



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 29, 2007**

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. Meeting attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

Tim Hudson (Chair), David Anderson, Richard Atwell, Dennis Berkebile, Jeff Bither, Bill Brumleve, Ron Commissaris, Gary Cramer, Carol Fricke, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Susan Richardson, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Don Ulsh, Terry Urban, John Van Dyke, Loren Warfield, and Ron White.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Alan Bussema, Dan DeGraw, Dan Pryson, Jack Urban, and George Weston.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Glen Avis, Lew Bashaw, John Byrnes, Dale Hein, Michele McGowen, Lara Meeuwse, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

***MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2007 MEETING***

Motion by the Policy Committee, *“to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2007 Policy Committee meeting as mailed.”* Motion approved.

***TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT***

There was no meeting for the KATS Technical Committee in August. The next scheduled meeting will be held September 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

The Policy Committee scheduled a public hearing on the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to take place during the meeting. Draft copies of the document were made available to the committee and were also distributed for public review.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to open the public hearing for the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.*” Motion approved.

Jon Start presented an overview of the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Highlights of the program include:

- # Both federally funded as well as locally funded projects are included in the document.
- # 167 projects are identified over the four-year period, including 42 public transportation capital and operations projects.
- # A estimated \$94,093,680 in funding is scheduled for road improvements, while \$64,540,000 is planned for public transportation operations and capital expenditures.
- # \$37,208,000 in local funds are planned for the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.
- # Public participation activities included the website and draft copies to the area municipalities and libraries. Brochures were also mailed to property owners. Newsletters and the Citizens Advisory Committee were also means to notify the public.
- # Consultation took place with various Federal, state, and local agencies. A draft list of the projects identified in the TIP were distributed to over 88 agencies.
- # KATS has identified areas that will need to be reviewed prior to construction to identify and minimize the impact the road projects will have on environmental factors in the county, including wetlands, wells, schools, and parks.
- # The FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program does not disproportionately impact minority or low income areas in the county.
- # MDOT has tested the projects for air quality conformity, and Kalamazoo County passed the test as well as Calhoun and Van Buren counties.
- # Once approved, the TIP will be sent to the Michigan Department of Transportation who will forward it to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

No public comments were made on the draft FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program at the meeting.

The Policy Committee asked why there was a substantial difference in funding identified in FY 2008 compared to future years. This was due in part to MDOT’s policy that General Program Accounts not be identified for future years. Once the project are identified, the TIP will be amended. Projects that are in the Local Jobs Today program are also included in the FY 2008 program year.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to close the public hearing on the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.*” Motion approved.

The Transportation Improvement Program will be brought back to the Policy Committee at their September 19 meeting for adoption. It was noted that the regular scheduled meeting of September 26 will not be available for the township officials so September 19 was selected as the new meeting date.

### ***FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE***

Tim Hudson presented the recommendations by the Finance and Personnel Committee. Members serving on this committee included Ron Commissaris, Tim Hudson, and Tom Swiat, Jr. The committee recommended the following:

Effective October 1, 2006:	3.1% Cost of Living Adjustment for Jon Start, Kathy Schultz, and Nicole Dalman
Effective January 1, 2007:	1% Merit increase for Jon Start, Kathy Schultz, and Nicole Dalman
Effective October 1, 2007:	2.6% Cost of Living Adjustment for Jon Start, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Nicole Dalman
Effective October 1, 2007:	1% Merit increase for Jon Start, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Nicole Dalman

Motion by the Policy Committee, *“to adopt the recommended increases by the Finance and Personnel Committee for Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study staff.”* Motion approved.

### ***2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN***

The 2030 Transportation Plan will be coming to the Policy Committee at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for adoption. Staff is currently working on edits to the draft document.

### ***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE***

Carol Fricke reported that there was a work stoppage for Pride Care on August 1. Nineteen trips were made that day and she reported that Metro Transit staff has been assisting in keeping service for Care-A-Van going. Pride Care released all but 4 drivers from employment and will be hiring and training new individuals. Metro Transit and Pride Care have been able to sustain the level of service needed to run the service. A meeting of the Local Advisory Committee was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Atwell noted that 100% of the requested rides are being met despite the walk-off.

Carol noted that Metro Transit service is up 15.5% from last year. Some minor service changes to the line haul system will take place after Labor Day.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Steve Stepek reported that rural townships are able to view the aerial photos for their townships on the Michigan Center for Geographic Information website. The website address is [www.michigan.gov/cgi](http://www.michigan.gov/cgi).

Dennis Berkebile noted that the Board of County Road Commissioners has narrowed down the search for the new Managing Director to one individual. They are awaiting a response to the offer made to this individual. The Kalamazoo County Board is currently accepting applications for new county road commissioners. This is due to the County Board increasing the Road Commission's board size to five members from the current three members.

***ADJOURNMENT***

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