

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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

CALL TO ORDER

The September 9, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order via a Zoom conference call in accordance with Kalamazoo County State of Emergency Declaration, 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
Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission	Lawrence, MI
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw	Allegan, MI
Kerry DenBraber	MDOT, Statewide Planning	Village of Martin
Eric Feldt	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Rachael Grover	Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage	Portage, MI
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township	Oshtemo Township
Robert Maffeo	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Urban Travel Analysis	Meridian Township
Ryan Minkus, Vice-Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI
Jesse Okeley	City of Kalamazoo	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
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment	Parchment, MI
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	Kalamazoo, MI
Luke Walters	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning	Lansing, MI
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo, MI

OTHERS PRESENT

	<u>Agency</u>
Phil Doorlag	Wightman & Associates
Terry Martin	Carrier & Gable
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek, AICP	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; however, Stepek stated he plans to discuss the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Improvement Program during the New Business section of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Vlietstra, ***“to approve the September 9, 2021 Technical Committee Agenda.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12, 2021 MEETING

Minkus expressed in the Others Present section of the minutes, Hailey Savola is with ROWE and not Hubbell, Roth and Clark.

MOTION by Minkus, SECOND by Walters, ***“to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting, with the correction above.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported the last Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee meeting held in August included approval of Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. There was lots of discussion on the Census Bureau’s proposed changes of the urbanized area definition and how it would impact the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area which currently has a population over 200,000. If our area dips below 200,000 people, we lose local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. Other KATS funding will remain functionally the same.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN DISCUSSION

Stepek reported development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is ongoing and asked attendees to review the many draft chapters posted on the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) webpage at katsmpo.org and submit comments. The full draft is expected to be complete in September. Public engagement will follow in October, with anticipated adoption in November.

The KATS internal Congestion Management Process will be posted to the katsmpo.org website soon for review. KATS Staff thanks Maffeo for preliminary review and comments. The two biggest changes from the previous version include updates to the Goals and Objectives based on the new MTP and the addition of new federally required reliability measures.

Stepek reiterated the importance of reviewing these documents and submitting feedback.

Next week KATS will attend a Regional Inter-agency Work Group Air Quality Meeting with Battle Creek Area Transportation Study. Since KATS is a Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA), it is not required to perform air quality conformity modeling, but is required to hold Inter-agency Work Group Meetings to discuss projects. KATS conformity is based on fiscal constraint. KATS has limited proposed capacity changing projects; the majority are road diets and illustrative projects. Contact Stepek if you would like to attend the Meeting.

Mickelson added the Non-Motorized element is now a chapter in the MTP as opposed to being separate. Stepek explained Non-Motorized data was incorporated into the MTP following recommendations from the KATS Federal Certification Process and the KATS Non-Motorized Subcommittee.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FISCAL YEAR TO DATE THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021

Chair Schultz stated Contributed Services Fiscal Year to Date Through August 31, 2021 is a meeting enclosure. Stepek gave the strong reminder that the last day to submit time sheets for the fiscal year is October 15, 2021.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz stated Metro is holding a pre-kickoff meeting today for its year-long Comprehensive Operations Analysis led by consultant Four Square Integrated Transportation Services. Many jurisdictions will be invited to participate in the analysis. A county-wide millage renewal for Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority will be on the November 2, 2021 ballot. An informational mailer will be distributed to county residents in October. Upon request, Metro staff are available to perform onsite presentations on Metro and its system. The West Main bus route resumed service to the Walmart on 9th Street as well as Oshtemo Township Hall and the Kalamazoo Public Library next to the Townhall. Metro resumed service on the Duke bus route after it was suspended due to COVID since October of 2020. Metro is engaging with Kalamazoo Public Schools regarding their ongoing shortage of bus drivers.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Randolph stated the City of Kalamazoo Howard Street pathway project is complete. The Bank Street realignment project is ongoing. The Miller and Emerald project is near completion. Mill and overlay will begin soon on East Main. In-house paving of 3 out of 15 streets remains to be completed. Chip-seal was completed on eighteen local streets as part of the city's asphalt preservation program. The city is finishing the first round of sidewalk repair and replacement and getting ready to start the next phase. The Sun Valley water main replacement and resurfacing project is ongoing. The city continues utility work.

Minkus representing the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) stated the R Avenue project from 36th Street to County Line is complete. The Sprinkle Road project is in phase 2 with two-thirds of the culvert installed at Meredith. The last phase of the project should begin next week. The Nichols/Solon project is stalled due to utility issues. Chip seal is done for the year. Fog seal is 98 percent complete. RCKC still has positions open in both the office and maintenance areas. Refer to the website for information. The Michigan Department of Transportation issued the Rural Task Force call for projects. Stepek added congratulations because RCKC was awarded funding for the three projects it submitted for Fiscal 2023 Safety Awards. Minkus elaborated they are for compact urban roundabouts.

