



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2007**

The January meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at Comstock Township Hall. Meeting attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

Tim Hudson (Chair), David Anderson, Richard Atwell, Don Banner, Dennis Berkebile, Jeff Bither, Ron Commissaris, Carol Fricke, Pat Gibbons, Dan Pryson, Claudette Reid, Susan Richardson, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, John Van Dyke, and Ron White.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Dean Blanchard, Gary Cramer, Lee Philport, Loren Warfield, and George Weston.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Lew Bashaw, Mike Boersma, Lotta Jarnefelt, Linda MacDonald, Michele McGowen, Ron Reid, Frank Szopo, Lewis Whalen, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2006 MEETING***

Motion by the Policy Committee to, “*approve the minutes of the December 20, 2006 Policy Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

***TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT***

Frank Szopo reported on the January 11<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. He announced that he is the new chairperson for the Technical Committee for 2007 and 2008. He reported that two members of the Technical Committee were moved to non-voting member status due to their lack of attendance. Both representatives are from the city of Portage. In order for them to be voting members again, they must attend the next three Technical Committee meetings. The Technical Committee heard status reports on the FY 2007 and 2008 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality projects and the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. They approved the network alternative list as provided by KATS and noted that the Policy Committee would be taking action on the list.

***CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

Michael Boersma reported on the January 18<sup>th</sup> Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. They discussed the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan, the Non-Motorized Plan, and the development of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. The next meeting will be held February 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit, 530 North Rose Street.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

***FY 2006 AUDIT REPORT***

Fred Gardner with Gardner, Provenzano, Schauman, and Thomas P.C. presented the finding from the FY 2006 audit of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. Several key points from his presentation included:

- # He noted that there were no significant findings that were cause for concern.
- # The audit's management letter noted several items that need to be addressed by the Study, including the loan advances from the local agencies, totaling \$45,000, and other funds due to KATS. He noted that his staff spent time clearing up a year-to-date issue on the KATS financial spreadsheet and that an amount was misallocated to the Road Commission accounts. Both items were taken care of during the audit.
- # He expressed concern that KATS does not have a means of reimbursing the non-reimbursable costs back to the Study. An example is the audit costs. If the amount continues to not be reimbursed to the Study, the amount of the fund balance will be decreased each year. The fund balance at the end of FY 2006 was \$116,288.

Jon Start noted that staff is working with the cities of Portage and Kalamazoo to find out if the \$15,000 loan advance from each agency is shown on their records. The city of Portage has responded that they show no record of the funds. KATS has not gotten a response from the city of Kalamazoo to date. The Road Commission has the \$15,000 on their books. He also noted that staff is working closely with the Road Commission to be sure that funds are allocated to the appropriate agency.

The Policy Committee members recommended that KATS staff present a report in the next few months as to the progress on clearing up the audit issues as identified.

Motion by the Policy Committee, "***to accept the FY 2006 audit report for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study.***" Motion approved.

***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

A copy of the requested amendments was mailed to the voting members. They included:

Year Agency	Project	Limits; Length; Description; Functional Class	Total	Federal	Non-Federal	Source
2007-18 Road Commission	38 <sup>th</sup> Street	MN Avenue to Climax Drive (2.3 miles); Reconstruct to all-season; Rural Minor Collector; Job Number 82835				STP Rural/ TEDF-D LJT
		<i>Moved to FY 2010 Per Rural Task Force - July, 2006 Local Jobs Today Funding Reimbursed 2010 - January 31, 2007</i>	\$1,700,000	\$1,360,000	\$340,000	
2007-A10 MDOT	Congestion Mitigation Air Quality	M-43 at Drake Road Reconstruction of Intersection; Advance Construction; Job Number 87186				M
		<i>Added to TIP - December 20, 2006 Addition of Funding - January 31, 2007</i>	\$1,196,534 \$1,315,000	\$0	\$1,196,534 \$1,315,000	

The 38<sup>th</sup> Street project from MN Avenue to Climax Drive was initially discussed at the July, 2006 meeting when Local Jobs Today funding was approved for the project. At that time, there was a question whether the project was not approved for FY 2010 funds by the Rural Task Force. Since that date, the Rural Task Force has approved the project for FY 2010 funding and the Road Commission is moving forward to advance the project to FY 2007 using Local Jobs Today funding.

The M-43 at Drake Road amendment reflects additional funding added to the project.

Motion by the Policy Committee, *“to approve the 38<sup>th</sup> Street and M-43 at Drake Road amendments as presented.”* Motion approved.

A copy of the draft FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program was distributed to the voting members. KATS staff is working to have the TIP drafted by the end of April for May, 2007 approval. Staff will be contacting the local agencies to get address data for projects proposed in the TIP as part of the participation process. The list of projects was developed by the cities, the Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Metro Transit.

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

A copy of the network alternatives list identified as Network Alternative A-Modified was distributed to the committee. If the Policy Committee approves the list, it will be sent to MDOT for modeling for the 2030 Transportation Plan. Two I-94 projects were changed to illustrative project by the Technical Committee due to funding constraints. They included:

- # Project 271: I-94 from 35<sup>th</sup> Street to East County Line
- # Project 228: I-94 from West County Line to West of US-131

By making these two projects illustrative, the amount of capacity project funding allocated to the Plan is decreased, resulting in a document that emphasizes preservation of the system. MDOT, too, has said that at this time, no funding is identified for these two sections of I-94.

Several agencies have responded to staff's request for comments on the proposed projects under the Environmental Mitigation and Consultation process outlined in SAFETEA-LU. Staff will be summarizing the comments in the document in order to be SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Jon Start noted that staff has met with several planning commissions and the Kalamazoo Environmental Council to discuss the 2030 Transportation Plan and how comments can be made about the proposed projects. Staff is also finalizing the non-motorized map for the county that will also identify sidewalk deficiencies along the federal-aid system.

Staff will be working with Metro Transit to modify the transit revenue and operations projections in the document to go along with the recently passed millage and the combination of Metro Transit and Care-A-Van.

Motion by the Policy Committee, *"to accept the 2030 Transportation Plan Network Alternatives as presented and its submission to the Michigan Department of Transportation."* Motion approved.

#### ***KALAMAZOO COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT***

Carol Fricke reported that the budget for 2007 was recently adopted. Indian Trails and Greyhound will be coming back downtown to the Kalamazoo Transportation Center in February. This will allow Metro Transit to get back the \$1.9 million dollars that was lost when the two providers moved to the Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport. She also noted that Congress is discussing earmarks for FY 2007, which may result in no earmarked funding for the year. This would include \$1.5 million for office improvements. The Transit Authority Board is working with the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority on the transition to the new authority.

Richard Atwell reported that the two authorities will be meeting jointly at least once a month as the transition continues. The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is collecting input on two new bus routes in the city of Portage. They are also looking for a temporary project manager that will oversee the combination of the two authorities.

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Hudson adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.