

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 27, 2021 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The October 27, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order remotely in accordance with Kalamazoo County State of Emergency Declaration, by Chair Randy Thompson at 9:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Participants in the meeting stated name and location from which they are 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 Kalamazoo
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment	Comstock Township
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan	Village of Mattawan
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township	Richland Township
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning	Owosso, MI
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township	US-131 Various Locations
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Village of Augusta
Adam Herringa	City of Portage	City of Portage
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton	Village of Lawton
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	Cooper Township
Sarah Joshi	City of Galesburg	City of Galesburg
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission	Village of Decatur
Judy Lemon	City of Galesburg	City of Galesburg
Tracy Locey	Brady Township	Brady Township
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township	Kalamazoo Township
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County	City of Kalamazoo
Dennis Olson	Village of Vicksburg	Village of Vicksburg
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC	Otsego Township
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee	Kalamazoo Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township	Comstock Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Gisler	<u>Agency</u> Kalamazoo County
Nick Loeks	Texas Township
Roman Plaszczak	Village of Paw Paw
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

	<u>Agency</u>
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Paul Selden	Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Craig Williams	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes or additions to the agenda were requested.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to approve the agenda of the October 27, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo reported the Fall Bike Celebration hosted by the Village of Vicksburg recently concluded. Close to \$2,000 in prizes was awarded for a Bike Art Competition to create banners to display on light poles. Jurisdictions can consider displaying the banners during Bike Week in May 2022. Painted murals to be placed on sides of buildings will be judged for future contests. Contact Selden if your municipality has a potential building site for a mural.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (OCTOBER 14, 2021)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 MEETING

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

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Steppek referred to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments included in the meeting packet. Three of the six amendments have an increase in local cost. The Central County Transportation Authority project is a reprogramming of a prior programmed job to align with the

grant application. Budget costs significantly decreased on the I-94 project in Van Buren County. Britigan asked for clarification on what Traffic Signal Interconnect means on the Mosel Avenue project. Minkus answered, it is a traffic signal modernization project to interconnect all signals to a hub where control and troubleshooting can be performed remotely within an overall network. KATS Staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the amendments as presented.

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

FY 22 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

Referring to the schedule included in the meeting packet, Stepek explained we adopt the schedule every year to alert agencies of amendment deadlines. Although this schedule continues the standard every other month deadline, it should be noted that since this is a Transportation Improvement Program development year, the last opportunity to amend FY 2023 projects is January 28, 2022 until the lockdown ends on October 1, 2022. Heppler inquired what impact the potential federal \$1-trillion-dollar Infrastructure Improvement Package would have on this funding. Stepek responded the current Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Funding Continuing Resolution only goes through the end of October, so another Continuing Resolution will be required. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) funding may actually increase so there will not be much impact on the amendments. Plus, KATS maintains a robust illustrative project list so more projects are available should more funding be granted.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Heppler, ***“to approve the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Schedule.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

CALENDAR YEAR 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Referring to the meeting schedule included in the packet, Chair Thompson explained Stepek mentioned the possibility of moving the April meeting one week earlier to avoid the Michigan Township Association conference conflict. Stepek concurred and added the proposed calendar year 2022 meeting schedule is a continuation of the current meeting schedule of monthly meetings the last Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Sorensen asked if meetings would be back to in-person. Stepek stated meetings will most likely return to in-person beginning in January 2022 since the current State of Emergency Order expires December 31, 2021.

MOTION by Sorensen, SECOND by Daly, ***“to approve the Calendar Year 2022 Meeting Schedule as amended by moving the April 27, 2022 meeting to April 20, 2022.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS DRAFT

Stepek reported both the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Draft and the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Draft are too large to be included in the packet, so links to the documents are alternatively part of the meeting materials. For both this agenda item and the next, the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Stepek reiterated the last day for comments and feedback on the drafts is today October 27, 2021. Both drafts have been out a couple months, lots of feedback has been received, and is very much appreciated. Both drafts will be presented for adoption at the November Policy Committee meeting. Drouin pointed out the correction needed to change the date of adoption from November 24, 2021 to November 17, 2021.

2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT

As previously noted, discussion on this 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Draft was incorporated into the Congestion Management Process Draft agenda item.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Janssen reiterated the proposed millage for Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) will be on the upcoming November 2, 2021 ballot. Outreach was performed in many municipalities. KCTA recently began inviting the Metro Connect Contractor to meetings in appreciation of the hard work they've done over the past year-and-a-half in the pandemic environment.

