



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

The November 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 on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Berkebile, (Chair), Dave Anderson, Jeff Bither, Allan Bussema, Dave Healy, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Tim Hudson, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Claudette Reid, Ron Reid, Susan Richardson, Karen Siegwart, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Linda Teeter, Jack Urban, and Bob Vlietstra.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan DeVries, Carol Fricke, Rob Heasley, Greg Rosine, Phyllis Simmons, and Don Ulsh.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, John Byrnes, Darrell Harden, Michele McGowen, Jack Mekemson, Jennifer Parsons, Frank Szopo, Bobbi Welke, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2009 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, *“to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2009 meeting.”* Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the November 5th Technical Committee meeting. The committee postponed taking action on several Transportation Enhancement Project amendments until further clarification on the projects could be obtained. The amendments were to be brought back to the committee in December. They received an update on the 2035 Transportation Plan Socio-Economic data and the web-based traffic count software.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Michele McGowen distributed posters for the 2010 Census. She encouraged the members to post the literature at their offices. She also reminded them to encourage snow birds to fill out the form for Michigan and not their secondary residence. By filling out the Michigan form, the state receives funding for that individual.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairperson Berkibile requested the addition of an agenda item for the Nominating Committee.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to amend the November 18, 2009 agenda.”*** Motion approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jeff Sorensen reported that the Nominating Committee recommended Tom Swiat, Jr. as Chairperson of the Policy Committee starting January, 2010 and David Anderson as Vice-Chairperson starting January, 2010.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL REPORT

Dennis Berkebile reported the findings of the Finance and Personnel Committee. The committee sent out evaluations forms for the Executive Director, with the total evaluation points being 8.1 out of 10. Their recommendation was to give Jon Start 1.0% Merit and no Cost of Living as of October 1, 2009.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve a 1.0% Merit increase for Jonathan Start, Executive Director as of October 1, 2009.”*** Motion approved.

The Finance and Personnel Committee did not evaluate KATS staff and requested the recommendation from the Executive Director. His recommendation was to give the staff at least a 1.0% Merit and no Cost of Living. This would take effect October 1, 2009.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve a 1.0% Merit increase for KATS staff as of October 1, 2009.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A copy of the proposed FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program Federal-aid projects was distributed to the committee for their information. KATS staff will be soliciting comment on the proposed projects prior to their inclusion in the TIP. The TIP is scheduled to be approved in the summer, 2010. The 9th Street project may be moved to a future year due to recent improvements. KATS staff will be working to get the MDOT projects for the four-year program.

Jon Start informed the committee that Kalamazoo County has obligated all of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds and is waiting word on possible additional funding. More information on additional funds will be available after January 1. The Technical Committee is working to identify projects that could be obligated quickly if additional money becomes available.

2009 ROAD CONDITION SURVEY

Kathy Schultz provided an overview of the 2009 data collected as part of the 2009 road condition survey. KATS staff has been collecting data on the federal aid street conditions since 2003. Staff, along with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation and the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, have participated in driving the system.

Data is collected using a system called PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) added to a program called Roadsoft. She distributed maps of the road ratings for FY 2008 and 2009. She noted that due to the time of year data is collected, newly improved roads won't show up as being improved on the maps. She also noted that there has been a shift in the number of miles of roads moving from Good to Fair. This is a decline of the system and could be the result of decreased funding to the agencies. Bridge rating is not included in the survey.

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission is working to collect the ratings for local streets and has completed Ross, Texas and Brady townships. Kathy will be sending out more information on the ratings via CD in the upcoming weeks.

DRAFT 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

A copy of the 2010 meeting schedule was distributed to the committee. It was noted that an error was on the October date, which should be October 27. The schedule will be approved in December.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Linda Teeter announced that the millage passed in November for the City of Kalamazoo. A fare increase was approved by the City Commission and will take effect in January. New fareboxes are being installed and will accept swipe cards thus eliminating the need for exact change. She noted that a group was meeting in Lansing to discuss Public Act 196.

Jack Mekemson reported that several groups are participating in the Adopt a Shelter program. This will help with maintenance of the bus shelters in the area. There is one 3-year term opening on the Transportation Authority Board.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Libby Heiny-Cogswell thanked the KATS staff for hosting a recent webinar.

ADJOURNMENT

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