

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The October 26, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. at Metro in Kalamazoo, by Treasurer Rob Britigan in Chairperson Thompson's stead.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all present.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Rob Britigan, Treasurer	City of Parchment
Marsha Drouin	Richland Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Martin Janssen	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Judy Lemon	City of Galesburg
Tracy Locey	Brady Township
Pat McGinnis	City of Portage
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Tim Frisbie	Village of Vicksburg
Libby Heiny-Cogswell	Oshtemo Township
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Nick Loeks	Texas Township
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
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Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Stepek would like to add to the New Business section of the meeting nomination of a new Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee member. Additionally, guest Traffic Engineer Dennis Randolph from the City of Kalamazoo will update attendees and answer questions regarding City of Kalamazoo traffic. Britigan summarized these two items will be number 16 A and number 16 B on the agenda, respectively.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Johnson, **“to approve the agenda of the October 26, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting noting that two additional items will be discussed under New Business.”** MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens’ comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORTS
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORTS
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 MEETING

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, **“to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda.”** MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2023 – 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek explained the proposed amendments are included in the meeting packet. Stepek noted the updated list of amendments. KATS Staff and Technical Committee recommends approval of the proposed amendments.

Aardema moved, and it was duly seconded by Janssen, **“to approve the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”** MOTION CARRIED.

2023 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Stepek explained the performance measures are included in the packet. Annually, as part of the required federal performance measures, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is asked to either develop its own safety targets for the coming calendar year or to support the state targets. In previous years, KATS has chosen to support the state targets. It was noted these are measures not goals. Johnson thanked Stepek for providing matrix data on the KATS Metropolitan Planning Organization region. In response to Johnson’s inquiry, Stepek responded the MPO level data mirrors state trends. Stepek answered in response to Britigan’s question, if we do not meet the measure we would be required to spend at least what the state was spending on the measure in 2008-2009. The

state is already spending at least that amount or more for every measure. Janssen and Heppler commented about how the three E's: Engineering, Education, and Enforcement impact safety. Johnson, Gisler, Praedel, and McGinnis discussed other crash data as well as their respective municipality patrol deputy staffing levels. The Technical Committee recommended supporting the state safety targets at their October 13, 2022 meeting. Staff recommends that the Policy Committee adopt the state targets as documented and authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution of Support for 2022 Safety Targets on behalf of the Policy Committee.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Sorensen, **“to approve adoption of the 2023 State Safety Performance Measures and to authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution of Support.”** MOTION CARRIED.

2023 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Referring to the schedule included in the packet, Stepek added that the schedule proposes continuation of the traditional last Wednesday of the month and 9:00 a.m. meeting day and time.

Johnson moved, and it was duly seconded by Janssen, **“to approve the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule.”** MOTION CARRIED.

2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

Stepek stated the TIP Amendment schedule is included in the packet for your information. Although this is the official amendment approval schedule, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Staff are able to add additional amendments if needed.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FISCAL YEAR 2022

Stepek pointed out City of Parchment time sheets found in a spam email folder were added. The final contributed service for fiscal year 2022 has been cut off for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study's fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. We collected more than double the required match for the year and appreciate all participating agencies that turned in time sheets. This serves as a reminder to please continue strong participation by turning in time sheets for our fiscal year 2023 which began on October 1, 2022.

NOMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE FOR KATS OFFICERS

Stepek explained Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) has a Subcommittee to assist with obtaining KATS Officers. This group solicits volunteers to run for the one-year officer terms. Officers are nominated at the December meeting for terms that begin January 1 every year. Officer positions include Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer. Current officers are welcome to serve another year. Sorensen and Ulsh volunteered to serve on the Nomination Subcommittee for KATS Officers.

McGinnis moved, and it was duly seconded by Johnson, **“to approve nomination of Don Ulsh and Jeff Sorensen for the Subcommittee for Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Officers.”** MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema reported Ron Holcum is a new board member for Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA). Metro's Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) consultant will be presenting recommendations December 12, 2022. Microtransit may potentially serve areas of Kalamazoo County that have less fixed route buses. The governance update continues. An outside consultant was hired to suggest best practices on the structure of the joint Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA)/KCTA board. Metro's Youth Mobility program is progressing well. The program operates in partnership with the Foundation for Excellence and the Kalamazoo Public Schools. It offers free bus passes to a limited number of Kalamazoo Public High School students for transportation to and from jobs or after school activities. Metro's new security staff member at the Kalamazoo Transportation Center (KTC) is a very successful addition. Monthly safety reports are distributed. Metro's goal is to keep the KTC as safe as possible. Staffing levels are trending toward pre-COVID levels. Similarly, bus routes are functioning at near pre-COVID levels. The trend of rising ridership on buses is expected to continue.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to what was reported in the memo included in the meeting materials, Stepek highlighted the Metropolitan Planning Organization area will receive about \$1.6 million dollars in the annual redistribution of obligation authority. With the new Bipartisan Infrastructure law adopted during 2022, local agencies were not able to spend all their transportation authority. The Michigan Department of Transportation is therefore giving more obligation authority this year to local agencies. Our region would need about \$4-\$5 million dollars to come closer to the federal required 75/25 project cost split. Therefore, no Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments are expected from the additional funds. The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) TIP Subcommittee including KATS, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, the Cities of Kalamazoo, Portage, and Parchment met. It was decided to use the funds for projects that have already been obligated in fiscal year 2023. Some of the funds will be allocated to Metro transit to assist in the cost increase of buses from the contracted \$109,000 to \$179,000. The remainder of the funds will be split equally between the City of Kalamazoo Whites Road project and the City of Portage Portage Road project. Johnson asked for clarification on the projects being in fiscal year 2023. Stepek concurred adding that since we are already in fiscal year 2023, the best way to spend the money is to use it on projects that are ready to go rather than add a project that may not be obligated. In response to Britigan, Stepek added, the funds have to be obligated this year, meaning the feds have promised to pay that amount. The funds do not need to be spent this year. Stepek responded to Aardema's inquiry that the City of Portage Portage Road project is in front of the Pfizer facility.

