



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 9, 2009**

A special March meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission upstairs board room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Berkebile (Chair), Jeff Bither, Deb Everett, Carol Fricke, Karen Hayward, Dave Healy, Rob Heasley, Chad Meints, Jack Mekemson, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Claudette Reid, Ron Reid, Susan Richardson, Greg Rosine, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, and Tom Swiat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Anderson, Allan Bussema, Don Ulsh, Bob Vlietstra, and Loren Warfield.

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Barnes, John Byrnes, Darrell Harden, Joanna Johnson, Fred Nagler, Jodi Stefforia, Bobbi Welke, Dallas Williams, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO THE 2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to open the public hearing on the 2030 Transportation Plan.*”

Motion approved.

Jon Start explained the purpose of the public hearing on the 2030 Transportation Plan. The addition of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds to the KATS program has allowed MDOT to move up the construction of the I-94 project from east of Oakland Drive to east of Lovers Lane. The project was previously in the 2030 Transportation Plan with a build date of 2018. With the new funding, the project will be completed by 2011. The amendment would also change the description to the City of Parchment’s River Reach Road project. It is currently listed in the plan as Commerce Road / G Avenue.

Mr. Start also commented that during the review of the proposed amendment, it was noted that after KATS finalized the 2030 Transportation Plan, legislation was passed to have transportation plans reflect future year costs instead of constant dollars. This change in legislation meant that with the proposed amendment, costs currently outlined in the 2030 Transportation Plan would have to reflect Year of Expenditure cost figures.

A table outlining the cost changes was provided to the Policy Committee, along with the other necessary amendments to the 2030 Transportation Plan.

KATS noticed the public hearing and has not received any public comment regarding the proposed amendment to the 2030 Transportation Plan.

Darrell Harden noted that MDOT has read the 2030 Transportation Plan and provided KATS with necessary changes to the document. He also noted that the money for the I-94 project is coming from the allocation to the State of Michigan and is not part of the discretionary funds identified in the ARRA legislation.

Several corrections and comments were made on the proposed amendment handout:

- A request was made to show the strike out for the River Reach project description to highlight the former description in the 2030 Transportation Plan. Mr. Start noted that because a project is in the transportation plan does not mean that it will receive federal dollars.
- A change in the amount shown on page 16 was needed.
- Correct distance to .34 miles on Lovers Lane to Sprinkle Road description on Page 20 of handout.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “***to close the public hearing on the 2030 Transportation Plan.***”
Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

Motion by the Policy Committee, “***to amend the 2030 Transportation Plan as discussed with corrections as noted.***” Motion approved.

Jon Start noted that the I-94 project was tested for air quality and that the emissions projected were within the budget established. The change in build date still shows Kalamazoo County to be in conformity with air quality standards.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “***to find the 2030 Transportation Plan Amendment to be within air quality conformity standards.***” Motion approved.

Jon Start also noted that with the new tables reflecting the new Year of Expenditure cost figures, the 2030 Transportation Plan is fiscally constrained.

Motion by the Policy Committee, “***to find the 2030 Transportation Plan Amendment to be fiscally constrained.***” Motion approved.

Mr. Start informed the committee that the 2030 Transportation Plan also meets the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to find the 2030 Transportation Plan to be in accordance with the SAFETEA-LU legislation.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A handout of the I-94 project inclusion into the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program was provided to the Policy Committee. The construction on the project will start in 2009.

A correction was noted that the air quality test category needs to be Not Exempt (NE), not Exempt (E) as shown on the handout.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to amend the 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the I-94 project from east of Oakland Drive to east of Lovers Lane with the correction as noted.”*** Motion approved.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to find the amendment to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to be part of the conforming transportation plan.”*** Motion approved.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Bobbie Welke reported that the I-94 project will be part of a federal audit review coming to Michigan soon. The federal government will be reviewing the project as it is being funded and built.

Dennis Berkebile reported that there are discussions with Oshtemo Township and Kalamazoo Township regarding the recent truck restriction action on 10th Street. The townships will be having discussions for 60 days as will the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. A subcommittee meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss the next steps in the 60 day review period.

Darrell Harden expressed his thanks to the KATS staff and the Policy Committee for holding a special public hearing on the plan amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.