

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES APRIL 14, 2022 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The April 14, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 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
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw (Wightman & Associates)
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Service Center
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Rachael Grover	Kalamazoo County
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Todd Hackenberg	Village of Lawton
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Iris Lubbert	Oshtemo Township
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Ryan Minkus, Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Jesse Oakley	City of Kalamazoo
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft (Prein & Newhof)
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Jodi Stefforia, Vice-Chair	Comstock Township
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Luke Walters	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

OTHERS PRESENT

Philip Doorlag	Wightman & Associates
Zach DuMont	City of Kalamazoo
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Daniel Harrington	City of Portage
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority/ Central County Transportation Authority

Elizabeth Rumick
Paul Selden
Steve Stepek, AICP

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Stefforia moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve the agenda of the April 14, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 10, 2022 MEETING

Minkus summarized Rebekkah Ausbury, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and Jamie Harmon, City of Portage, should be moved from “Others Present” to “Members Present.”

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

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported on behalf of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee. The Policy Committee met March 30, 2022 and approved the Resolutions of Support for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) Bridge Applications. KATS Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment was adopted. The draft Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2023 was an agenda item. The Transportation Improvement Program project list was issued for discussion. A letter of support was solicited and approved, from KATS on behalf of the townships to Kalamazoo County in support of the RCKC application for ARPA funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) thanked attendees, KATS Staff, and jurisdictions for their efforts in Non-Motorized related improvements. Selden announced the annual Bike Week will be held May 7, 2022 to May 14, 2022. Bike Week raises awareness of the impact biking has in communities. Selden gave a shout-out to Heppler and all public safety officers. Law enforcement will be conducting educational efforts about the bicycle passing law. Attendees are invited to utilize any BFK public messaging resources free of charge. Contact Selden for more information. BFK yard signs are also available.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Referring to the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments included in the packet, Stepek elaborated that the KL Avenue project is for an addition of a trail. The US-131 bridge replacement project is for a sizable increase in cost. The Transit Capital project is the final addition of the KATS Fiscal 2022 increase.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Gwin, ***“to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** 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) was presented last month and has been out for comment for the month of March. Minor verbiage changes were incorporated from the Michigan Department of Transportation

feedback, listed in Appendix 10. No other comments were received. KATS Staff presents the UPWP for Technical Committee recommendation to the Policy Committee for approval.

Stefforia moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steppek explained this is the master project list of all agency projects for the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Due to the large size of the document, a link was provided to the document which is also on the katsmpo.org website. The document is out for public comment. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is holding an open house on the FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program on April 19, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Metro, 530 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo. Comments are due before May 5, 2022. KATS will present the TIP next month for Technical Committee recommendation of approval by the Policy Committee.

CITY OF KALAMAZOO STREET DESIGN MANUAL PRESENTATION

Anderson introduced herself as a City of Kalamazoo Planner along with Randolph a City of Kalamazoo Traffic Engineer, who will be presenting the City of Kalamazoo Street Design Manual. The significantly sized manual was circulated during the meeting. Certain parts of the Street Design Manual are available online so developers can review aspects relevant to their needs. The City of Kalamazoo will present a power point on the Street Design Manual in July in Flint. Anderson gave an overview of the manual, explained why it was created, how it is divided, and what it includes from a planning perspective. In an effort to meet the city's transportation goals and visions, planning and engineering both contributed to complete the manual. From the engineering perspective, Randolph continued the manual addresses inclusion, equity, and diversity and how projects impact people. The Street Design Manual creates a process that allows the city to incorporate a complete review to prevent potential project delays such as those related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The manual allows the city to analyze many different aspects and elements of a specific project. The manual recognizes the city's level of service. Randolph recommended the City of Kalamazoo Street Design Manual Partner Training video available on YouTube. The full Street Design Manual is available at imaginekalamazoo.com/projects/streetsdesignmanual. Grover asked if the Street Design Manual is final and whether it has been approved. Anderson answered it is final and was approved. Anderson responded to Minkus' question by stating it has been out since November. Randolph added they have been using it with developers since the beginning of the year. Ladd echoed that the book has been shared with design consultants. Minkus asked what kind of feedback they are receiving on the manual. Anderson responded feedback is positive. Developers appreciate clear direction and a level of consistency. Ladd echoed feedback has been positive. Developers coming to a site plan know ahead of time what the city's intent is by tying land use to streets. Equally important is how the city utilizes the Street Design Manual internally as a tool to be accountable and to explain to the public reasoning for decisions. Chair Minkus thanked Anderson and Randolph for the presentation and requested a link to the Street Design Manual be emailed to Rumick to email the Technical Committee Members.

