



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2007**

The September 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

Tim Hudson (Chair), Richard Atwell, Dennis Berkebile, Jeff Bither, Alan Bussema, Ron Commissaris, Gary Cramer, Dan DeGraw, Carol Fricke, Pete Pfeiffer, Lee Philport, Rick Fowler, Phyllis Simmons, Jeff Sorensen, Tom Swiat, Jr., Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, Terry Urban, Loren Warfield, and Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Anderson, Dan Pryson, John VanDyke, and George Weston.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Mike Boersma, John Byrnes, Gretchen Lemmer, Michele McGowen, Lara Meeuwse, Bill Schomisch, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 29, 2007 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2007 Policy Committee meeting as presented.*” Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the September 13th Technical Committee meeting. The committee recommended approval of the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Transportation Plan. They also heard an update on the US-131/US-131 Business Route High Priority Funds.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Boersma reported that the KATS Citizens Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 20th at 5:30 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit. They will be reviewing the final FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Transportation Plan. They are also scheduled to discuss the meeting frequency now that the Transportation Plan is complete.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jon Start requested that the committee discuss the new truck ordinance that was established by Oshtemo Township. The item will be discussed under Other New Business.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Staff has made final edits to the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and incorporated several comments received during the review process. A resolution was distributed to the committee, with the resolution stating that the 2030 Transportation Plan is SAFETEA-LU compliant, meets air quality conformity, and has been presented for public comment. An update of the 2030 Transportation Plan will take place over the next 4 years.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to support the resolution adopting the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Kalamazoo Area.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

No comments have been received since the August public hearing, and edits have been made by staff. The FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program matches the first 4 years of the 2030 Transportation Plan. It also meets the air quality requirements. A resolution was presented to the committee stating that the TIP meets air quality conformity testing, is SAFETEA-LU compliant, and was developed following the KATS Public Participation process.

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

A second resolution was presented to the Policy Committee stating that KATS meets the transportation planning requirements outlined by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Motion by the Policy Committee, ***“to approve of the self-certification for the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study.”*** Motion approved.

FY 2006 AUDIT REPORT ACTIONS

In the FY 2006 audit report, it was noted that the cash advances from the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, along with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, need to be resolved. The \$45,000 advance was made in the early 1980's. Staff has contacted both cities and both have reported that they no longer show the \$15,000 advances on their records and have agreed to forgive KATS of the loan. The Road Commission continues to show the \$15,000 on their records. Jon Start noted that he will be speaking with the new Managing Director about the loan once a new director is appointed.

Jon Start also noted that the audit costs for KATS (approximately \$8,800 per year) are non-reimbursable costs to KATS. Should KATS continue to pay for the audit out of the fund balance, the fund balance will slowly decrease over the next few years. He has spoken with the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, Metro Transit, and the Road Commission about splitting the cost of the audit in four, equal parts since all four agencies receive federal funding from KATS.

Motion by the Policy Committee, *“to split the non-reimbursable audit costs for KATS between the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, and Kalamazoo Metro Transit and to remove the liability of \$30,000 from the KATS financial records for advances from the City of Kalamazoo and City of Portage.”* Motion approved. One abstention.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke reported that for the fourth month in a row, Metro Transit ridership is up. They are up 12.19% over last year at this time. She noted that the Local Advisory Committee will be meeting at 2:30 today at Kalamazoo Metro Transit’s offices. The Transportation Authority Board meets on Monday at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Board meeting.

Richard Atwell reminded the committee that there will be a milage request on the ballot in November for a 1.0 mil renewal for City of Kalamazoo residents only. After 2008, the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority will be asking for a milage request for the entire county. The request this November is for Metro Transit and Metro Van service. Richard noted that the Budget Committee has been looking at the upcoming year’s milage rate and stated that there may be a reduction from the .45 mils requested last November due to not needing the full funded amount.

Bill Schomisch reported that since the August 1 stop work period for Care-A-Van, the service has been running at 100%. Some drivers for Care-A-Van have been replaced and are still on strike. The Kalamazoo City Commission has asked for a review of the situation. In January, the contract with Pride Care will be up for review. Currently, Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is investigating expanding the hours of service for Care-A-Van to match those of the line haul system. The expansion would cost approximately \$300,000 per year.

US-131/US-131BR HIGH PRIORITY FUNDS

Congressman Upton was able to secure High Priority funds in the SAFETEA-LU legislation for early preliminary engineering/preliminary engineering for the interchange at US-131 and US-131BR. The only funds spent to date were for an economic benefit study that was not completed at the request of the KATS Policy Committee. MDOT would like KATS to determine whether the funds will be used. Unless a plan is determined for the funding there is a risk of losing the funding for the area. The Technical Committee discussed using the funds to conduct an environmental assessment of the area to determine what would need to be done for construction of an interchange and the preliminary costs for various interchange configurations. KATS has requested to Congressman Upton that the funds be redesignated to improve surrounding streets but he has not been able to get the funds redesignated nor get them in a new appropriations bill. The Technical Committee recommended establishing a subcommittee to investigate an environmental assessment and whether the High Priority funds would be considered as a part of the original language. It was noted that whatever funds are used for the study, a local cash match will be needed.

Ron Commissaris noted that he met recently with Congressman Upton and Senator Stabenow about getting funding for Kalamazoo County, especially for the continuation of the I-94 widening. Both are working hard to see funding come to the area.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Jon Start noted that Oshtemo Township recently adopted an ordinance prohibiting through truck movements on a number of streets within the township. KATS staff has been working with MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to look at the impact on federal aid and functional classification with this new designation. Jon Start has met with Jodi Stefforia and the Oshtemo Township attorney to discuss the issue. Staff is concerned about the impact to the federal aid transportation network if through trucks are restricted to certain roads in the township. The Technical Committee will be discussing the issue further at their October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Hudson adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.