



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

The February 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, Gary Cramer, Rob Heasley, Tim Hudson, Linda Kerr, Pete Pfeiffer, Susan Richardson, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, Terry Urban, John VanDyke, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Allan, Carol Fricke, Lee Philport, Dan Pryson, Phyllis Simmons, Linda Teeter, and Loren Warfield.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mohammad Arif, Dale Hein, Gretchen Lemmer, Michele McGowen, Claudette Reid, Bill Schomish, Nicole Dalman, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2008 MEETING

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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the February 14th Technical Committee meeting. There were no action items for the meeting, however the cash match (\$10,831) was discussed as well as upcoming action items for the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority grant recipient status. An update was given on the FY 2009 Safety Projects which the committee had recommended to go to the Policy Committee for approval.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

FY 2007 AUDIT

During the auditor report to the Policy Committee in January, the auditor questioned two accounts receivable that have been on the books for years. One of these receivables was written off by the Policy Committee at their January meeting. The Policy Committee directed staff to develop a plan to see if the \$10,831 for the US-131/US-131BR Economic Benefit Study could be recovered.

Staff contacted seven member agencies who had been and are still interested in improvements to this interchange and who would most directly benefit with the project to see if they were willing to share equally in covering the \$10,831. During discussion, three members were willing to contribute, two were not, and two had yet to decide. The major reasons raised not to participate in recovering this cost was the fact that there had been an original intent to pay for the cash match from the KATS fund balance and that there was no prior agreement for member agencies to participate in the cash match.

Motion by the Policy Committee to ***“write off the receivable of \$10,831.”*** The motion was approved by a show of hands 13 yes to 9 no including proportional voting.

The Policy Committee then moved to ***“approve the FY 2007 KATS audit report as revised with the elimination of the two questioned amounts receivable.”*** Motion approved.

FY 2009 SAFETY PROJECTS

Jon Start told the Policy Committee that the Technical Committee recommends the approval of the safety projects as listed. Sprinkle Road at G Avenue, left turn phasing, and advanced warning signs, as well as Milham Road at Angling Road, new traffic signal installation.

Muhammad Arif from the City of Portage was in attendance to clarify the details of the Milham at Angling signal project. He explained how the city comes up with warrant analysis for safety projects and also how this signal would benefit the community.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the FY 2009 safety projects.”*** Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN STATUS

Jon Start stated the 2030 Transportation Plan had been approved and was in compliance with the SAFETEA-LU requirements as well as air quality requirements.

FY 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jon Start reported that the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program, with the amendments passed by the Policy Committee at the January meeting, was approved.

US-131/US-131BR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Jon Start reported that if an environmental assessment of interchange improvements to the US-131/US-131BR were to be completed, local cash match will be required. The amount of cash match necessary could be as high as \$350,000. An environmental assessment will be required before the

project could go forward. There is a possibility that if there is a long time between the completion of the study and the construction of the project and the area changes significantly with development that the study would have to be repeated. The Policy Committee directed staff to prepare a business plan for discussion on how to proceed.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Dale Hein announced that Richard Atwell has stepped down from the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority (KCTA) Board and has been replaced by Reed Youngs. He also noted that the KCTA approved assuming assignment of the Pride Care contract from the City of Kalamazoo. Once the contract assignment is completed, the KCTA intends to increase Care-A-Van service to match the hours and days Metro Transit operates.

Bill Schomish informed the committee that a millage committee has been formed to develop the details of a millage for later this year.

Jack Urban noted that the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority would need approval of grant funds from KATS to progress forward.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Berkebile invited everyone to an open house at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission tonight, February 27, 2008, to introduce the new Managing Director Joanna Johnson and two new commission members. He also mentioned that the tentative date for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to start enforcing frost laws would be March 4th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.