

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 10, 2023 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The August 10, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro, by Chairperson Minkus.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet. Introductions were made by all present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| Muhammad Arif | City of Portage |
| Heather Bowden | Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning |
| Kerry DenBraber | Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC |
| Tim Frisbie | Village of Vicksburg |
| Josh Grab | Michigan Department of Transportation, Region |
| Todd Hackenberg | Village of Lawton |
| Jamie Harmon | City of Portage |
| Robert Henderson | Van Buren Public Transit |
| Jeff Heppler | Village of Augusta |
| Jim Hoekstra | Road Commission of Kalamazoo County |
| Joel Hoort | Van Buren County Road Commission |
| Anna Horner | Oshtemo Township |
| Iris Lubbert | Oshtemo Township |
| Sherine Miller | Kalamazoo Township |
| Ryan Minkus | Road Commission of Kalamazoo County |
| Tom Palumbo | City of Kalamazoo |
| Dennis Randolph | City of Kalamazoo |
| Ryan Russell | Village of Schoolcraft |
| Pratik Sharma | City of Portage |
| Paul Sotherland | KATS Citizens Advisory Committee |
| Jodi Stefforia, Vice-Chair | Comstock Township |
| Nancy Stoddard | City of Parchment |
| Greg Vlietstra | Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority |
| George Waring | City of Kalamazoo |

OTHERS PRESENT

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|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Phil Doorlag | Wightman |
| David Fairchild | Michigan Department of Transportation |
| Megan Mickelson | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study |
| Elizabeth Rumick | Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study |
| Hailey Savola | ROWE |

Steve Stepek, AICP
Madee Thorburn
Bret Witkowski

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Michigan Department of Transportation
Van Buren County Road Commission

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hoekstra moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia, ***“to approve the agenda of the August 10, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 11, 2023 MEETING

Hackenberg moved, and it was duly seconded by Stoddard, ***“to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported on behalf of the Policy Committee who met at the end of May. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were approved. A representative from Congressman Bill Huizenga’s office discussed legislative news. In response to Arif’s request for clarification, Stepek explained the representative summarized none of the money was going to be rescinded for projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sotherland spoke on behalf of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club. He extended a thank you to all agencies particularly to the Cities of Portage and Kalamazoo as well as the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for creating, sustaining, and improving non-motorized biking conditions in the region.

FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek explained the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment hand out is in the meeting packet. The majority of the projects are the end of fiscal year, beginning of fiscal year Metro transit amendments. Other highlights include the preselected Transportation Alternatives Program 9th Street sidewalk project. Due to project timeline changes, the TIP Subcommittee met and funded projects into fiscal 2025 and 2026. Two additional projects are expected to be added to the TIP when more information is available.

Horner moved, and it was duly seconded by Waring, ***“to recommend the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments to the Policy Committee for approval.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

DRAFT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS DISCUSSION

The draft of the bylaws are included in the meeting packet. Stepek explained the bylaws have been out for comment for several months. No additional comments were received on them since May. Horner expressed that after the discussion at the May meeting, she expected the voting structure outlined in Appendix A to be modified. The change would allow all governmental units a larger number of votes for a larger population based on the most recent Census as opposed to just PA 51 units. Oshtemo Township is not a PA 51 governmental unit and therefore currently is not allowed a larger number of votes even though their population is over 20,000. Minkus reiterated the bylaws have been in place for over a decade and will mirror the Policy Committee Bylaws as revised.

Members voted on amending Appendix A to include all governmental units, not just PA 51 units, and to correct a typo in Appendix C moving “MDOT” to the next line.

Horner moved, and it was duly seconded by Stefforia, ***“to recommend the Technical Committee Bylaws with the two amendments above, to the Policy Committee for approval.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE- Mickelson reported the Non-Motorized Subcommittee met August 9, 2023. A new survey has been implemented to keep track of changes that need to be made to non-motorized facilities. The survey is now available on the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study website at katsmpo.org. Signed bike routes are being updated. The interactive map available on the katsmpo.org website is updated every few months.

COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- Mickelson stated the Complete Streets Implementation Plan Subcommittee met August 8, 2023. The subcommittee continues developing a scoring method and studying how this implementation plan will fit into the Transportation Improvement Program process.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION- Stepek reported the Traffic Signal Coordination Subcommittee will meet in September. Carbon Reduction Program targets and Air Quality targets are expected to be discussed.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Vlietstra reported Metro is implementing minor service reductions by the end of the month due to retirements and the continued struggle to find drivers. Metro hired Charlesbrook Protection, a private security firm for the Kalamazoo Transportation Center. They started August 1st and Metro is very pleased with their performance and visibility thus far. Metro will continue its shuttle service during the home Western Michigan University football games this year. Less crowds are anticipated due to the increased number of home games scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

DenBraber of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) reported the M-89 mill and fill project in Kalamazoo County started Monday. It has an anticipated completion date of September 1st. The I-94 Portage Road project should be completed by the end of September. The US-131 project in Schoolcraft is about halfway done. Drives and approaches are being paved in Lawton.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta water project on the south side of the village is progressing. Rerouting across M-96 will occur in the next two or three weeks. After that, road paving and chip seal projects are planned. Design is underway for next year's bridge project.

Harmon stated the City of Portage South Westnedge Avenue and Portage Road projects will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Paving of local streets is ongoing. Grade inspection package work is underway for next years Portage Road from Romence to 94 project. An engineering request for proposal is out for the 2024 South Westnedge Avenue project.

Hoort of Van Buren County Road Commission reported a signal project on County Road 652 is being planned for 2025.

Waring reported the City of Kalamazoo construction on the east side of Ransom Street is underway and will continue into next year. The Whites Road project will begin Monday. The project will run into 2024. Pre-construction meetings are coming up for the Westnedge project expected to begin in late February or early March next year. The Michigan Avenue project will be substantially complete by the end of the week. Two-way non-motorized bike signals will be installed in October. Local street paving and sidewalk work is ongoing through the end of the year. A Kalamazoo Avenue sewer pipeline

project is underway. Randolph added the city has marked an eight percent decrease in crashes at Park and Westnedge after traffic calming measures were added. A 40 percent decrease in crashes has resulted with changes on Portage, Kilgore, and Miller roads. The Stadium Drive reconstruction has resulted in a 22 percent reduction in crashes. The City of Kalamazoo has more crashes compared to other cities of similar size. Work is progressing to reach a lower targeted number of crashes. Palumbo added the Maple Street project from Park to Burdick is mostly finished. It included resurfacing, adding bike lanes, speed humps, and a mid-block pedestrian crossing.

Hoekstra provided the update for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC). The 12th and 24th Street, Almena, 2nd, and Sprinkle Road, from I-94 south, projects are complete. Parkview Avenue with two new roundabouts will open tomorrow. All are welcome to the Parkview Avenue public open house this evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Lake Street is currently under construction. Lots of projects will be in upcoming lettings.

Frisbie stated the Village of Vicksburg W Avenue mill and fill project was completed last week.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Lubbert reported Oshtemo Township recently purchased a lot at 6227 Stadium Drive in an effort to improve the area. The township is in the process of signing a contract with Wightman and working with the Downtown Development Authority board for initial design. Grants will be applied for next year with construction anticipated a couple years after that. Oshtemo Township has a private road and private street zoning moratorium in place. The township will begin a very comprehensive master plan soon. American Rescue Plan funds are providing opportunity for the township to do so. The plan is expected to be finalized and adopted by the end of 2025. The township is hosting a public hearing on August 24, 2023 for 5G cell towers in the right-of-way. Right now, they are allowed anywhere.

Stefforia reported Comstock Township Master Plan update will be presented to the township board later this month for adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek reminded attendees of the Adjusted Census Boundary Meeting at 10:30 a.m. following this meeting, in the same room. The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Certification Review will be in October. It will encompass the October Technical Committee Meeting on October 12, 2023. The Certification Review is the process of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration auditing the KATS planning processes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Approved 9/14/23 (ER)