

# KATS News

Focusing on Transportation Planning Activities in Kalamazoo County

Winter 2006

## *Countdown to 2030 Transportation Plan Completion*

The development of the 2030 Transportation Plan for the Kalamazoo metropolitan area has been progressing towards the expected fall, 2006 finalization date. Work is currently ongoing to identify network deficiencies and proposed projects for Kalamazoo County. Data on the past funded programs and projects, as well as the development of future reasonably expected funding amounts, is being coordinated with local road and transit agencies. Several opportunities for public input will be presented during 2006, including the presentation of network alternatives and a final public hearing on the document before Policy Committee adoption. Notice of such public input opportunities will be distributed to the Kalamazoo County cities, villages, and townships, as well as posted on the KATS website: [www.katsmpo.org](http://www.katsmpo.org).

### **Transportation Authority Board Appointed for Kalamazoo County**

The Kalamazoo County Board adopted the articles of incorporation for the creation of a countywide Transportation Authority Board in November 2005. The nine-member board will be meeting regularly to develop the outline of the new transportation authority that will be responsible for public transportation in Kalamazoo County and recommend a public transportation millage request to the voters of Kalamazoo County in November 2006. The Transportation Authority Board members include:

Richard Atwell	Paul Ecklund
Diane Kempen	Terry Kuseske
Khurshid Hoda	Jack Urban
Jack Mekemson	Linda Teeter
Char Sumney	

Questions relating to the Transportation Authority Board can be directed to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners office at 384-8111.

### **Citizens Advisory Committee Continues to Meet**

The KATS Citizens Advisory Committee continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month at Kalamazoo Metro Transit, 530 North Rose Street starting at 5:00 p.m. Meeting topics have ranged from the Transportation Authority Board creation to the development of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. The meetings are open to any interested citizen of Kalamazoo County and topics are determined by those attending the meetings. Further information on upcoming meetings and past meeting records are available on-line at [www.katsmpo.org](http://www.katsmpo.org).

**Check It Out!** The KATS website has information on:

Technical & Policy Committee Meetings ■ Citizens Advisory Committee ■ Traffic Counts  
2030 Transportation Plan Updates ■ FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program  
Title VI Documentation ■ Asset Management Data & Maps

[www.KATSMPO.org](http://www.KATSMPO.org)

## Asset Management Inventory Slated for 2006

The collection of surface condition ratings for federal-aid eligible streets in Kalamazoo County will again occur during 2006. The data collection effort has occurred annually since 2003 and is completed statewide. Data is transmitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide an overview of the surface condition of federally funded roadways in the state. Below is a three-year summary for Kalamazoo County:

Rating	Miles of Road 2005	Miles of Road 2004	Miles of Road 2003
Very Poor	1.647	0.682	0.247
Poor	12.805	13.158	0.100
Fair	89.757	67.124	42.552
Good	449.626	440.272	304.296
Very Good	160.413	185.736	315.412
Excellent	36.554	39.908	86.798
<b>Total*</b>	<b>750.802</b>	<b>746.88</b>	<b>749.405</b>

\* Differences in total are due to bridges not being inventoried, additions to the functional classification system in 2005, and changes in Framework information within Roadsoft.

A three-person team made up of representatives from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation, and KATS collect the data over a period of a week. More information on the program and the results of the 2005 survey by jurisdiction are available on the KATS website at [www.katsmpo.org](http://www.katsmpo.org).

### 2007 Safety Project Ready for Submission

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission will be submitting the intersection of Stadium Drive at Parkview Avenue as the 2007 Safety Project for the Kalamazoo metropolitan area. The intersection has been the site of several serious accidents and serves 25,000 vehicles per day. Stadium Drive is also used as an emergency route for I-94.

The proposed project would install a traffic signal, realign Parkview Avenue at Stadium Drive, and consolidate several driveways. The application will be for \$240,000 in safety funds, with an estimated project cost of \$310,573. An award on the application should be known by August, 2006.

