

In This Issue

January 2022

Happy New Year!

The new year is here!
Calendar year 2022
meeting dates are now
finalized.

Let it Snow

Snowplows are working
hard to keep roads clear.
Find out more to stay safe
this winter.

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Trainings

Mark your calendar for
these upcoming
opportunities to learn
more about
transportation.

KATS Education

Staff is offering KATS 101,
201 and Timesheet
Training.



KATS Quarterly

January 2022 Edition

A newsletter for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Kalamazoo Area.

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area and is required by federal legislation to provide coordinated transportation planning for urban populations greater than 50,000.

KATS considers the entire area of Kalamazoo County, the four townships of Almena, Antwerp, Waverly, and Paw Paw within Van Buren County as the Metropolitan Planning Boundary, including all local governmental jurisdictions in transportation planning.

Let it Snow

Winter is here and snowplows are working hard to make driving conditions safer.



The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) provides winter maintenance to remove snow from the roads as well as salting and sanding to melt ice. It is important not to park or abandon a vehicle or object in the right-of-way, as this interferes with snowplowing.

Avoid passing a snowplow while they are plowing. Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks. Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow as the truck could suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or cutting through packed snow.

More information on winter maintenance provided by the RCKC can be found on their website along with a brochure with helpful reminders.

Sign up for RCKC CONNECT to receive message alerts for road construction, road closures/detours, and general public news from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County website.

[Road Commission of Kalamazoo County](#)

Contact Us

KATS
5220 Lover's Lane
Suite 110
Portage, MI 49002
269-343-0766

info@katsmpo.org
katsmpo.org

Stay Informed

For the most up to date information on KATS meetings, construction updates, and more; follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences & Trainings

KATS Technical Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Thursday, January 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, February 10 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m.

KATS Policy Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Wednesday, January 26 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 30 at 9:00 a.m.

KATS Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Friday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m.

KATS committee meetings are held at Metro, 530 N. Rose Street in Kalamazoo. Any changes to meeting location or cancellations will be posted on the website.

KATS Training Opportunities

Learn more about the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study by attending a 101 or 201 training session this year. Want to learn more about reporting time for contributed services? There is a timesheet training available to answer your questions. All trainings are introductory and last approximately 30 minutes.

Interested? Email [Steve Stepek](mailto:Steve.Stepek) to request a training time.

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2023-2026

The new fiscal year 2023 -2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway. The full project list is available on the [KATS website](#) along with an online map. This project list includes all projects that were submitted through the call for projects. Prioritization of projects based on scoring will be released in January. Final draft of the project list will be ready in February with the draft document presented in March.

KATS Meeting Schedule

Technical

- January 13
- February 10
- March 10

Policy

- January 26
- February 23
- March 30

CAC

- January 21

Transportation Improvement Program

The new FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway! Visit [KATS website](#) to view the full document.

Pavement and Surface Evaluation Ratings (PASER)

One of the core responsibilities of the KATS is managing the collection and submission to the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) of road condition ratings for federal aid eligible roads in the study area, except for those in the four townships in Van Buren County. Per TAMC guidelines, the entire federal aid system must be collected every two years. Typically, in the KATS area, this is accomplished by collecting roughly half of the system one year and the remainder the next. Due to restrictions put in place in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, data collection was not done in 2020. As a result, it was decided that the attempt would be made to collect the entire federal aid system in 2021. With the assistance of municipal road agencies and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, we were successful in meeting that goal.

Data collection is done using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system. Roads are given a rating on a scale from 1 to 10 based on type and degree of visible surface distresses. Using the system, roads condition is categorized as Poor (PASER 1 – 4), Fair (PASER 5 – 7) and Good (PASER 8 – 10). The chart below shows the mileage in each condition category. For reference, the results of the two-year period from 2018 to 2019 are included. When comparing the two sets of data, it should be kept in mind that the 2021 ratings were done significantly earlier in the year and thus don't reflect a significant portion of the rehabilitation and maintenance work that was done later in the construction season, which surely would have moved mileage from the poor and fair ranges to good.