NEW BUSINESS

Britigan reiterated there are two items of New Business. The first one is a recommendation to appoint James Justice to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee. Justice's application was distributed for review.

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Johnson, **"to approve nomination of James Justice to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee."** MOTION CARRIED.

Britigan stated the second item of New Business is to welcome Dennis Randolph, City of Kalamazoo Traffic Engineer, to discuss the city's traffic and answer any questions. Randolph distributed a U.S.

Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Guidance packet. Randolph elaborated that the three E's: Engineering, Education, and Enforcement are important to safety. Street configuration in the City of Kalamazoo has decreased lane width which has been shown to decrease speed. Sixty-percent of all crashes are speed-related. Kalamazoo has eliminated traffic lanes, added marked bike lanes, and added pedestrian signs in an attempt to decrease vehicle speed. The City of Kalamazoo obtained a \$250,000 grant for traffic signal optimization. The study will begin in 2023 with hopes of improved signal progression. Further discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Sotherland, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizens Advisory Committee, voiced praise he has received for the Kalamazoo region's infrastructure overall, not just related to non-motorized progress, including engineering, planning and implementation. Sotherland pleaded that striping and signs be installed before a road project is deemed complete. This would assist with the Education portion of the three E's to guide people through an area.

Praedel thanked Randolph for the presentation. The City of Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Avenue two-way conversion update will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. Parkview is open. The preliminary reduction in speed on Westnedge and Park is a significant 4.8 miles-per-hour. Praedel thanked jurisdictions who assisted and supported the City of Kalamazoo during the funeral of Public Safety Officer Christian Smith.

McGinnis, City of Portage, reiterated the importance of regional traffic signal optimization. Optimization should cross city limits and efforts between jurisdictions should be coordinated.

Aardema commented students from the University of Notre Dame performed a traffic analysis for a class project on a Sunday morning on Michigan Avenue in the City of Kalamazoo. One car was clocked on radar at 82 miles-per-hour. Multiple cars were traveling over 70 miles-per-hour, well in excess of the posted speed limit. As a member of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport board, Aardema reported new air service on Avelo Airlines direct to Orlando begins today. Due to clean-up issues from Hurricane Ian, Avelo was told to delay service into Ft. Myers. Avelo will begin direct flights to Ft. Myers later this season or next winter.

VanderRoest reminded attendees of the November 8, 2022 election. The Charleston Township building is undergoing construction for an addition and remodeling. It currently has no heat. Meetings have been taking place in the parking lot. Electricians, plumbers, and other contractors are working to hopefully finish by election day.

Heppler announced the Village of Augusta 2024 bridge project engineering is underway. The Village is working on a water main project but finding delays of up to 50 weeks in obtaining pipe.

Kinney announced the Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) Managing Director is leaving in February 2023. VBCRC is looking to fill the position which requires a candidate live within 60 miles of the Van Buren County Line.

Britigan, City of Parchment, reminded attendees to vote November 8, 2022.

Sorensen thanked the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, and cooperation of the City of Kalamazoo, and the City of Parchment for assistance in completion of the water main pipe project in Cooper Township. This restoration project began with a phone call in July 2018 regarding residents that had PFAS in their water. Sorensen expressed happiness and thankfulness for completion. Invitations to the Michigan Township Association banquet were sent. Let Sorensen know if you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend.

Ulsh, Schoolcraft Township, asked what will happen with Sprinkle Road traffic now that the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) broke ground on the new career and technical center. Johnson of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County stated it will be very busy. Aardema noted it is a City of Kalamazoo road. Randolph added that the City of Kalamazoo has gone through the site plan planning process with the developer. Johnson reiterated the importance of ensuring adjacent jurisdictions work together on projects.

Janssen mentioned traffic has been backing up recently on the Sprinkle Road roundabout south of I-94. Pfeiffer can follow-up on any information from the Michigan Department of Transportation Kilgore office.

Johnson reported the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) has 18 projects to finish up across the county, weather permitting. RCKC permanently closed the TS Avenue bridge between 29th and 31st streets in Pavilion Township and the 40th Street bridge between W Avenue and X Avenue in Wakeshma Township. RCKC thanks townships for partnering to potentially identify a third bridge to bundle for state rehab funding. Attendees are invited to a public hearing on November 8, 2022 that will include RCKC primary road Capital Improvement Plan and budget guidelines. Feedback or attendance is appreciated. A communication survey has been distributed to identify RCKC preferred communication methods. RCKC team members are currently in winter maintenance training. There are quite a few new staff members, but RCKC is at least 11 people short for winter road maintenance. RCKC is hosting Brakes on Fatalities Day on November 8, 2022. Awards will be presented to young artists aged 3 – 14 years old at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Treasurer Britigan adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Approved 12/21/22 (er)