### 2006 Federal Road Construction Projects

#### *City of Kalamazoo*

Continuation of the widening of Michigan Avenue from Drake Road to Howard Street

#### *City of Portage*

Lovers Lane widening from Kilgore Road to Milham Road

#### *Kalamazoo County Road Commission*

Reconstruct 6<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main to H Avenue

Upgrade 26<sup>th</sup> Street from East Main to H Avenue to all-season road standards

#### *Michigan Department of Transportation*

Replace Lovers Lane bridge over I-94

Preliminary work on widening of I-94 from US-131 to Oakland Drive

## Committee Members for 2006

### *Policy Committee*

Gary Cramer - Kalamazoo Township (Chair)  
Terry Urban - City of Portage (Vice-Chair)  
David Anderson - City of Kalamazoo  
Jeff Bither - Ross Township  
Dean Blanchard - Richland Township  
Deb Buchholtz-Hiemstra - Kalamazoo County  
Ron Commissaris - Texas Township  
Daniel DeGraw - City of Parchment  
Carol Fricke - Transit Authority Board  
Mark Geib - MDOT Transportation Service Center  
Tim Hudson - Comstock Township  
Lee Philport - Brady Township  
Dan Pryson - Village of Vicksburg  
Susan Richardson - MDOT Lansing Office  
Jeff Sorensen - Cooper Township  
Don Ulsh - Schoolcraft Township  
John Van Dyke - Oshtemo Township  
Loren Warfield - Village of Schoolcraft  
George Weston - City of Galesburg  
Ron White - Pavilion Township  
Reed Youngs - Kalamazoo County Road Commission

### *Technical Committee*

Muhammad Arif - City of Portage (Chair)  
Frank Szopo - City of Kalamazoo (Vice-Chair)  
Shahid Abbas - City of Kalamazoo  
Chris Barnes - City of Portage  
John Byrnes - Kalamazoo County Road Commission  
Ron Copping - Kalamazoo County Road Commission  
Ron Fleckenstein - City of Parchment  
Chris Forth - City of Portage  
Rick Fowler - MDOT Lansing  
Darrell Harden - MDOT Southwest Region  
Keith Hernandez - City of Kalamazoo  
Ron Reid - Kalamazoo County Road Commission  
Bill Schomisch - Kalamazoo Metro Transit  
Richard Skalski - City of Kalamazoo  
Jodi Stefforia - Oshtemo Township  
Dallas Williams - City of Portage  
Laura Wise - MDOT Transportation Service Center

The KATS Policy Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month starting at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are held at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, 3801 East Kilgore Road. The Technical Committee meetings are held the second Thursday of the month starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on-line at the KATS website: [www.katsmpo.org](http://www.katsmpo.org).

## KATS Planning Funds Assisting Kalamazoo Metro Transit

Due to the construction of the Kalamazoo Transportation Center on Kalamazoo Avenue between Rose Street and Burdick Street, Kalamazoo Metro Transit will be moving the on-street staging area four blocks from the current loading and unloading location to the new center in the fall, 2006. Because of this move, the downtown bus routes will need to be rerouted to accommodate the new location. KATS is assisting in funding a transit planning study focusing on the needed changes to the fixed route system to be ready when the center opens. The study is expected to be completed by May 2006 and allow for enough time for implementation of the new bus routing. As a part of the study, Metro Transit will also be examining changes to the fixed route system should Michigan Avenue and Kalamazoo Avenue change from one-way streets to two-way.

## Upcoming Newsletters

KATS will be working on the development of a periodic newsletter during the year, with topics relating to transportation issues being addressed, along with the progress of studies and other activities of the local transportation agencies. If there are topics you would like to see addressed in this newsletter, please contact Jon Start or Kathy Carrier at (269) 343-0766 or [info@katsmpo.org](mailto:info@katsmpo.org)

We are also interested in sharing this newsletter with groups and organizations that have an interest in transportation issues occurring in Kalamazoo County. Contact KATS with address and phone information.

### Upcoming Newsletter Topics:

2030 Transportation Plan

2008 - 2010 Transportation Improvement Program

*Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
3801 East Kilgore Road  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001*

Phone: (269) 343-0766

Fax: (269) 381-1760

E-Mail: [info@katsmpo.org](mailto:info@katsmpo.org)

Web Site: [www.katsmpo.org](http://www.katsmpo.org)

### Staff Members:

Jonathan Start - Executive Director

Kathy Carrier - Office Administrator

Nicole Dalman - Part-Time Secretary

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