



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2008**

The June 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

Jeff Bither (Vice Chair), David Anderson, Don Banner, Alan Bussema, Ron Commissaris, Carol Fricke, Michelle O'Neill, Lee Philport, Susan Richardson, Claudette Reid, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Linda Teeter, Don Ulsh, John VanDyke, Loren Warfield, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Allan, Dennis Berkebile, Gary Cramer, Tim Hudson, Dan Pryson, and Jack Urban.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Dale Hein, Joanna Johnson, Michele McGowen, Lara Meeuwse, Jack Mekemson, Frank Szopo, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 28, 2008 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2008 Policy Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Technical Committee Chair Frank Szopo reported on the June 12th meeting. The FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program amendments were approved as well as the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. KATS staff handed out maps to each of the agencies and asked that they provide data on the segments on the map for the 2035 Transportation Plan. Once the information is obtained, it will go to MDOT for modeling.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

FY 2008 - 2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jon spoke about the four amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. First, the City of Kalamazoo's enhancement project which will construct a bridge over the Portage Creek and a non-motorized path from Veterans Memorial Park that will connect to the Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway.

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission's projects are Rural Task Force projects and include taking \$480,000 that was freed up from the 43rd Street/Q Avenue/44th Street project and applying it to a loan taken in FY 2007 through the Local Jobs Today program. Another is in FY 2010 to show the change in funding of the additional \$480,000 in Transportation Economic Development funds for the 38th Street project.

The fourth amendment is to reconstruct the section of 12th Street from C Avenue to Baseline Road to all-season road standards.

Motion by the Policy Committee, "***to approve the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.***" Motion approved.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Jon reported that the Unified Planning Work Program was essentially the same as the document that the Policy Committee received in May. The only substantive change is the addition of a comprehensive Operational Analysis of Public Transportation estimated to cost \$180,000.

Motion by the Policy Committee, "***to approve the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program.***" Motion approved.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT

Linda Teeter addressed the committee on behalf of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. She spoke about plans and accomplishments for 2008 including hiring local firm Miller Johnson. There will be a millage proposal on the ballot for this year and they have been working out the details of budget, finances, and human resources. There are eight new Care-A-Van vehicles currently in service as well.

A time line for takeover of the Kalamazoo Metro Transit operations has been set for January 1, 2009. With the help of the certified public accountant firm, Plante and Moran, the 2009 budget and projected five year financial plan will be set.

For the rest of this year, they will be combining systems and building what will be the structure of the operation including new positions. They expect it to take more than a year for all the changes to be complete.

She also noted that there was a vacancy on the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The prioritization subcommittee met last Thursday and began putting weights on factors for all projects. Staff also has met with the Policy Committee members who are on the committee to bring them up to date. The Policy Committee members discussed adding continuity and coordination of projects to the factors considered.

The next Prioritization Subcommittee meeting will be Thursday July 10th after the adjournment of the Technical Committee meeting.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Jon updated the committee on progress made on segments to be included in the 2035 Transportation Plan model network and went over the map. KATS staff will be in contact with local agencies for more information needed.

DRAFT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH KALAMAZOO COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

A draft lease agreement was sent to the Policy Committee members for their review. A finalized lease agreement will be available at the July Policy Committee meeting for approval. Comments are welcome on the draft lease.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke reported that May ridership for Metro Transit was up 12.2%. The Federal Transit Administration reviews transit operators every three years. This year, Metro Transit was reviewed, and no deficiencies were noted for any of the 23 areas reviewed.

On July 1st, Care-A-Van will expand their hours to match Metro Transit fixed route hours and service will be available 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Susan Richardson from MDOT stayed after the meeting to explain the Rural Task Force to anyone that wanted to learn more about it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Jeff Bither adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.