

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 21, 2022 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The December 21, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. at Metro in Kalamazoo, by Chairperson Thompson.

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
Tim Frisbie	Village of Vicksburg
Libby Heiny-Cogswell	Oshtemo Township
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
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
Lisa Moaiery	Kalamazoo Township
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Sean McBride	Central County Transportation Authority
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Megan Mickelson
Ryan Minkus
Elizabeth Rumick
Kathy Schultz
Steve Stepek
Ali Townsend
Mark Worden

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Central County Transportation Authority
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Johnson, **“to approve the agenda of the December 21, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting.”** 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 OCTOBER 26, 2022 MEETING

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

FY 2023 – 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Referring to the proposed amendments included in the meeting packet, Stepek reported the eight amendments are explained in the meeting memo. Most of the amendments are related to project changes for the additional Rural Task Force funding. Other changes include one for the Central County Transportation Authority. There was also a budget change for a City of Portage earmark project. KATS Staff and Technical Committee recommends approval of the proposed amendments.

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

POLICY COMMITTEE OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nomination Subcommittee members Sorensen and Ulsh met and spoke with current Policy Committee officers. Sorensen reported all current officers are willing to serve for another one-year term beginning January 1, 2023. The Nomination Subcommittee recommends reelection of Chair, Randy Thompson (Comstock Township), Vice-Chair, Libby Heiny-Cogswell (Oshtemo Township), and Treasurer, Rob Britigan (City of Parchment).

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Johnson, ***“to approve the Nomination Subcommittee recommendations for Policy Committee Officers as: Randy Thompson-Chair, Libby Heiny-Cogswell-Vice-Chair and Rob Britigan-Treasurer.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema reported the consultant presented ideas for streamlining the functioning and structure of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA)/ Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority/KCTA board at the November board meeting. Recommendations were approved at the December board meeting. Metro's Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) consultant presented recommendations in December. Metro staff will determine which recommendations to implement, how to implement changes, and a timeline of implementation with a goal of offering the most efficient, economical system within our urbanized area. Public outreach continues. Previously discussed changes including microtransit, plan to be implemented over the course of three phases. Janssen added microtransit will address the change in transportation habits due to COVID. Maps are available on the website and further data uncovered by the COA is available. Schultz elaborated not only will microtransit allow transportation between the planned four geographic zones, but also within each zone. Metro staff are available to present progress updates and plans. Johnson noted microtransit may involve a larger pool of staffing since commercial drivers' licenses may not be required for microtransit vehicles. The fee structure for microtransit may be different from the fixed route system. Microtransit is not expected to be used to transport school students as it is geared toward an irregular schedule on a smaller scale. Schultz agreed to schedule presentations at the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County and Comstock Township.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to what was reported in the memo included in the meeting materials, Stepek highlighted the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization fiscal year 2024 funding levels are anticipated to be received on December 29, 2022. At this time, local match contributed service contribution agreements will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the required minimum amount. If contributed service agreements require an increase, this will be an agenda item at next month's meeting. Changes in funding levels could result in National Classification changes which potentially impact road project funding.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Heppler announced he is serving on the Traffic Safety Committee with the State of Michigan police chiefs. The Committee is addressing the three "E's:" engineering, education, and enforcement due to the high number of fatal accidents. The Village of Augusta is planning a water main project in 2023 and a bridge project in 2024.

Praedel gave a shout-out to the Central County Transportation Authority/Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority boards for member and community engagement. The City of Kalamazoo posted a 2022 Year-in-Review video on LinkedIn.

McGinnis, City of Portage, suggested the idea of creating a traffic signal subcommittee to study optimization across regions. McGinnis distributed cards with a UPC code and a URL to access the City of Portage survey for its Comprehensive Master Plan update.

VanderRoest reported the Charleston Township building remodel is complete.

Kinney announced the Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) interviewed five people and is in the process of making an offer to one candidate for the Managing Director position. The current director is leaving in February 2023.

Britigan, City of Parchment, thanked attendees for reelection as Policy Committee Treasurer.

Sorensen reported Cooper Township hired an architect to remodel the current township hall. Plans include moving the entrance to the rear, expanding parking, and increasing ADA compliance. Cooper Township applied for a Michigan Spark Grant to build a public pavilion and improve public recreation.

Johnson reminded attendees the Transportation Asset Management Council goal is to collect non-federal aid PASER data on all city, township, and village roads in 2023. This is in addition to federal aid PASER data. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) prepared a 2022 recap video of the year's work and accomplishments. RCKC is ready for the forecasted upcoming winter storm. Local road fund information was recently released to township partners. It can also be found on kalamazooountyroads.com under Township Connect. A January meeting is scheduled with EGLE contractors on the rubber trial that was initially delayed. Informational meetings are underway for 2023 projects. RCKC new facility construction is progressing. The County Board reappointed two of the Road Commissioners for six-year terms. Let Johnson know if you didn't receive an invitation to the January 19, 2023 1:00 p.m. RCKC session on working with railroads featuring Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Rail past and present staff. Similar to Metro, RCKC welcomes the invitation to make presentations at organization events.

Frisbie was pleased and surprised with the huge turnout for the Christmas in the Village hosted by the Village of Vicksburg.

Drouin thanked Stepek and the Michigan Department of Transportation for a long-awaited solution to the Gull Road pathway, with work anticipated for spring.

Heiny-Cogswell reported Oshtemo Township is moving forward with Phase One of the municipal sewer project. There is a 41 percent increase in the cost of the project originally slated for 2020.

Lemon thanked the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) for City of Galesburg road signs and speed bumps. The City of Galesburg issued a survey which will hopefully spark interest to serve and provide input to update the five-year plan. Johnson gave a shout-out and thanked the City of Galesburg for offering to assist RCKC with winter maintenance.

Thompson reported Comstock Township received eight bids for remodeling of the new township building. A bid decision will be made at next Wednesday's meeting. Construction is expected to be complete by July 2023. Comstock Township has sewer projects, along with lots of new development. Thompson appreciates working with everyone and re-election to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee will be held on
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.*

Approved 2/22/23 (er)