard Street Pedestrian Pathway have begun. The pre-construction meeting will be today for the Bank Street realignment and Farmers Market projects. The Farmers Market has been relocated to

Mayor's Riverfront Park during construction. Traffic continues to be impacted on southbound Oakland Drive for the storm water replacement project. This project will continue for approximately 4 weeks. Local in-house street project milling and resurfacing will begin later this month. The City anticipates awarding its first local street chip and crack seal contract. The second year of the City sidewalk rehab has started for the year.

Gwin reported for the City of Portage:

- East Milham Avenue Reconstruction from South Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road begins Monday, April 12th. All work will be complete by August 27th, with the exception of landscaping which will be complete by October 15th. There will be lane closures and traffic delays can be expected in this area. If anyone wants updated information throughout the project, you can go to the city's website portagemi.gov, select the Notify Me button and subscribe to the 2021 East Milham Avenue Reconstruction project.

- Design continues on the Lovers Lane Reconstruction and South Westnedge Avenue Microsurfacing projects scheduled for construction in 2022.

Woodhams reported Village of Mattawan Call for Projects starts next week. The Bridge Engineer is still working with Amtrak for the Bridge Project.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Jarnefelt stated the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has applied for a 300-thousand-dollar EPA Grant for Brownfield Assessment dollars. The grant application is in review and the County expects to find out in May if they are awarded. If awarded, this would be the County's third EPA Assessment Grant in 15 years. Jarnefelt stated she will be retiring in June. Attendees discussed. Heppler inquired if there are plans to reschedule the cancelled Pictometry flight for 2022. Jarnefelt stated the County is working to fund and plans on having the Pictometry flight in 2022. Although not as high a resolution as Pictometry, MiSAIL Michigan aerial imagery is available through the Kalamazoo County offices. The West-side of Kalamazoo County was flown in 2020. The East-side of the County was flown in 2019.

Anderson reported the City of Kalamazoo is working on developing a Street Design Manual with Smith Consulting Group. The manual will be inclusive of all types of streets and non-motorized pathways. The purpose of the manual is to provide guidance for consultants and developers designing streets or infrastructure projects. The manual will indicate the City's available space and highlight how residents rely on and use the infrastructure. Environmental sustainability will be examined. The Manual is expected to be completed this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek mentioned several agencies received Earmark Requests from Congressman Fred Upton's office. KATS is aware of projects that may be submitted. Contact Steppek with any questions. Let Steppek know if your agency is submitting a project or would like a Letter of Support. Submittals are due April 12, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, is also Chair of Kalamazoo Region Bike Route Committee. Selden invited all attendees to join the next virtual meeting on April 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Email pselden@aol.com or president@bfk.org for meeting links. During the meeting, more specific bike routes will be identified and discussed based on the KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Map 7 and the map referenced in the 2020 Southwest Michigan Region Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Heppler and a second by Minkus, Chair Schultz adjourned the April 8, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:23 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.