



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2010**

The April meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Swiat, Jr. (Chair), Dave Anderson, Don Banner, Dennis Berkebile, Jeff Bither, Allan Bussema, Dan DeVries, Dave Healy, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Tim Hudson, Lee Philport, Pete Pfeiffer, Ron Reid, Susan Richardson, Karen Siegwart, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Don Ulsh, and Jack Urban.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Fricke, Jack Mekemson, Claudette Reid, Greg Rosine, and Bob Vlietstra.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, John Byrnes, Dale Hein, Frank Szopo, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2010 MEETING

MOTION by Sorensen, SUPPORT by Bither, *“to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2010 meeting.”* Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the April 8th Technical Committee meeting. The committee supported the 2012 Safety Project applications by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and the City of Portage and approved an amendment request from MDOT. Status reports were given on local streets, planning, and public transportation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION by Sorensen, SUPPORT by Bither *“to accept the agenda as presented.”* Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Transportation requested an addition to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program:

Fiscal Year	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Federal Cost (\$1000s)	Federal Fund Source	State Cost (\$1000s)	State Fund Source	Local Cost (\$1000s)	Local Fund Source	Total Cost (\$1000s)
2010	MDOT	I-94	Van Buren/ Kalamazoo County line to Kalamazoo/ Calhoun County Line	246,000	ST	54,000	M			300,000

The amendment would allow MDOT to scope future projects along the I-94 corridor. The Technical Committee and KATS staff support this request.

MOTION by Berkebile, SUPPORT by Reid “to approve the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment.” Motion approved.

Jon Start informed the committee that a public hearing was necessary for the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program at the May 26th Policy Committee meeting. The committee will take action on the federal aid projects. Final approval of the TIP will take place at the June 30th meeting.

MOTION by Sorensen, SUPPORT by Reid, “to set a public hearing on the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program for May 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.” Motion approved.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is working with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations to adopt an amendment schedule statewide for the Transportation Improvement Program. Currently, the MPOs are able to amend as necessary. MDOT and the MPOs are looking at a six times a year schedule. There is some worry by MDOT departments that flexibility will be lost by holding to a schedule but several of the agencies throughout the state already have an amendment schedule in place and the schedule functions well. Should urgent amendments be needed, such as another stimulus package, MDOT will allow special amendments. The Technical Committee and KATS staff prefer six amendments if a change is necessary. A finalized schedule will be brought back to the Policy Committee at a later date.

The Jobs for Main Street package has not moved forward in Congress. The projects that are a part of the list will be brought before the public at the public hearing on May 26 in order to have the public participation process completed should additional federal funds be made available soon.

LOCAL SAFETY PROJECTS

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission and the City of Portage applied for Local Safety funds from MDOT. The KCRC project was Douglas Avenue at G Avenue. The project would include correcting sight distance problems and grading. The City of Portage project is at the intersection of Osterhout and Oakland Drive. The project would include the installation of a flasher signal to alert motorists of the intersection.

Both applications were due April 16th to MDOT. Letters of support will be forwarded to MDOT. If funded, they will be amended into the FY 2012 TIP.

John Byrnes from the Road Commission noted that the project application process for these funds has gotten more difficult over the years, with MDOT looking for serious injuries for project proposals to receive funds. The Road Commission project was applying for \$134,000 in federal funds, while the City of Portage project is requesting \$24,500. Don Ulsh questioned the need for a flashing signal at the intersection of Oakland Drive and noted his concern over the cost of the improvements.

Libby Heiny-Cogswell asked about possible funding for 9th Street at N Avenue. The Road Commission is reviewing that intersection for possible improvements.

MOTION by Heiny-Cogswell, SUPPORT by Healy, ***“to approve the two Local Safety fund applications submitted by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and the City of Portage.*** Motion approved. One opposed.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Dale Hein reported that the millage rate for 2010 was approved by the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA). The Comprehensive Operations Analysis was recently finalized. Any changes to the system will need to go before the City Commission, the Transit Authority Board, and the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA).

KALAMAZOO RIVER VALLEY TRAILWAY EXTENSIONS

Jack Urban informed the committee that the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway is fundraising for the next phases of the trailway. Currently the section from Mosel Avenue to G Avenue is under construction. This will go through Markin Glenn Park and the Nature Center. The next section to be funded will be from Mayors Riverfront Park to Galesburg. Funds raised will be used to match the MDOT funds available through the Transportation Enhancement Program.

KATS FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Copies of the Second Quarter Balance Sheet, the Year to Date Comparison, and the March 2010 Check Registry were provided to the committee. Jon Start noted that accounting services would be higher than budgeted for FY 2010 due to not knowing that KATS would be contracting for this service when creating the budget. Overall the budget is in line for FY 2010.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Currently staff is waiting for projections from the MDOT modeling department. Staff is still projecting a September, 2010 approval date.

GOALS AND VISION SUBCOMMITTEE

A subcommittee will be meeting to look at the goals and vision of KATS. This is in anticipation of KATS becoming a Transportation Management Area (TMA) after the census data is made available. Tom Swiat noted that the subcommittee will be moving fast to outline the strengths and weaknesses of KATS.

MOTION by Urban, SUPPORTED by Sorensen, *“to create a subcommittee to look at the goals and vision of KATS with the committee reporting back at the June, 2010 meeting.”* Motion approved.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Pete Pfeiffer noted that a number of closures have started with the I-94 at Westnedge Avenue project. MDOT is providing updates as necessary through email and the local media.

The viaduct at M-43 and Michigan Avenue downtown will be closed in June for approximately one month. A detour will be posted during that time.

The bridge over Mill Race in Augusta is being replaced. One lane will be maintained during the project.

Jeff Sorensen informed the committee that the Michigan Township Association Golf Outing is June 11.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Swiat adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.