

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES MAY 12, 2022 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The May 12, 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

Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Nolan Bergstrom	City of Kalamazoo
Chris Bessert	Kalamazoo County
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw (Wightman & Associates)
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Service Center
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Ryan Minkus, Chair	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Jesse Oakley	City of Kalamazoo
Brian Sanada	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Kathy Schultz	Central County Transportation Authority
Jodi Stefforia, Vice-Chair	Comstock Township
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Luke Walters	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Tim Woodhams	Village of Mattawan
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

OTHERS PRESENT

Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Daniel Harrington	City of Portage
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County/Central County Transportation Authority
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jon Start	Citizen
Steve Stepek, AICP	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

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Schultz, ***“to approve the agenda of the May 12, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 14, 2022 MEETING

Minkus summarized Iris Lubbert, Oshtemo Township, would be moved from “Others Present” to “Members Present.”

Arif moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting as amended.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Steppek reported on behalf of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee. The Policy Committee met April 20, 2022 and approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments, and discussed the draft TIP and KATS open house on the TIP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens comments were made.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Referring to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments included in the packet, Steppek elaborated that these are all fiscal 2022 projects because no more changes can be made to fiscal 2023 projects until the new TIP is adopted. Two are transit projects and one is an MDOT safety project.

Schultz moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia, ***“to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steppek explained this has been on the agenda for several months. After comments, some changes were made to the opening maps. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) staff thanks those that submitted feedback on the document and those involved in development of it. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) represents over \$250 million dollars of transportation investment in the region. KATS staff recommends Technical Committee approval and submission to the Policy Committee.

Worden moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

AIR QUALITY OZONE CONFORMITY REPORT

Steppek reported Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is a Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) for air quality and ozone conformity. Per Federal Highway and Federal Transit requirements, KATS put together an interagency workgroup covering the three counties of Kalamazoo, Van Buren, and Calhoun. The report outlines all projects in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Walters, ***“to approve the Air Quality Ozone Conformity Report.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE APRIL 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

Schultz distributed a Metro public meeting notice flyer. Related to the ongoing Comprehensive Operations Analysis, two open houses will be held on May 18, 2022 to discuss future bus routes and review different scenarios. The QR code includes interactive maps and the ability to leave feedback. Let Schultz know if you would prefer paper maps. Some bus routes may need stronger anchor locations. Metro plans to meet with some attendees and larger agencies impacted by bus routes to discuss future options. Micro transit options may be explored which would allow riders to use Uber or Lyft to hail a vehicle to transport them to a connection point of the fixed route bus system. Any proposed changes would not take effect until Fall 2023 at the earliest due to extensive process updates required. Sunday bus service has resumed with approximately one-third of pre-COVID passengers. Continue to let Schultz know of any road closures that will impact bus routes. Schultz thanked those that have contacted her with construction updates impacting buses. Arif asked if ridership to the mall is strong. Schultz responded, it is stable. Metro may adjust route hours since Sunday service stops at 5:00 p.m. but the mall is still open. Metro is reviewing potential additional transfer hub locations at Crossroads Mall, the Trader Joes/Costco Plaza, or other sites.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

DenBraber with the Michigan Department of Transportation gave an update on the I-94 Portage Road project. Both bounds of traffic have been switched to the new eastbound lanes. Median work is being performed there. Next week traffic will be shifted in the Portage and Kilgore Road area. DenBraber recommended checking the MiDrive website for updates on rotating ramp closures related to this project.

Heppler from the Village of Augusta announced the Augusta Drive project is complete. The Washington Street project is expected to start in June. Local road chip seal projects are planned. The Village of Augusta continues to look at trailways and nonmotorized pathway work. Design is underway for the 2024 Washington Street bridge project.

Oakley reported the City of Kalamazoo Stadium Drive, Parkview Avenue, and Park Street projects are underway. Schultz asked the dates of the Portage Street project. Oakley responded the City is waiting on Consumers Energy gas main work to be completed. There are no plans to close the road. Although unable to attend the meeting, Ladd provided the following written update for the City of Kalamazoo. Portage Street water main and road resurfacing construction will be starting back up this month. Stadium Drive construction is underway from Howard to Lovell. Parkview Avenue Water Main Replacement and Resurfacing is ongoing. The Miller Road Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) grant project has been awarded but not yet started. Kilgore from Oakland to Westnedge, Angling Road Culvert, Rose Street from Crosstown to Lovell, Paterson, Lake, Walnut Bridges projects have been awarded but not yet started. Mill and overlay is planned on 18 local streets using in-house forces. As part of the asphalt preservation program, crack sealing will be performed. Chip sealing on 12 local streets is out to bid. Over five miles of sidewalk rehab will be performed.

Harmon provided the update for the City of Portage. The Angling Road draining improvement project is planned to start June 13, 2022. The road will be closed to thru traffic through August. Preconstruction meetings will be held next week for many projects. The sidewalk improvement project

on South Westnedge will begin soon. Micro surfacing 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 June 13, 2022 and be complete in August. The Lovers Lane project is planned to start June 13, 2022 and will be done this summer. Shaver Road and Portage Road projects for 2023 are in the final design stages. Local street construction bids came in at 30 percent over-budget so will be rebid.

Minkus announced all 2022 federal aid Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) projects are underway. A signal project was finished in Comstock Township in record time of only 3 days. Stay alert for continued traffic shifts for the Sprinkle Road project from East Main to G Avenue. Chip seal will begin after Memorial Day. An informational meeting is scheduled for the 2024 roundabout project at T U Avenue and 23rd. The other roundabout meeting was well attended. Check the website kalamazoocountyroads.com for information on the upcoming roundabout meeting scheduled in Schoolcraft. RCKC is hiring; check the website for more information. Worden stressed RCKC is hiring CDL drivers.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Bergstram announced the City of Kalamazoo is working to implement the new Street Design Manual internally.

Sanada reported the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee Group meeting is being held in-person for the first time in two years, at the Michigan Department of Transportation Southwest Region office, 1501 Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo today at 1:30 p.m. Stefforia asked if anything specific was on the agenda. Sanada replied it is a light agenda. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant representatives will be speaking.

Feldt updated the City of Portage City Council approved hiring Patrick McGinnis as its new city manager. McGinnis is from Grand Haven.

Heppler stated the City of Augusta will be meeting with federal partners in August to discuss North County Trailway Park parking and trail connections. Augusta is doing rezoning for new businesses as it continues to experience growth.

Bessert provided an update that the Pictometry flight over Kalamazoo County previously reported as 100 percent complete requires some areas to be re flown due to some snowy and icy areas during the flight. Kalamazoo County is implementing a new GIS server with plans to share parcel information and improve online mapping.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

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