Aardema elaborated the proposed millage is to support the county-wide, on-demand Metro Connect van and medium-duty bus service. Contact Aardema or McBride for further outreach requests. Metro's Comprehensive Operations Analysis led by an outside consultant has started. The analysis will review the overall Metro system and include many opportunities to provide feedback and ideas. There have been no issues from changing security services at the downtown Kalamazoo Transit Center from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff to a private security group. New bus stop signs and bus stop shelters have been installed throughout the region.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to the Informational Memo included in the packet, Stepek stated that Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) recently received the audit engagement letter. The audit is scheduled to begin November 15, 2021. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee met earlier this week and will meet again in a couple weeks. A key factor considered in the prioritization scoring process is traffic volume. Since traffic volume was unusually and temporarily lower in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, the committee will look consider using 2017 through 2019 traffic volume data. Over 60 projects were received including lots of large-scale projects. KATS, in agreement with the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County hires a consultant to perform traffic counts for cost sharing and saving. Since the contract with the current consultant expires December 31, 2021, KATS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new bids. The only bid received was from the current consultant. While the cost has gone up significantly from the previous contract, it is still lower than the second highest bid KATS received in 2018 when the last RFP was issued. The three agencies have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding agreement with KATS. The contract will be presented for approval at the November meeting. KATS continues to monitor two bills in the State Senate Subcommittee which offer a state buy-out of federal aid. KATS as a Metropolitan Planning Organization would select and program the job in the TIP but local agencies would then have the option of getting bought out by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for \$0.90 on every \$1.00. Stepek provided information on the advantages and disadvantages of the bills pointing out that they could impact how projects are selected. Heppler asked if the Village of Augusta and other smaller agencies would be able to continue to work with KATS for PASER Ratings every three to four years at no cost. Stepek responded the service can continue as it has been done in the past. Email Stepek or Nagler to schedule local road ratings for the upcoming season. Heppler asked if that service includes traffic counts as well. Stepek responded traffic counts can be scheduled and performed by the KATS consultant for a nominal fee. Trunkline counts are still performed by MDOT with data available through them. Janssen asked if both Senate bill 465 and 466 were related. Stepek responded they are companion bills with one being the actual writing and one being the amendment. Minkus pointed out that since 2016, the Rural Task Force (RTF) has practiced a similar program to the proposed federal buyback program where road commissions can purchase from other road commissions. Stepek stated that

while the RTF program is a good example, one major difference is that it is still local funds transferred to local funds whereas the Senate bills propose transferring local funds to the state.

NEW BUSINESS

Heppler thanked the Michigan Department of Transportation for new road out of the Village of Augusta toward Battle Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo gave a shout-out to the Michigan Department of Transportation for sponsoring and putting on the Training Wheels program sessions throughout the year, while recommending everyone attend a future session. Selden thanked the Policy Committee, KATS Staff, and agencies for non-motorized development and progress in the area and on the 2050 Plan.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Praedel reported the City of Kalamazoo Portage Road project is delayed and will not be complete by the October 31, 2021 target. Pavement base course and leveling is expected to be complete by November 15, 2021 with final resurfacing to be done next spring. The Parkview contract was awarded in September. Consumers Energy is laying gas lines for the project so work will begin in spring of 2022. Praedel reminded attendees to vote next Tuesday.

Britigan reported the City of Parchment Glendale watermain project is complete. Britigan echoed the reminder to vote November 2, 2021.

VanderRoest asked if Stepek had any insight into the local news that construction projects must be halted due lack of supplies and gas and what impact that would have on our projects. Stepek does not have additional insight or information.

Heiny-Cogswell from Oshtemo Township stated the Green Meadow sidewalk is complete. There are two other sidewalk projects in progress that are expected to be complete by the end of this construction season. Next year Oshtemo plans to construct a sidewalk on the south side of Stadium Drive, a twin to what was built on the north-side of Stadium Drive this year. In mid-November the township plans to request bids for Phase 1 of the USDA Sanitary Sewer project. It was determined that an insufficient number of signatures were obtained on the petition against the project.

Heppler explained the Village of Augusta completed gathering information for a grant to repave Augusta Drive next year. The Village continues to review its five-year rolling road project plan. Heppler recommended motorists use extra caution this time of year with increasing darkness limiting visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists, especially with trick-or-treaters for the upcoming Halloween holiday. The Village enforces speed limits and all other traffic laws.

Daly reported the Village of Mattawan finished the culvert replacement project on Main Street coming into town.

Olson stated the Village of Vicksburg sewer project is on-going and going well. The village mourns the passing of former village Chief of Police and Kalamazoo County Sheriff Deputy Eric West. The Vicksburg High School football coach Tom Marchese was named the 2021 High School Football Coach of the Week by the Detroit Lions.

Joshi reported the City of Galesburg crews are surveying and planning for spending the Category B grant funds, with expected construction to begin in April of 2022. A sidewalk project on Grant Street will be complete in time for trick-or-treating.

Janssen announced the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) has made some progress hiring drivers but still has a shortage and as a result has had to scale back service. KCTA appreciates the work between partnering agencies to complete the new bus stops.

Minkus reported most Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) projects are complete for the year. The Nichols Road project is expected to wrap-up in a couple weeks. The board reviewed the draft budget which is planned to be presented for public hearing on November 9, 2021. The Road Commission is meeting with Township partners to plan estimates for next year projects. RCKC is hiring both full-time and seasonal drivers.

Sotherland echoed Selden's praise of the Non-motorized chapter of the KATS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as it sets up work on the non-motorized plans in the Kalamazoo region and will make drafting the 2055 MTP easier.

Thompson added condolences to Eric West's family and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff on his unexpected passing.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Sorensen and a second by Heppler, Chair Thompson adjourned the October 27, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.