



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2008**

The March 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, Carol Fricke, Rob Heasley, Tim Hudson, Linda Kerr, Pete Pfeiffer, Claudette Reid, Susan Richardson, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Linda Teeter, Don Ulsh, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Allan, Gary Cramer, Lee Philport, Dan Pryson, Jack Urban, John VanDyke, and Loren Warfield.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Dale Hein, Joanna Johnson, Lara Meeuwse, Michelle O'Neill, Bill Schomisch, Frank Szopo, Bobbi Welke, Kathy Schultz and Jon Start.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2008 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, "*to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2008 Policy Committee meeting.*" Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

No report since the Technical Committee did not meet in the month of March.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Bobbi Welke, Michigan Department of Transportation, distributed the construction map for MDOT for 2008. A number of the projects will include night lane closures to minimize the impact to the motoring public.

She reported that MDOT is working with the First Assembly Church on Oakland Drive regarding the sound wall originally proposed for the site. They will be hold a public comment meeting on April 11 to discuss the changes to the sound wall configuration.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN MICHIGAN PRESENTATION

Pete Pfeiffer from the Michigan Department of Transportation presented a summary of the Transportation Funding Task Force that was recently created to look at the surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finances in Michigan. Key points from his presentation were:

- The 9 citizen committee represents 8 economic sectors and were appointed by the Governor
- The Task Force was formed under Public Act 221 of 2007. It specifically states that representatives from MDOT, counties, county road commissions, villages, cities, or townships cannot serve on the committee.
- The Task Force will be examining alternatives to the fuel tax and review the strategies for maximizing the return on transportation investments. They are also looking at what other states are doing to help with funding the transportation system.
- Preliminary recommendations are due by October 31, 2008.
- A number of meetings of the task force are scheduled around the state. The website for the Transportation Task Force is www.michigan.gov/tf2.
- The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Committee was created under SAFETEA-LU and was charged with forecasting surface transportation system necessary to support our economy 50 years from now and to recommend a plan to get there.
- The National Committee has met 22 times over 22 months and have heard from 300 witnesses. The final report was supported by 9 of the 12 members.
- Some of the findings from the National report included:
 - Congestion takes a heavy economic toll
 - The population is expected to increase by 120 million in next 50 years
 - Freight volumes will be 70% higher in 2020
 - Need to invest \$225 to \$338 billion each year for next 50 years
- The National committee also called for government reforms, including the number of federal programs from 108 to 10 and evaluating the project delivery process.

FY 2007 AUDIT REPORT DISTRIBUTION

A copy of the final FY 2007 Financial Audit for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study was distributed to the committee. Jon Start reported that he and Kathy Schultz met with the auditor to discuss the findings in the report and will be evaluating a change in the pre-audit materials needed. Staff is currently looking to complete the pre-audit materials instead of hiring an outside firm to take care of this step. The process will be reviewed after the FY 2008 audit.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Staff will be meeting the Michigan Department of Transportation on Friday to discuss the development of the 2035 Transportation Plan. The document will need to be completed by October 1, 2010. Staff will be working with the local agencies to make improvements to the FY 2030 Transportation Plan.

FY 2009 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

KATS staff will be meeting with MDOT to discuss the FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UWP). The UWP outlines the planning activities KATS will work on, including the local staffs from various agencies, for the fiscal year. The document will be adopted by the Policy Committee at the June, 2008 meeting.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The first meeting was held with the local agencies to discuss the review and development of the project prioritization process. They are currently looking at the process used in Kentucky/Oklahoma/Tennessee. Items such as how enhancement projects are chosen as well how use restrictions are figured into the selection process will be examined.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke reported that the Transit Authority Board will be meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Friday at Metro Transit.

Bill Schomisch informed the committee that Metro Transit has seen an increase in ridership on the majority of the routes for the month of February. Compared to last year, it is a 22% increase. He noted that they are paying 30% more for diesel fuel and it is impacting the budget. Several new buses have arrived and 7 current buses in the fleet will be removed.

Dale Hein reported that the transition team is working on getting the process in place for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority to take ownership of public transportation as of January 1, 2009.

Linda Teeter, current chairperson of the KCTA, noted that the KCTA has adopted a new organization chart and that Bill Schomisch will be presenting his vision for public transportation on April 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Administration Building. There will also be a millage request on the November ballot.

STAFF LEVEL EVALUATION

Jon Start informed the committee that staff is reviewing the idea of bringing Nicole Dalman onto staff as a full-time employee. She is currently part-time working approximately 20 hours a week. Jon noted that he wanted to be sure that work effort and funding could sustain 4 full-time staff members before making a commitment. The recommendation will be coming back to the Policy Committee in the upcoming months.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.