

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 15, 2021 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The December 15, 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 their 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>
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment	Comstock Township
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC	Martin Township
Marsha Drouin, Treasurer	Richland Township	Richland Township
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning	Owosso, MI
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township	Wakeshma Township
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Vice Chair	Oshtemo Township	Oshtemo Township
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta	Village of Augusta
Adam Herringa	City of Portage	City of Portage
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority	Cooper 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
Tracy Locey	Brady Township	Brady Township
Nick Loeks	Texas Township	Texas Township
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township	Kalamazoo Township
Dennis Olson	Village of Vicksburg	Village of Vicksburg
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee	Kalamazoo Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township	Comstock Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

	<u>Agency</u>
Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Carol Daly	Village of Mattawan
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Edward Hellwege	Village of Paw Paw
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

	<u>Agency</u>
Paul Ecklund	Disability Network of Southwest Michigan
Jason Gatlin	Wakeshma Township
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Paul Selden	Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Drouin, ***“to approve the agenda of the December 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo announced the Community-Wide Bicycle Program Steering Committee met December 1, 2021. The national bicycle skills “All Kids Bike Program” will be presented to every Kindergarten Physical Education class in the region. Sawyer Duncan, Vicksburg School District Physical Education Teacher, will lead the curriculum.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (DECEMBER 2, 2021)
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2021 MEETING

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

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek provided information on the five amendments included in the packet. Three are additions related to 2023 safety grants that were awarded and two are budget increases. The Technical Committee recommends approval of the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments as presented.

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

STATE SAFETY TARGETS

The State Safety Targets, data, and supporting documentation is included in the meeting packet. Stepek elaborated that this is the annual state’s 2022 calendar year target. Per Federal requirements, every Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to either adopt the state safety targets or develop their own. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study has traditionally supported state targets. Region-wide data shows an overall downward trend for bicyclist and pedestrian serious injuries, serious injuries, and fatalities with some exceptions. The Technical Committee recommends supporting the State Safety Targets as presented.

Olson asked when the US-131 project was set to begin. DenBraber responded it is moved from 2023 to 2024.

Johnson added the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County analyzes data to support the type of safety project improvements they pursue. The region is trending in a positive direction as the Road Commission continues correction and support to reduce accidents and fatalities in funded projects.

MOTION by Heppler, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to approve the State Safety Targets.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

LOMA OZONE CONFORMITY REPORT

The report is included in the meeting packet. Stepek explained this is the first time Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) along with Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) are considered a Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) for ozone conformity. Conformity is based on fiscal constraint. KATS Staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the report and submission with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

MOTION by Johnson, SECOND by Janssen, ***“to approve the LOMA Ozone Conformity Report.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

POLICY COMMITTEE OFFICER ELECTIONS

Drouin and Sorensen served on the Officer Nomination Subcommittee. Drouin reported nominations for the two-year terms beginning January 1, 2022 include renewed terms for both Chair and Vice-Chair, Randy Thompson (Comstock Township) and Libby Heiny-Cogswell (Oshtemo Township), respectively. Rob Britigan (City of Parchment), is nominated for Treasurer. Thompson thanked Drouin for serving as Treasurer.

MOTION by Janssen, SECOND by Johnson, ***“to approve the Nomination Subcommittee recommendations for Policy Committee Officers as: Randy Thompson-Chair, Libby Heiny-Cogswell-Vice-Chair and Rob Britigan-Treasurer.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