KATS NON-MOTORIZED COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since Minkus attended the meeting, he summarized KATS Staff Mickelson and Townsend presented updates made to the online Non-Motorized maps of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan that are available on the katsmpo.org website. Improvements included maps with different layers with the option to turn things on and off. The enhancements are very beneficial. Another new layer shows where all the Metro bus stops are in the entire network.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE MARCH 2022

Steppek explained a summary of the fiscal year to date contributed services is included in the packet for your review. Steppek reminded attendees to continue to submit timesheets to KATS.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Vlietstra reported Metro's Comprehensive Operations Analysis performed every 10 years, is wrapping up. Public hearings will be held in May. Please remember to let Schultz know of any road closures that will impact bus routes.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Mallery reported the Village of Vicksburg started milling just under a mile of roadway which will be filled next week. This is a continuation of a project from last year.

DenBraber with the Michigan Department of Transportation gave an update on the I-94 Portage Road project. Next week both bounds of traffic will be switched to the new eastbound lanes. Work will begin soon on the Portage bridge removal. Later this summer, westbound traffic will be moved onto the new eastbound lanes.

Heppler from the Village of Augusta announced the Augusta Drive project is expected to begin April 25, 2022. The Washington Street project has been bid. Work is expected to begin next month. The Village of Augusta continues to look at trailways and nonmotorized pathway work. Engineering is underway for the Washington Street bridge project which is expected to begin in 2024. Chip seal maintenance work is planned on a couple roads this year.

Harmon provided the update for the City of Portage. The Lovers Lane project is planned to start in June. Microsurfacing is scheduled to be completed in July on South Westnedge from Mall Drive to Trade Center Way. The Romence Road project from Angling to Oakland will begin in June. Engineering has been awarded for the 2023 South Westnedge project from Melody to Centre. Next year's Portage Road and Shaver Road projects are under design. Local street construction is currently out for bid.

Ladd reported the City of Kalamazoo Stadium Drive project underway is causing traffic delays. Two-way traffic will be maintained with one lane in each direction. Message boards and detour routes are posted. Culvert replacement on Stadium Drive is wrapping up. The Parkview Avenue project has moved into Phase 2. City of Kalamazoo's Patterson Street bridge replacement and the Lake and Walnut bridge rehab project bids came back at 10 percent under estimates. The City's grant safety project is underway. Next month local street paving and the Miller Road Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) grant project will begin.

Minkus announced all federal aid Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) projects will start Monday April 18, 2022. Sign up for RCKC Connect for Road Commission updates and news. Equipment is getting prepped for the chip seal season which will begin after Memorial Day. The RCKC annual report is available on the website kalamazoocountyroads.com. Public informational meetings have begun. RCKC extends sympathies to Deb Buchholtz' family and friends on her passing.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Walters, Michigan Department of Transportation provided updates on obligation authority status.

Grover from Kalamazoo County reported the Pictometry flight is 100 percent complete. The County expects to receive the aerials/images soon and plans to have them posted to the website by the end of summer.

Anderson reported the City of Kalamazoo continues to update zoning code for commercial uses. The City recently submitted RAISE Grant application for planning funds for all streets leading into downtown.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek added any municipality that would like PASER Rating assistance from Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Staff to please get the request in as soon as possible so KATS can schedule the ratings and review the related budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selden of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo gave a shout-out to the Village of Vicksburg as one of the first locations in the state of Michigan to implement the national kindergarten physical education All Kids Bike program. Reach out to Selden if you have a connection with a local school and would like to partner on how to enact the program. Heppler repeated the 3 E's of Safety: engineering, education, and enforcement to keep people safe.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.