



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

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 from the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Berkebile (Chair), David Anderson, Jeff Bither, Ron Commissaris, Gary Cramer, Carol Fricke, Rob Heasley, Tim Hudson, Jack Mekemson, Lee Philport, Claudette Reid, Susan Richardson, Tom Swiat, Jr., Don Ulsh, Loren Warfield, Bobbi Welke, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Allan Bussema, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Jack Urban, and John Van Dyke.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Karen Hayward, Dave Healy, Dale Hein, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Joanna Johnson, Terri Mellinger, Ronald Reid, Bill Schomisch, Frank Szopo, Bob Vlietstra, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2008 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to approve the Policy Committee minutes of October 29, 2008.*”
Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Szopo reported on the November 13th Technical Committee meeting. The committee took action to approve several amendments to the FY 2009 element of the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. John Byrnes (Road Commission) was appointed Chairperson of the Technical Committee and Chris Barnes (City of Portage) was appointed Vice-Chairperson, with their 2-year terms starting January 1, 2009. The next meeting will be held December 11th at 9:30 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jon Start read resolutions and presented plaques to the following Policy Committee members:

Ron Commissaris, Texas Township - Served on Policy Committee since 1998
 Gary Cramer, Kalamazoo Township - Served on Policy Committee since 1996
 John Van Dyke, Oshtemo Township - Served on Policy Committee since 2001
 Ron White, Pavilion Township - Served on Policy Committee since 1997

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to authorize the Executive Director’s signature on the resolutions honoring Ron Commissaris, Gary Cramer, John VanDyke, and Ron White for their service to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study.*” Motion approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following individuals were identified as replacements on the Policy Committee:

David Healy, Texas Township Supervisor
 Ron Reid, Kalamazoo Township Trustee
 Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Oshtemo Township Supervisor
 Karen Haywood, Pavilion Township Clerk

The committee welcomed the new Policy Committee members.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The following amendments were presented to the Policy Committee for approval:

Project	Limits	Description	Fed \$000	Source	State \$000	Source	Local \$000	Source	Total \$000
North Pitcher Street	0.14 mile north of Paterson to 0.20 mile north of Paterson	Vertical realignment signal upgrades to improve safety at factory crossing			\$140	EDA	\$185	CITY	\$325
Sprinkle Road	at G Avenue	Traffic signal upgrade and addition of center left turn phase	\$160	STH			\$40	CNTY	\$200
I-94	.44 mile east of Oakland Drive to .34 mile east of Lovers Lane	Construct new single point urban interchange (DESIGN (PE) PHASE)	\$716	IM	\$80	M			\$795
M-96	Galesburg-Augusta Intermediate School and Galesburg-Augusta Middle School	Improve sidewalks, crosswalks, and construction of bump-outs	\$164	SRSI					\$164

The North Pitcher project is a result of an Economic Development Fund application submitted by the City of Kalamazoo. The local funds are being provided by both the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County.

The Sprinkle Road project was the FY 2009 Local Safety Program project selected by MDOT. The project will be constructed by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission starting next spring.

The I-94 project funding is for the design upgrade phase of the single point interchange at Westnedge Avenue and the railroad bridge west of Lovers Lane. The plans will be updated to meet new standards. The original plans for the project were completed in 2004. No funding at this time has been identified for the construction of the project. MDOT is working to move forward on the plans for the project in case additional funding becomes available under the new administration.

The M-96 project is being funded with Safe Routes to School funding awarded by the state. The Galesburg schools, along with MDOT and the Village of Augusta, assisted in developing an application for funding. Some additional funds were identified for education and police enforcement and are not shown in the TIP amendment since they are not federal funds.

Both KATS staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the amendments.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve the amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

Jon Start reported that the FY 2010 - 2013 Transportation Improvement Program projects are being submitted to KATS for inclusion in the document. The TIP will be brought to the Policy Committee for adoption at the June, 2009 meeting. Public comment on the projects will be done in early 2009.

DRAFT KATS DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY

A copy of the draft KATS Document Retention Policy was presented to the committee for their review and comment. Any comments can be submitted to KATS staff. Action on the policy will take place at a future meeting.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke reported that ridership for Metro Transit and Metro Van is up for the year. The Local Advisory Council (LAC) received a request to have riders dropped off at the door of the Veteran's Hospital in Battle Creek. This request was granted to meet the needs of the riders.

Jack Mekemson reported that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) has been meeting frequently since the milage defeat to determine the next course of action. The system transition will still take place as of January 1, 2009. The next KCTA meetings will focus on the future of the authority and a new milage request. The polling firm will be conducting follow-up interviews to determine what areas need more attention and more public education. Another milage request will be brought to voters in early 2009.

STATUS REPORTS

Project Prioritization: The subcommittee continues to meet to determine the scoring of projects for the FY 2008 - 2010 Transportation Improvement Program and the project prioritization process for the FY 2010 - 2013 Transportation Improvement Program. The next meeting is November 20 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Staff will be ranking the 2009 - 2011 TIP projects to see how they rank using the proposed process.

2035 Transportation Plan: Staff has been researching employer data for Kalamazoo County. Once the addresses have been identified and verified, they will be put in traffic analysis zones. Staff will be meeting with the jurisdictions to discuss the 2008 employment figures and future projections in the upcoming months. The 2035 Transportation Plan is scheduled to be completed by September, 2010.

Jon Start noted that staff has been assisting MDOT in making all steps are complete for the widening section of I-94 from Oakland Drive to Lovers Lane in case additional funding is awarded to the project. There has been talk of a Stimulus II package that could fund the I-94 widening and the Westnedge interchange project if the program is approved. The air quality data will need to be rerun since the open to traffic date is being moved up should funding be awarded.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2009 POLICY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Tim Hudson and Jeff Bither will be serving as the Nominating Committee. They will have a slate of officers for the December meeting.

EDUCATION SESSION ON KATS AND THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PROCESS

Jon Start informed the committee that at the December 17th meeting, KATS staff will be starting an education session on what KATS is and how the study is funded, as well as other elements of the Study. More sessions will be held in 2009 as well.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TASK FORCE REPORT

Jon Start noted that the Governor appointed Transportation Funding Task Force has released their report, with an executive summary provided in the Policy Committee information. More information is available online at the MDOT website (www.michigan.gov/mdot).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Berkebile adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.