PROJECT LIST FOR 2024 – 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steppek explained this full project list is included in the packet and available on the katsmpo.org website with a map. Although Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Staff has prioritized the list, prioritization is not shared so it does not impact public opinion. The prioritization process will be communicated in January 2022, the project draft list will be ready in February 2022 with the document presented in March 2022. Britigan asked if the list included only those projects reviewed or all the projects submitted. Stepek answered it includes all projects that were submitted. If any project is missing, let KATS know.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Janssen reported the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA)/ Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) board met December 13, 2022 to discuss the tragic shooting incident that occurred throughout the Kalamazoo Transportation Center Area on November 27, 2021. The weight of the incident was expressed during the meeting. Security plans in place were discussed. The meeting brought attention to the severe trauma experienced by victims, witnesses, and staff. Some bus drivers have quit making the bus driver shortage worse. Overall, bus drivers responded appropriately by closing bus doors and having riders duck to the floor. One bus driver transported a victim to the hospital in a bus. Metro's national union brought in grief counselors. Earl Cox, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union contacted a Chaplain who was onsite within 15 minutes to assist with shock and fear. Sympathies go out to the shooter who was a troubled individual as well as his family who is also challenged by the event. The shooter was killed by Kalamazoo Public Safety who arrived at the scene within 2 minutes. In the aftermath of the incident, Metro is forming a task force to develop both short-term and long-term plans moving forward. Drouin asked if Metro Connect services Mattawan and Paw Paw. Henderson responded Van Buren Public Transit services Paw Paw. Call them to schedule pick-up and drop-off. Transit Authorities cross over county boarders for legal and medical reasons with service to the Battle Creek Veteran's Administration Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steppek elaborated in addition to the memo included in the meeting materials, Fiscal Year 2021 Obligated Project Report and Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Improvement Program Modification Summary reports are available on the katsmpo.org website. Invitations will be forthcoming for KATS 101 Training and Timesheet Training which will be held via Zoom in January 2022. The KATS fiscal year-end 2021 financial audit is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo invited attendees to Bike Week May 7, 2022 – May 14, 2022. Kalamazoo Bicycle Club will host its annual presentation of Bike Camp. Results of the bike and pedestrian safety enforcement program conducted by the Office of Highway Safety and Planning and the Michigan State Police were presented at the community-wide Bike Program Steering Committee meeting held on December 1, 2021. Citations and warnings were issued to both motorists and bicyclists for violation of traffic laws. The successful program will be repeated. Selden

thanked KATS Staff, the Policy Committee, and Technical Committee for advances in non-motorized progress over the past year.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Britigan representing the City of Parchment thanked members for the nomination as Policy Committee Treasurer, accepts the nomination, and looks forward to the role.

Herringa reported Portage Road in the City of Portage will be closed the weekend of December 18, 2021 for a temporary pedestrian bridge installation over Portage Road so workers can traverse from the parking area to Pfizer's expansion project.

Heiny-Cogswell thanked members for the Vice-Chair appointment. Oshtemo Township has been significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic this week as two staff members tested positive, a family member of an employee died recently due to complications from the virus, and two other employee family members are severely ill with COVID. Oshtemo Township will again require masks in offices and are expected to close township customer service next week due to insufficient staffing.

Heppler announced that after several years of trying, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) awarded the Village of Augusta an \$830,000 grant to replace the Washington Street bridge in 2024. Heppler appreciates partnership with MDOT, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, and area townships. The village 5-year rolling road replacement plan is being reviewed including plans to replaced Augusta Drive. Related to Selden's comments on bicyclist and motorist traffic violation enforcement, Heppler stated the importance of enforcement, engineering, and education.

Olson stated the Village of Vicksburg Christmas parade was a success. The downtown project is almost done. Roads are open. Street lights are being installed and traffic lights should be back up near the first of the year.

Joshi appreciates assistance from everyone as her first year as the City of Galesburg City Manager is wrapping up.

Johnson reported the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) was busy with cleanup after recent damaging strong winds. Johnson gave a shout-out to all first responders that assisted including firefighters, law enforcement, and 911 central dispatch. RCKC is proud and appreciative to be a recipient of the 2021 Branch Award from the American Public Works Association for the Sprinkle Road project.

Thompson thanked members for another term as Chair and thanked Britigan for accepting the Treasurer nomination.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Drouin and a second by Johnson, Chair Thompson adjourned the December 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

Approved 2/23/22 (er)