

## In This Issue

January 2023

### Happy New Year!

The new year is here!  
Calendar year 2023  
meeting dates are now  
finalized.

### Let it Snow

Snowplows are working  
hard to keep roads clear.  
Find out more to stay safe  
this winter.

### Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Trainings

Mark your calendar for  
these upcoming  
opportunities to learn  
more about  
transportation.

### KATS Education

Staff is offering KATS 101,  
201 and Timesheet  
Training.



# KATS Quarterly

## January 2023 Edition

A newsletter for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Kalamazoo Area.

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kalamazoo Urbanized Area and is required by federal legislation to provide coordinated transportation planning for urban populations greater than 50,000.

KATS considers the entire area of Kalamazoo County, the four townships of Almena, Antwerp, Waverly, and Paw Paw within Van Buren County as the Metropolitan Planning Boundary, including all local governmental jurisdictions in transportation planning.

### Let it Snow

Winter is here and snowplows are working hard to make driving conditions safer.



The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) provides winter maintenance to remove snow from the roads as well as salting and sanding to melt ice. It is important not to park or abandon a vehicle or object in the right-of-way, as this interferes with snowplowing.

Avoid passing a snowplow while they are plowing. Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks. Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow as the truck could suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or cutting through packed snow.

More information on winter maintenance provided by the RCKC can be found on their website along with a brochure with helpful reminders.

Sign up for RCKC CONNECT to receive message alerts for road construction, road closures/detours, and public news from the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County website.

[Road Commission of Kalamazoo County](#)



## Contact Us

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## Stay Informed

For the most up to date information on KATS meetings, construction updates, and more; follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

## Upcoming Meetings, Conferences & Trainings

### KATS Technical Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Thursday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m.

### KATS Policy Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Wednesday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m.

### KATS Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings for this quarter:

Friday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m. (virtual via Zoom)

KATS committee meetings are held at Metro, 530 N. Rose Street in Kalamazoo. Any changes to meeting location or cancellations will be posted on the website.

## KATS Training Opportunities

Learn more about the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study by attending a 101 or 201 training session this year. Want to learn more about reporting time for contributed services? There is a timesheet training available to answer your questions. All trainings are introductory and last approximately 30 minutes.

Interested? Check KATS website for training dates and times for February.

## Metro Transit Updates

Metro is considering ways to improve bus service for current and prospective riders. The Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) study aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing transit system and develops recommendations to improve ridership, productivity, and the overall transit user experience.

View the full COA document and interactive maps of the recommendations on [Metro's website](#).

## KATS Meeting Schedule

### Technical

January 12  
February 9  
March 9

### Policy

January 25  
February 22  
March 29

### CAC

January 10

## PASER Ratings

The new Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating system report for 2022 is now available.

## Pavement and Surface Evaluation Ratings (PASER)

One of the core responsibilities of the KATS is managing the collection and submission to the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) of road condition ratings for federal aid eligible roads in the study area, except for those in the four townships in Van Buren County. Per TAMC guidelines, the entire federal aid system must be collected every two years. Typically, in the KATS area, this is accomplished by collecting roughly half of the system one year and the remainder the next. With the assistance of municipal road agencies and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, we were successful in meeting that goal.

Data collection is done using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system. Roads are given a rating on a scale from 1 to 10 based on type and degree of visible surface distresses. Using the system, road condition is categorized as Poor (PASER 1 – 4), Fair (PASER 5 – 7) and Good (PASER 8 – 10). The chart below shows the mileage in each condition category. For reference, the results of the two-year period from 2018 to 2019 are included.

