



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2008**

The May 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, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Jeff Sorensen, Susan Richardson, Linda Teeter, Don Ulsh, John VanDyke, Loren Warfield, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Allan, Ron Commissaris, Gary Cramer, Dan Pryson, Phyllis Simmons, Tom Swiat, Jr., Jack Urban, and Terry Urban.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Dale Hein, Tom Hohm, Joanna Johnson, Lara Meeuwse, Jack Mekemson, Bill Schomisch, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2008 MEETING

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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the May 8th Technical Committee meeting. The committee took action to move \$400,000 from the FY 2011 Sprinkle Road project in the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to the FY 2011 9th Street project. This was due to duplicated projects in fiscal years 2008 and 2011 for Sprinkle Road. The committee also discussed the network map for the 2035 Transportation Plan and the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. They also received an update on the Project Prioritization Subcommittee.

The Technical Committee also had a discussion regarding the timing of the amendment to the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP. Staff informed the committee that KATS can either go to a quarterly amendment schedule or remain flexible to changes that occur when projects come under bid or have changes. If there is funding available, it has been past practice to find projects to be built with the remaining funds.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None

FY 2008 - 2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jon Start explained that during the final transmittal of the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program amendments that were approved in April, 2008, staff noticed that the South Sprinkle Road project from Kilgore Road to I-94 was identical to the FY 2011 project. Both projects were designated for federal funds. The Technical Committee discussed the project in 2011 and recommended that the Policy Committee support moving the \$400,000 in 2011 from the South Sprinkle Road project to the 9th Street project from KL Avenue to West Main Street.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to amend the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to move \$400,000 from the FY 2011 South Sprinkle Road project to FY 2011 9th Street project and remove the South Sprinkle Road project from FY 2011.”*** Motion approved.

MASTER AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

A copy of the Master Agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation was provided to the Policy Committee for their review. The agreement is signed every 3 years and provides KATS the funding needed to operate the Study. In the agreement, the only new addition is the requirement of electronic transfer of funds from MDOT to KATS. Staff will be working with the Road Commission to establish this process.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Master Agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation.”*** Motion approved.

LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FUNDING RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission is applying for Local Bridge Program funding for the following bridges:

- 8th Street Bridge over the Amtrak Railroad
- TS Avenue Bridge over the Portage River
- River Street Bridge over the Kalamazoo River
- S Avenue Bridge over the Portage River
- 5th Street Bridge over Sand Creek

The 5th Street bridge is currently closed due to its condition. The Road Commission will be submitting a priority listing of the above projects to the Michigan Department of Transportation. A decision on what projects will be funded will be known by the end of 2008.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to execute the resolutions of support for the five Kalamazoo County Road Commission Local Bridge Program applications.”*** Motion approved.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

KATS staff has been working with various agencies on the development of a project prioritization process for the selection of federal funded projects for the Transportation Improvement Program and Transportation Plan. A draft list of project prioritization categories was provided to the Policy Committee for their review. The subcommittee is examining the Indiana/Ohio/Kentucky plan that was developed and used for their project selection process. It was noted that public transportation factors are part of the process and the experience of the Indiana/Ohio/Kentucky MPO has been that public transportation project rank high.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A copy of the draft network map was provided to the Policy Committee for their review. The network map shows road segments that could be a part of the network but were not during the development of the 2030 Transportation Plan. Reasons for putting a road on the network include the roads connection to other roads, traffic volumes, and purpose the road serves. Jon Start asked the Policy Committee members to review the map and make any suggestions to KATS staff. He also asked them to consider the roads for the network that may be expanded in the 2035 Transportation Plan.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

A draft copy of the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) was provided to the Policy Committee for their review. The UWP outlines the FY 2009 planning program for KATS and the proposed budget. Significant time will be spent on the development of the 2030 Transportation Plan and the FY 2010 - 2013 Transportation Improvement Program. Staff is currently talking with the local staffs about their share of time being contributed to the KATS program. Local agencies provide in-kind time to the Study in order to provide match to the KATS staff activities.

Any changes to the UWP prior to the adoption at the June 25th meeting will be forwarded in the June meeting packet.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke reported that diesel fuel cost is up significantly for Metro Transit. Ridership is up 20%, and for Metro Van, ridership is up 25%.

Linda Teeter noted that the resolutions recognizing the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) have been signed. The authority is working to get all the necessary documentation completed by January 1, 2009. They have met with Senators Levin and Stebenow's offices, as well as the Governor's office, to advise them of the time line for becoming an authority for Kalamazoo County. They are also working on a transition time line. The next meeting of the KCTA is Monday, June 2. They will be discussing the expansion of Care-A-Van services to 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and the inclusion of Saturday service.

Bill Schomisch reported that the City of Kalamazoo is working to develop a loitering ordinance for the Kalamazoo Transportation Center due to the number of complaints and incidents occurring at the center. He is working with various groups, as well as city leaders, to develop a solution.

Lee Philport requested that KATS staff develop a letter to send to the City of Kalamazoo supporting their efforts to recognize the Kalamazoo Transportation Center as a transportation center for bus, train, and other modes of transportation.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Pete Pfeiffer reported that the weight restrictions for the Sprinkle Road bridge over I-94 have been lifted.

Construction on Parkview, I-94, and Stadium Drive is continuing through the summer months. He also noted that rumble strips are being installed on rural roads to help prevent crossover accidents. The state plans to put in the strips over the next 3 years.

Lee Philport informed the committee that several townships are working with the road commission on weight restriction issues that arose this past spring. He stated that several farmers are causing deterioration of the area roadways during seasonal weight restrictions but due to the Farm Act, the farmers are allowed to carry their loads on the roadways.

Dennis Berkebile requested KATS staff to contact voting members not attending the monthly KATS Policy Committee meetings.

It was noted that the railroad crossing on Cork Street, west of Millcork, is deteriorated and has railroad spikes sticking up, causing car and truck breakdowns. Consumer Energy is working with the City of Kalamazoo to get the railroad to fix the rail crossing. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the railroad informing them of the Policy Committee's concern about the condition of the crossing.

Motion by the Policy Committee, "***to send a letter to the railroad regarding the Cork Street rail crossing, showing support from the various agencies that make up the KATS Policy Committee.***"
Motion approved.

Linda Teeter informed the committee that there is an open seat on the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Board. The seat will be selected by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.