

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES MARCH 10, 2022 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The March 10, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro, by Chair Minkus.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet. Introductions were made by all present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christina Anderson	City of Kalamazoo
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Rebekkah Ausbury	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Rachael Grover	Kalamazoo County
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Service Center
Todd Hackenberg	Village of Lawton
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Ryan Minkus, Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Kathy Schultz	Central County Transportation Authority
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Jodi Stefforia, Vice-Chair	Comstock Township
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Luke Walters	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo

OTHERS PRESENT

Philip Doorlag	Wightman & Associates
Daniel Harrington	City of Portage
Sherman Potter	City of Portage
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Hailey Savola	ROWE

Steve Stepek, AICP
Ali Townsend

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CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia, ***“to approve the agenda of the March 10, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 10, 2022 MEETING

Minkus noted Todd Hackenberg Village of Lawton, should be moved from “Others Present” to “Members Present.”

Schultz moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia, ***“to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting as amended.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Steppek reported on behalf of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee, February Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and the Illustrative Project List were adopted. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study auditors Maner Costerisan made a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial position, noting a clean audit opinion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2025 LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS FROM THE ROAD COMMISSION OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Steppek explained the eight bridge applications from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County were an enclosure in the meeting packet. Stefforia asked what preventative maintenance will be performed on the River Street bridge. Ausbury explained bridge deck epoxy overlay, railing, and surface coating upgrades will be performed.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia ***“to approve the Resolutions of Support for FY 2025 Local Bridge Program Applications from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Noting the draft document is included in the meeting packet, Stepek explained the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annual budget document detailing the planned activities and work program results of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS). Since this document is for fiscal year 2023, it begins on October 1, 2022. Member contributed service agreements make up a portion of the work program. Overall, KATS experienced a solid increase in PL funding. Beginning with fiscal year 2023, funds KATS spends on complete streets will be distinguished as a separate work element. KATS is in the early stages of starting its own pedestrian count program which would entail purchasing and placing counters. Please submit all comments on the UPWP to KATS by March 31, 2022. After feedback is incorporated into the draft, the UPWP will be recommended for approval at next month’s April meeting. Arif asked if KATS will be performing trail counts. Stepek responded; the plan is to do so. KATS will base its count program on Washtenaw Area Transportation Study’s, with a goal to purchase 3 to 5 counters, depending on the budget, and rotate them in the area to

obtain counts. Minkus asked for clarification on Section 600. Stepek explained 600 is currently used only for Transit Software, but can also be used for consultant expenses, if needed. Randolph commented that the State and Federal Planning Emphasis Areas are diametrically opposed. If we are going to be competitive for federal aid and the most funding possible, we should focus more on Federal Emphasis Areas. Additionally, there are seven Local Transportation issues. Issues 2, 5, and 7 Continuing Focus on Public Participation/Environmental Justice, Minimizing adverse impacts on the environment including standards prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency and identification of ways to reduce climate impact and greenhouse gases, and Consideration of Livability and Sustainability in the Transportation Planning Process, respectively. These issues more closely align to the Federal Emphasis Areas so more importance should be placed on them. Stepek pointed out that implementation of a new Complete Streets work element and plan is an example of how KATS programs and work products are aligned with Federal Highway goals.

DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT LIST

Stepek explained this is the master project list of all agency projects for the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Four projects that came in at the last minute are the only ones not listed. Review the list and let Stepek know of any questions you have, and any errors or changes that need to be made. 2023 projects will not be able to be amended until early October. Harmon asked the deadline for changes. Stepek responded all changes or amendments must be in by April 1, 2022. Schultz requested the Excel version of the file for easier viewing. Stepek will forward the file and post it on the katsmpo.org website.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Schultz reported Metro's Comprehensive Operations Analysis is about half-way done. Performed every 10 years, the analysis reviews all system routes, proposes short-term and long-term route adjustments, and encompasses public, stakeholder, and business meetings. More public meetings will be held in April with Stakeholder meetings following. In July, Foursquare consulting is expected to issue a final report. Metro is actively hiring drivers, an Operations Supervisor and a Safety and Security Manager. Metro Saturday bus service hours will be increasing starting April 1, 2022. Metro plans to restart Sunday service in May after ceasing it for over a year-and-a-half. When agencies have road projects that impact bus routes, please let Schutz know. Arif asked if Sunday service would resume for all routes and whether mall hours were considered. Schultz responded Sunday service will resume for all routes except Duke and the 3 campus routes. Metro will consider mall hours when establishing Saturday and Sunday service hours. Arif asked if Metro discussed service hours with employers such as FedEx along the Portage Road corridor. Schultz responded, Metro is in discussion with not only FedEx, but additionally Pfizer and Stryker and will be meeting with them next Tuesday to further discuss bus service along Portage Road.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Mallery reported the Village of Vicksburg downtown project is entering the final phase.

DenBraber stated the Michigan Department of Transportation I-94 project Portage Road bridge deck was poured. Work will begin on the approaches. In April, both bounds of traffic will be switched to Eastbound lanes. Pothole work in the construction zone is being performed.

Heppler from the Village of Augusta announced the Augusta Drive preconstruction meeting was held. Work is expected to begin in June. A Washington Street project will also be completed this year. The Village held a recent meeting on the Washington Street bridge project, scheduled for 2024. The Village of Augusta is reviewing non-motorized trails and considering improvements.

Ladd reported the City of Kalamazoo culvert replacement project on Stadium Drive is well underway. The City held a preconstruction meeting for a Local Agency Program project along the Stadium Drive corridor. The project start date is anticipated to be March 21, 2022. The City's comprehensive sidewalk program will restart on April 1, 2022. Favorable bids were received on the Burdick and Chip Seal projects slated to begin June 1, 2022. Design is underway for a 2023 project on Ransom Street. The continuation of the Portage Road project will restart soon.

Harmon reported the City of Portage bids for the Romence Road project and South Westnedge project engineering will go out today. The City recently received a half-a-million-dollar grant. Local street reconstruction bid will be let soon. Sidewalk improvement projects are out for bid. The Lovers Lane project is scheduled for this summer. Two other projects are in design.

Minkus announced two Road Commission of Kalamazoo County projects in the March letting came in under estimate. Board/Township joint meetings are being scheduled for 2022. 2023 projects are in design. Email invitations were sent for a Non-Motorized 101 class that will be held March 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Stefforia reported a Comstock Township Marketing new-hire started March 7, 2022. The Township is excited to improve its online image and highlight good things happening.

Feldt stated the City of Portage is updating its Master Plan. On the south-side of Portage, there are three large single-family subdivision projects ongoing. Another single-family home development on Lovers Lane is in a conceptual phase. Redwood Apartments has broken ground on the Lovers to Garden Lane development.

Mallery reported the Village of Vicksburg plans to update its Master Plan. The Village entered into a purchase agreement for 10-acres of land.

Horner stated Oshtemo Township sewer project work is underway. The Parks Department received Michigan Natural Resources Trust Funds for extension of the Fruit Belt Trail. Construction is expected to begin in 2023. Upcoming meetings will be held to continue progress on the Drake Road trail. The Planning Director presented the annual report to the board on March 8, 2022.

Anderson announced two City of Kalamazoo new hires will begin in April. One position will focus on neighborhood planning outreach and engagement.

Sanada updated attendees that today's Michigan Department of Transportation Non-Motorized meeting has been rescheduled for May 12, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The Southwest Region Road and Trail Cycling Guide is available. Let Sanada know if you would like extra copies. Let Sanada know if you are not already, but would like to be on the email list for the Pedestrian Bicycle Committee.

Grover reported Kalamazoo County is updating the paper county map.

NEW BUSINESS

Minkus provided information from the 2022 Highway Conference and Road Show. Senate bills offering options for the Local Federal Fund Exchange are making their way to Governor Whitmer. Monitor the progress for updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Approved 4/14/22 (er)