Stoddard reported the City of Parchment water main replacement project on Glendale continues but is delayed due to gas utility hold-ups.

Harmon stated City of Portage East Milham Avenue project has been completed, with the exception of tree planting and irrigation which will be complete in October. A walkthrough was held last Thursday. The Lovers Lane project is on schedule for a January bid letting and a grade inspection meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2021. The South Westnedge Avenue project was submitted this week for a grade inspection. The Romence Road project from Angling Road to Oakland Drive was awarded for engineering services this week. The project is scheduled for 2022. Two projects are out for engineering services for 2023. These are Shaver Road from the south City limits to Vanderbilt Avenue and Portage Road from East Centre Avenue to Romence Road. The City of Portage will open proposals for design of the proposed traffic signal at Forest Drive and Portage Road this afternoon.

DenBraber reported the Michigan Department of Transportation I-94 Widening project is ongoing. Kilgore is expected to open to traffic in three weeks. By the end of 2021, eastbound I-94 traffic will be rerouted back to new pavement. There were project delays related to obtaining steel beams for the Portage Road bridge. In October, Dynamic Message Signs will begin to be installed along I-94 in

Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The signs will alert travelers to weather advisories and suggest speed reductions.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Grover reported Kalamazoo County approval for a spring Pictometry flight is on the commission agenda for tonight's meeting. Updates continue on the Kalamazoo County Street Naming and Addressing Guidelines which are on the website. The new guidelines will improve public safety ensuring all county jurisdictions and dispatch authorities use the same street naming and addressing.

Feldt stated the City of Portage adopted the Lake Center District Plan to reduce traffic lanes between West and Austin Lakes. The city will begin rewriting the Master Plan later this year. Feldt introduced himself as the new planning representative from the City of Portage for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee. Zhao will be the alternate rep. Schultz welcomed Feldt.

Anderson reported the City of Kalamazoo wrapped up engagement on the Westnedge and Park traffic calming efforts project to improve non-motorized options. Some improvements may begin this fall, with others to follow next year. The City of Kalamazoo continues working with consultant Smith on its Street Design Manual.

Stoddard updated the City of Parchment Parks and Recreation Master Plan is being worked on by the Planning Commission. A public input session will be held September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek requested attendees turn in any amendments to their fiscal 2022 program as soon as possible to be included in the October Amendment Schedule. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study received fiscal 2023 allocation from the Michigan Department of Transportation. The allocation was decreased by about \$60,000 dollars. The decrease was offset by leftover Housing Initiative Program COVID Relief money. The City of Kalamazoo Westnedge project was changed administratively so the overall planned program amount for fiscal 2023 was unchanged. Minkus asked for clarification on how dollars were shifted. Stepek responded and Minkus concurred. Minkus brought up the Traffic Data Collection Request for Proposal confirming it was posted the katsmpo.org website. Stepek concurred elaborating it was also emailed to the KATS internal listing of consultants. Minkus asked for confirmation that the contract is for three years with two optional three-year extensions, for a total of nine possible years. Stepek concurred. Minkus asked if KATS was targeting a certain timeframe for the Prioritization Process. Stepek responded data reporting may occur at the beginning of November, a little later than previously anticipated due to the many projects and application formatting issues. Minkus also noted two-year Technical Committee Officer terms are due to expire at the end of this calendar year and asked KATS for a 7-year history of who served as officers and the agencies they represented with the possible intention of targeting those agencies that have not had the experience. Stepek echoed Chair Schultz's two-year term expires at the end of the calendar year. Traditionally, the Vice-Chair is promoted to Chair and a new Vice-Chair is elected. Stepek will provide history of previous officers at the next meeting and include an agenda item for a Subcommittee to look for new Officer volunteers. Schultz weighed in that City of Kalamazoo may be due.

Sanada of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) posted the following reminder in the meeting chat: It's not too late to sign up for the Sept. 14 & 16 Advanced on Road Bicycle Facilities Class, Training Wheels. Please register by this Friday, September 10th. To register for either class, see link: <https://www.research.net/r/BW2KGX2>. Discussion confirmed the classes are virtual.

Mickelson of Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, posted the following message in the meeting chat: The latest draft of the Congestion Management Process document is now live on the KATS website: <https://katsmpo.org/programs/cmp/>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Minkus and a second by Worden, Chair Schultz adjourned the September 9, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting at 10:11 a.m.

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