



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2007**

The May meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Public Library. Meeting attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

Tim Hudson (Chair), Richard Atwell, Dennis Berkebile, Dan DeGraw, Darrell Harden, Lee Philport, Susan Richardson, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Jack Urban, and Terry Urban.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

David Anderson, Jeff Bither, Gary Cramer, Carol Fricke, Dan Pryson, Phyllis Simmons, Don Ulsh, John Van Dyke, Loren Warfield, George Weston, and Ron White.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Chris Barnes, John Byrnes, Kurt Cobb, Tom Hohm, Claudette Reid, Bill Schomisch, John Seelman, Andrea Stork, Frank Szopo, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA***

Chairperson Hudson requested that the committee proceed directly to the public hearing portion of the meeting and after the hearing, proceed with the remainder of the agenda.

***2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING***

Jon Start presented an overview of the 2030 Transportation Plan. Highlights of his presentation included:

- The 2030 Transportation Plan incorporates the requirements of SAFETEA-LU and involved consultation with a number of agencies.
- Under Environmental Mitigation, 85 federal, state, and local agencies were contacted to get input on the proposed projects to be included in the document. A number of agencies responded to the request. Most agencies asked that they be kept informed as the projects proceed over the upcoming years.
- The Citizen's Advisory Committee, as well as the Technical Committee and Policy Committee, were directly involved in the development of the 2030 Transportation Plan.

- The draft document is available on the KATS website at [www.KATSmpo.org](http://www.KATSmpo.org).
- Areas of focus included the street network, public transportation, and non-motorized facilities (biking and pedestrian). Maps of the current road and non-motorized network were developed and shown to the committee as well as the proposed projects.
- The historical financial data was reviewed during the development of the financial constraint portion of the 2030 Transportation Plan, with an anticipated revenue of \$2,193,155,951 over the life of the Plan. The projected amount of expenditures total \$2,133,889,351.
- Fifty-seven capacity projects and ninety-five preservation projects are identified in the 2030 Transportation Plan. Seventeen non-motorized projects are highlighted.
- The projected cost of the road projects in the document total \$1,000,279,000. Transit Operating and Capital Costs were projected at \$626,986,095.
- Environmental Justice was reviewed during the development of the document and areas that are low income or minority were determined to be not adversely impacted by the proposed projects. Transit services were also not disproportionately impacted over the life of the 2030 Transportation Plan.
- Several illustrative projects were identified in the 2030 Transportation Plan because funding is currently not available. These projects included US-131 at US-131BR and the widening of I-94 east of 35<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The 2030 Transportation Plan cannot be adopted until the air quality model can be completed by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Staff anticipates this being done this summer, with adoption of the 2030 Transportation Plan sometime in the fall.
- The Transportation Plan is updated every 4 years and can be amended should additional funding be allocated to Kalamazoo County.

Chairperson Hudson opened the public hearing for comment. Kurt Cobb read a comment before the Policy Committee. A written copy of his comments will be attached to the May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 minutes.

Dan DeGraw asked about the \$60 million dollars in excess amount of funding in the 2030 Transportation Plan. Staff did not program the \$60 million dollars in the 2030 Transportation Plan due to the adjustments that will likely come from the placeholders in the future years in the document. Jon Start noted that the Policy Committee can direct staff to decrease that amount in the 2030 Transportation Plan.

Currently the 2030 Transportation Plan does not reflect an increase in the gas tax. Revenues are at a constant dollar. The public transportation system was increased 3% annually. Jon Start noted that after December, 2007, KATS will need to adjust projects for inflation.

Richard Atwell noted that service contracts will no longer be required under the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority.

Terry Urban asked about the location of the Pfizer rail line and its identification as a non-motorized facility in the City of Portage. Staff will review the segment of the non-motorized plan and determine if that segment can be identified as a future connection.

There being no further comment, Chairperson Hudson closed the public hearing.

Jon Start informed the committee that air quality testing has not been completed for the 2030 Transportation Plan and cannot be done until MDOT and the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study complete the Battle Creek transportation model. He anticipated that the Transportation Plan will be adopted later this fall.

#### ***MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2007 MEETING***

It was noted that Bill Schomisch should be listed as being in attendance at the meeting.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2007 Policy Committee meeting.”*** Motion approved.

#### ***TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT***

Frank Szopo reported on the May 10<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. The committee amended the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Mills Street project as a Local Jobs Today project. They also approved five bridge resolutions for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

#### ***CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

Jon Start reported on the May 17<sup>th</sup> Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed the 2030 Transportation Plan and got an update on the public transportation consolidation. The committee elected not to meet again until September, 2007 unless something needs to come before the committee.

#### ***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

The City of Kalamazoo sent in an application for Local Jobs Today funds for their Mills Street project. The project, from East Michigan Avenue to King Highway, would mill and resurface the roadway. The project is scheduled for FY 2009 Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding but would be advanced to FY 2007 using Local Jobs Today funding.

This project is also listed as a locally funded project for FY 2007 in the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the amendment to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Mills Street project as a Local Jobs Today project in FY 2007 and to remove the FY 2007 locally funded Mills Street project.”*** Motion approved.

***KALAMAZOO COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION LOCAL BRIDGE APPLICATION RESOLUTIONS***

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission requested five resolutions of support for the following Local Bridge Applications:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Street over Portage Creek: Rehabilitation
- TS Avenue over Portage River: Replacement
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street over Sand Creek: Replacement
- S Avenue over Portage River: Replacement
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street over Amtrak: Preventative Maintenance

This is the first year that agencies can apply for preventative maintenance funding for bridges. All of the projects would be scheduled for 2010 funding.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the Kalamazoo County Road Commission Local Bridge Application Resolutions of Support.”*** Motion approved.

***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION***

Richard Atwell reported that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority hired Dale Hein to be the Project Manager during the transition from Metro Transit and the City of Kalamazoo to the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority.

Bill Schomisch reported that Metro Transit is working with Western Michigan University on the contract for service on campus. The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is also working on developing a coordinated human services plan in order to apply for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and New Freedom funds. The human services plan will identify areas that need assistance when it comes to providing transportation.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Hudson adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.