



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2008**

The September meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Charter Township of Comstock board room. Meeting attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Bither (Vice-chair), David Anderson, Ron Commissaris, Carol Fricke, Rob Heasley, Tim Hudson, Pete Pfeiffer, Marsha Small, Jeff Sorensen, Linda Teeter, Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, Loren Warfield, Ron White.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Berkebile, Alan Bussema, Gary Cramer, Lee Philport, Dan Pryson,, Phyllis Simmons, Tom Swiat, Jr., Terry Urban, John VanDyke.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lew Bashaw, Dale Hein, Jack Mekemson, William Schomisch, Frank Szopo, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2008 MEETING

Motion by the Policy Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2008 Policy Committee meeting as stated.*” Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Szopo reported on the September 11, 2008 Technical Committee meeting. The committee took action to recommend three MDOT amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The committee also discussed the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program, the call for 2010 Safety and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects, along with the possibility of federal funding issues in the coming year.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jon Start reported that there was no attendance at the scheduled meeting for September 8, 2008. Staff will look into ways of increasing participation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None**STATUS OF KATS OFFICE**

Jon Start discussed the recent flood at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The office has been cleaned out and KATS has resumed operation with offices at the MDOT Southwest Region office, located on Kilgore Road. The office phones have been forwarded to the new location. The office at the Road Commission will be closed a minimum of a month and the Policy Committee will be kept informed of the progress. Jon Start also thanked the work of Pete Pfeiffer and Darrel Harden of MDOT for the temporary office space. Tim Hudson was thanked for hosting the Policy Committee Meeting.

FUNDING ADVANCE UPDATE FROM KALAMAZOO COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Jon Start reported to the Policy Committee that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission has forgiven the \$15,000 loan to KATS and that the amount should be removed from KATS' finances.

Motion by the Policy Committee, *"to remove the \$15,000 loan from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission from KATS finances."* Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Three amendments to the FY 2009 program year of the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP were presented to the Policy Committee for action. They included:

Fiscal Year	Route	Location	Description	Funding
2009	Kalamazoo River Trail	Kal-Haven Trail to Westnedge Ave.	Non-motorized Path Construction	Construction Federal: \$ 506,000 (STE) Local: \$ 169,000
2009	M - 331	Westnedge Avenue at Crosstown Parkway	Widen Right Turn Lane	Construction Federal: \$ 101,000 (STH) State: \$ 11,000
2009	I-94	at Portage/Kilgore Road	Resurface Carpool Lot	Preliminary Engineering Federal: \$ 3,000 (ST) State: \$ 1,000

Tim Hudson asked a question on the availability of funding for these projects. Jon Start explained that the trail is funded through Enhancement funds, while the other two projects are MDOT general program account funds.

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

Jon Start then discussed the development of the FY 2010 to 2013 Transportation Improvement Program. Staff will be soliciting projects in October for the new TIP. The TIP has an anticipated completion date of June 2009.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The next Prioritization Subcommittee meeting will be September 25, 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission office.

Jon Start commented that the subcommittee is still discussing the truck route restrictions and how best to handle funding for those roads that restrict truck movements. He noted that the Policy Committee will need to take action on truck route restrictions, the identification of corridors of significance, and the possibility of limiting the amount of funds an agency can receive in the process.

Any comments or questions regarding the prioritization process should be directed to Jon Start or Steve Stepek.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

KATS Staff is developing population and employment estimates for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. This data will be sent to MDOT for inclusion in the transportation model.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carol Fricke stated the next Transit Authority Board meeting will be this Friday, 9:15 a.m. at the Metro Transit offices.

William Schomisch stated that ridership in August increased 9%, which is the 4th consecutive month of an increase. He also noted that since the adoption of the city loitering ordinance, there has been a significant decrease in problems at the Transit Center. The 2009 budget has money for a second community officer to be added for patrols around the Transit Center. The Policy Committee asked how fuel costs have affected the budget. Schomisch stated that they are currently approximately \$200,000 over budget for fuel and estimated they would be \$300,000 over budget by the end of the year.

Linda Teeter reported that the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority is working on the transition planning to acquire the system January 1, 2009. The KCTA changed their fiscal year from the calendar year to the federal fiscal year of October to September. This change required a budget continuation resolution. The KCTA is meeting with the City of Kalamazoo to discuss health care and pensions for employees. The KCTA is working on their re-branding and a report is due in October. Their marketing firm is doing in-depth public involvement in the process. The KCTA is also working on their education process for their millage campaign.

Carol Fricke was asked to explain the public involvement process. She stated that the marketing firm is using 5 focus groups of different people, ranging from advocates to local officials to determine the direction KCTA should take. The meetings will begin September 25.

FEDERAL AND STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

Marsha Small from MDOT presented information on the impending transportation funding issues. Revenue is down due to lower gas tax revenue, while costs have increased. The current transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, is set to expire in 2009. Both the federal and state transportation trust funds are, or will, run out of money in the next year. Congress moved eight billion dollars to the federal trust fund to cover the deficit in the short term. As it stands, the state may not have enough money to match the federal funds in the coming years.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Jon Start stated that many of the agencies have turned in additional time sheets. KATS Staff will continue their efforts in this matter.

POLICY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Jon Start reported that the bylaws state if a Policy Committee member misses three consecutive meetings they automatically lose their voting privileges. If the Policy Committee member attends for three consecutive months, the voting privilege will be restored. The City of Galesburg and the Village of Vicksburg have been contacted by mail about the lack of attendance. Jack Urban's voting privileges will be restored with attendance at next month's meeting.

Ron Commissaris asked other members to encourage alternates to attend in their absence. If an agency knows they have an issue with attendance they should appoint an alternate who can attend.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Frank Szopo stated that the County will be applying for federal disaster funds. Lt. Baker with the County Sheriff's Department is the contact person. If any agency has infrastructure damage, they should contact Lt. Baker. Don Ulsh stated that Lt Baker will send a form to you for information.

Pete Pfeiffer provided a report on several MDOT projects. The Parkview Avenue bridge is open for traffic. US-131 at the Schoolcraft railroad tracks is also open. MDOT will also be hosting an event to celebrate the I-94 construction on Tuesday September 30 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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