



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2008**

The August 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 from the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Berkebile (Chair), David Anderson, Jeff Bither, Alan Bussema, Ron Commissaris, Carol Fricke, Rob Heasley, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Susan Richardson, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Linda Teeter, Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, Terry Urban, John VanDyke, Loren Warfield, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Allan, Gary Cramer, Tim Hudson, Dan Pryson, and Phyllis Simmons.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Dave Healy, Dale Hein, Joanna Johnson, Jack Mekemson, Frank Szopo, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2008 MEETING

Don Ulsh noted that he was listed in attendance but was not present at the July 30th meeting.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “***to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2008 Policy Committee meeting as corrected.***” Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Szopo reported on the August 14, 2008 Technical Committee meeting. The committee took action to approve several amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Staff also spoke with the committee about turning in time sheets that support the KATS program for FY 2008. More discussion on the topic would be presented to the Policy Committee later in the agenda.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

FY 2008 - 2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Several amendments to the FY 2009 and 2010 program years of the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP were presented to the Policy Committee for action. They included:

| Fiscal Year | Route | Location | Description | Funding |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 2009 | I-94 BL | 11th Street to Seneca Lane (JN 102995) | Reconstruction, drainage work, permanent signing, and non-motorized pathway. | Early Preliminary Engineering Federal: \$ 122,775 (NH) State: \$ 27,225 Preliminary Engineering Federal: \$ 290,417 (NH) State: \$ 64,399 Right of Way Federal: \$ 16,370 (NH) State: \$ 3,630 |
| 2009 | I-94 | West county line east to 12th Street (JN 102279) | Construct Median Cable Barrier | Federal: \$ 1,032,289 (STH) State: \$ 114,698 |
| 2010 | South 24 th Street | At Portage Creek (JN 102572) | Bridge Rehabilitation | Federal: \$ 1,010,455 (BHT) State: \$ 189,458 Local: \$ 63,153 |
| 2010 | US-131 | I-94 BL (Stadium Drive) over US-131 | Remove and replace bridge. | Preliminary Engineering Federal: \$ 29,671 (NH) State: \$ 5,757 Local: \$ 823 Substructure Federal: \$ 466,739 (NH) State: \$ 90,561 Local: \$ 12,937 |

The construction of the Stadium Drive bridge over US-131 is schedule for FY 2013.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the above listed FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program amendments as presented.”*** Motion approved.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION BOARD ACTION REPORT

Jon Start reported that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission took action recently to:

- Approve the lease between the Road Commission and KATS
- Forgive the \$15,000 loan to KATS. This loan was taken out in 1982.
- Pay for 25% of the KATS audit costs. The cost is not eligible for reimbursement for the KATS audit in FY 2007. Reimbursement will be reviewed annually.

The Policy Committee thanked the Road Commission for taking action on these items.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

A copy of the recent Project Prioritization Process factors was emailed to the committee for their review and comment. Jon Start noted that at the last meeting, the subcommittee reviewed three road construction projects to determine what their ranking would be under the prioritization process scoring system. The projects (Crosstown, Westnedge, and 9th Street) came out with scoring that the subcommittee felt was appropriate.

Jon Start commented that the subcommittee is still discussing the truck route restrictions and how best to handle funding for those roads that restrict truck movements. This is something the Policy Committee will likely need to take action on and set policy for in order to alleviate future issues with federal funding for truck restricted roadways. John Van Dyke noted that KATS needs to watch the ramifications of restricting federal road funding on restricted roadways.

Any comments or questions regarding the ranking system should be directed to Jon Start or Steve Stepek.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

All of the local attribute data for the local road agencies has been received. The information will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Transportation and put in the transportation model over the next few months.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Linda Teeter gave an update on the millage request by the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA). She noted that a millage request for 0.63 mils in 2008, up to 0.77 mils in 2009, up to 0.85 mils in 2010, and up to 0.86 mils in 2011; will be placed on the November, 2008 ballot. The millage would replace the current millages in both the City of Kalamazoo and the entire county. The rate, if approved, has the ability to be adjusted after 2008 should the KCTA deem that they don't need the entire amount authorized. In 2007, the KCTA determined that they did not need to levy the entire 0.45 mils that they could have. If the millage doesn't pass, there is a fund balance available to operate for some months. A millage committee has been formed with Dan McGlenn and Claudette Reid being the primary contacts. Three handouts were distributed to the committee, outlining the budget for the KCTA, the background for the request, and the ballot language.

Linda Teeter also noted that the KCTA will be developing a fare policy in order to properly plan for future increases. The KCTA will also be looking at route restructuring. Currently Metro Transit pays an administration fee to the City of Kalamazoo for support services such as personnel, purchasing, attorney services, etc. The authority is working to eliminate the need for some of these services by bringing them in-house and hiring staff as needed. Contact Dale Hein if there are any questions about the new millage or the transition from Metro Transit to the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTED SERVICES STATUS

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study receives time sheets from the local road and transit agencies to match the study's program during the fiscal year. At the August 14th Technical Committee meeting, staff informed the local agencies that they are currently short in meeting their obligation in turning in time sheets to KATS. Without the time sheets, staff is unable to document the local match to the federal funds received by the study. The local agencies are doing eligible work but have not turned in time for all of this work. The local agencies are working to submit time sheets to KATS.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

It was requested that a review of the attendance for the Policy Committee be placed on the September agenda.

Pete Pfeiffer provided a report on several MDOT projects. The I-94 project is expected to be substantially complete in November. MDOT is working to develop a celebration for the project.

The Parkview Avenue bridge should be open by mid-September after several delays.

The US-131 project from Lyon Street to U Avenue is underway and will be completed by October. The railroad is working on the crossing and should be completed by Labor Day.

Joanna Johnson reported on the Road Commission projects. 9th Street from Stadium Drive to KL Avenue is now open to traffic, as is the 35th Street bridge over the Kalamazoo River in Galesburg. The Ravine Road at Squires Drive project will be starting after Labor Day. The Road Commission also moved forward their U Avenue project in Prairie Ronde Township. Work on the railroad crossing on Sprinkle Road was completed this morning. The Road Commission will be milling and resurfacing Sprinkle Road from Kilgore Road to I-94 starting in late September.

Joanna Johnson mentioned that the Road Commission is cutting areas of their budget due to high fuel costs and bid prices. They will also be reviewing their snow removal policy for the 2008-2009 winter season.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.