

## Chapter 11

# CONSULTATION

In order to foster cooperation while promoting communication within Federal, State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) initiated a consultation process for the 2035 Transportation Plan. The goal of this process is to eliminate or minimize conflicts with other agencies' plans that may impact transportation in the Kalamazoo metropolitan area.

KATS compiled a list of Federal, State, Indian Tribes, local, and private agencies to contact in order to open a dialog concerning the 2035 Transportation Plan. The agencies below were contacted by mail:

Arcadia Neighborhood Association	Michigan Commission for the Blind
BC/CAL/KAL Inland Port Development Corp	Michigan Department of Agriculture
City of Portage Environmental Board	Michigan Economic Development Corporation
City of Portage Parks Department	Michigan Historical Center
City of Kalamazoo - Historic Preservation	Michigan Environmental Quality- Kalamazoo
Consumers Energy	Michigan Department of Community Health
Disability Resource Center	Michigan State University Extension- Kalamazoo
Douglas Community Association	MI Department of Natural Resources - Plainwell
Downtown Kalamazoo Inc.	Milwood Neighborhood Association
Eastside Neighborhood Association	Minority Business Alliance
Edison Neighborhood Association	MRC Industries Inc
Environmental Concerns Committee	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5	Northside Economic Potential
Federal Express Ground	Northside Business Association
Fish and Wildlife Service	Northside Association for Comm. Development
Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail	Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi
Historical Preservation Committee	Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Assoc.
Homecrest Circle Neighborhood Association	Oakwood Neighborhood Association
Housing Resources Inc	Oshtemo Business Association
Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC)	Parker-Duke Neighborhood Association
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council	Parkview Neighborhood Association
Kalamazoo Community Foundation	Parkwyn Village Association
Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Council	Portage Environmental Board
Kalamazoo Co. Convention and Visitors Bureau	Potawatomi RC & D Council
Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce	Region III Area Agency on Aging
Kalamazoo County - Farm Service Agency	Representative James Bolger
Kalamazoo Neighborhood Association	Representative Sean McCann
Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport	Representative Aric Nesbitt
Kalamazoo Valley Walkers	Representative Margaret O'Brien
Kalamazoo Public Schools	Schoolcraft Community Schools
Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner's Office	Senator Tonya Schuitmaker
Kalamazoo County Parks Department	Senior Services Inc.
Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Partners	Sierra Club - Kalamazoo Valley Group
Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency	South Whites Lake
Kalamazoo Valley Community College	Southside Neighborhood Association
Kalamazoo Conservation District	Southwest Michigan First
Lakeside Beach Corporation	Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Band)	Stuart Area Restoration Association
May Delivery Services Inc.	USDA - Michigan State Office
	USGS- Lansing District Office
	Vicksburg Community Schools

Vine Neighborhood Association  
 West Douglas Neighborhood Association  
 West Main Hill Neighborhood Association  
 Western Gateway Coalition

Western Michigan University Campus Planning  
 Westnedge Hill Association  
 Westwood Neighborhood Association  
 White/Edgemoor/Bronson Neighborhood Assoc.  
 Woods Lake Association

KATS recorded all comments while consulting with these agencies during the development and following the release of the draft document. It is KATS' intent to maintain this dialog into the future in order to facilitate the planning process. KATS also maintains a library of local agency plans to assist in identifying areas of conflict. The following summarizes the responses received by each agency. Copies of each agency's response are contained in the appendices.

***United States Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service - John Dingledine***

Letter providing information on endangered species, migratory birds, and wetlands (with specific references to Federal Acts). No specific projects were identified but asked for early contact when projects are being planned.

*Response:* No specific changes were made to the 2035 Transportation Plan based on the comment received.

***Oshtemo Township - Jodi Stefforia***

Request to see Bacon Avenue in City of Portage not be included in the 2035 Transportation Plan. Currently project planned for widening from 2 lanes to 3 lanes. Did not see capacity issues and concern about loss of trees and waste of road funding.

*Response:* Bacon Avenue project was moved to the illustrative project list.

***State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment - Mary Douglas***

Letter with items relating to construction site stormwater, municipal stormwater, sites of environmental contamination, community water supplies, and how to contact the Water Resources Division.

*Response:* The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study will continue to remind local agencies of their requirement to obtain necessary permits before proceeding with transportation projects in Kalamazoo County. Each agency has staff that will handle the permitting for transportation projects. None of the projects specifically were identified based on the letter received. No adjustments were made to the 2035 Transportation Plan.

***Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy - Geoffrey Cripe***

Reviewed projects listed in 2035 Transportation Plan. No adverse impact for any conservation easements and preserves in Kalamazoo County noted. Forwarding information for comment from the contact person on the nine county trail plan.

*Response:* The person who received the forwarded information did not comment.

***Oshtemo Township - Jodi Stefforia***

Requested reference to non-motorized facilities when identifying projects specifically in the 2035 Transportation Plan. Noted lack of reference to non-motorized facilities on Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects. Compliance with Complete Streets legislation. Specific projects identified.

*Response:* In response to the suggestion that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission include non-motorized facilities in their individual project descriptions, the general statement of including non-motorized facilities with projects where appropriate and feasible will include consulting with established non-motorized plans.

The comments on the Drake Road and 11<sup>th</sup> Street projects needing to be widened at an earlier date than contained in the 2035 Transportation Plan will be considered in the next transportation plan. Comments on the projects to widen 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street being premature will be reconsidered in the next plan. The segment of KL Avenue west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street that was proposed for widening and questioned in the comments has been removed from the active project list. If additional capacity projects are added or dropped from the 2035 Transportation Plan, air quality conformity testing and the ensuing public comment period will need to be repeated. None of the questioned widening projects are scheduled for construction before the next plan adoption.

***Community Planning and Development Historic Preservation Coordinator - Sharon Ferraro***

Letter regarding projects on Douglas Avenue, Lovell Street, and South Street. Determined that there was no adverse effect to properties along corridor as long as the curb lawn and sidewalks were maintained.

*Response:* No changes were made to the 2035 Transportation Plan based on the comment received.

***State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment - Mary Douglas***

Letter with items relating to construction site stormwater, municipal stormwater, sites of environmental contamination, community water supplies, and how to contact the Water Resources Division.

*Response:* The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study will continue to remind local agencies of their requirement to obtain necessary permits before proceeding with transportation projects in Kalamazoo County. Each agency has staff that will handle the permitting for transportation projects. None of the projects specifically were identified based on the letter received. No adjustments were made to the 2035 Transportation Plan.

***Oshtemo Township - Jodi Stefforia***

Letter commenting on the freight plan chapter as drafted. Asked that goals be identified in the chapter. Identification of next steps and the development of a freight plan.

*Response:* The freight chapter has been modified in response to these comments. Staff looks forward to the cooperative development of a freight plan beginning in FY 2012 and to the improvement of data used with the active involvement of local municipalities.

***Citizen - Rondel Yarbrough***

Letter asking for why there were no projects identified on the east side of Kalamazoo in the 2035 Transportation Plan.

*Response:* It was noted that no planned capacity projects were identified in the 2035 Transportation Plan but that there may be local street projects planned that will not be part of the document. Specific non-motorized projects that add to the existing roadway are not identified within the document but may be planned when roads are reconstructed. Contact information was provided for the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, and Kalamazoo Township.

***Disability Network - Paul Ecklund***

A letter requesting improvements to bus stops to meet ADA requirements. Request for an inventory of stops and pedestrian access routes. Development of an ADA Transition Plan once inventory is complete.

*Response:* This item will be addressed with the local road and transit agencies separately from the 2035 Transportation Plan.