

Section A INTRODUCTION

Planning for public facilities is inherent to the process of development in metropolitan areas. Transportation facilities, including roadways, public transportation, bikeways, and walkways, play a key role in this development process and require specific planning attention and emphasis. Transportation systems in the United States and in the metropolitan areas represent the single largest capital investment by government. To provide effective and efficient public service . . . the services of personal mobility and delivery of goods . . . , the system must be developed and advanced as an integrated process. Connectivity, uniformity of service expectations, and operations must be on a “systems” basis. There is no other public works system that has such an interactive and dynamic interface with the public it serves. All of these factors must be considered in both the planning and design of the transportation system.

Planning for systems was always a part of the transportation process, but to varying degrees. It was not until 1962 that there was benchmark federal legislation for urban transportation planning.¹ In summary, the Act mandated that “. . . after July 1, 1965, the Secretary of Transportation shall not approve . . . any project in any urban area of more than 50,000 population unless he finds such projects are based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by the state and local communities.” Features of the Act emphasized:

- The requirement of creating an intergovernmental committee made up of principal elected officials of general purpose local government to facilitate cooperation and coordination.

- The identification of a formal comprehensive process with inherent flexibility to reflect local issues, goals, and policies.
- All activities be fully coordinated between the State (Michigan Department of Transportation) and local governments to assure proper integration of the respective state and local systems.

In response to the regulations, in 1966, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee was created through agreements by and between local units of government in the Kalamazoo urban area and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).² This organizational effort was led by MDOT. Although fully vested with responsibility for carrying out the requirements of the legislation, the Policy Committee was not formally designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) until 1978. Parallel to that action, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee acted to incorporate as an “Intermunicipality Committee” under Act 200 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1957.

The Intermunicipality Committee Act provides for the cooperative establishment of a forum (the KATS Policy Committee) by local units of government for the purposes of conducting specifically designated intergovernmental activities in a coordinated manner.

KATS continues to be organized under the Intermunicipality Committee Act. In 1993, under the provision of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of

¹ Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962.

² At that time, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was officially the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation (MDSHT).

1991, the KATS Policy Committee extended its area boundaries to include all of Kalamazoo County within the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB).

The organization and concept of an Intermunicipality Committee fully supports and addresses the clear intent of the federal legislation's reference to "cooperative." The KATS Policy Committee represents "principal elected officials of general purpose local government" working cooperatively in the transportation decision making process. Actually, KATS is indirectly a part of each local governmental unit that is designed to specifically work on transportation planning, programming, analysis, and studies at their "collective" direction, such direction provided by the Policy Committee. Not only is that concept the basis of how KATS is organized, it is also the basis of how it works. This is in sharp contrast to each agency being a part of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. It is conceptually the reverse . . . KATS is a part of each agency.

All work and activities of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study are initiated and conducted under the policy direction of the KATS Policy Committee. Activities are conducted cooperatively either working with the Technical Committee or, as appropriate, the individual roadway or public transportation agencies. The intent and direction of KATS direct staff is to provide the organization, scheduling, technical direction, and technical management of these cooperative efforts. Agency staffs work in the cooperative conduct of these activities within this framework. Their efforts are integral, in fact, are critical to the successful conduct of the process.

The following tables indicate representation on both the KATS Policy and Technical Committees. The Policy Committee organizational emphasis is on the representation of the units of general purpose local government. Although they must work in cooperation and coordination with a range of other forums, decision making is the collective responsibility of these elected officials.

The Technical Committee, made up of professional and technical representatives of the transportation responsible agencies, acts both collectively and individually to provide evaluation, analysis, and product for the consideration of the Policy Committee. The individuals and agencies jointly making up the Technical Committee are involved in the Study on a continuing basis. The level of involvement and cooperative interaction with KATS staff may be unique to MPO's in Michigan.

Current membership list of each committee is provided following these tables.

Table A-1
General Participation List
 KATS Policy Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Kalamazoo metropolitan area

Membership ³	Staff and Committees
Representatives from units of general purpose local government	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo County Road Commission	Activity Specific Local Agency Staffs
Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board	Technical Committee
Kalamazoo Chapter, Michigan Township Association	Transportation Special Interest Organizations
Southcentral Michigan Planning Council	Citizen Advisory Groups
Michigan Department of Transportation	
Federal Highway Administration	

Table A-2
Participating Agencies on Policy Committee

City of Kalamazoo
 City of Parchment
 City of Portage

Cooper Charter Township
 Charter Township of Comstock
 Charter Township of Kalamazoo
 Charter Township of Oshtemo
 Charter Township of Texas
 Pavilion Township

Kalamazoo Chapter of Michigan Townships Association
 Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners
 Kalamazoo County Road Commission
 Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board
 Michigan Department of Transportation - Southwest Region Office
 Michigan Department of Transportation - Lansing

Table A-3
KATS Staff

Jonathan Start, Interim Director
 Molly Gyllstrom, Planning Analyst
 David Krueger, Director

Kathy Carrier, Support Services
 Rachel Smith, Planning Analyst

³ This listing includes both voting and non-voting members.

Table A-4
Participating Agencies on Technical Committee⁴

<i>City of Kalamazoo</i>	<i>Kalamazoo County</i>	<i>Department of Environmental Quality</i>
City Engineer, Public Services	Planning Director	Air Quality Specialist
City Traffic Engineer, Public Services	Care-A-Van Coordinator	
Senior Construction Engineer, Public Services	Airport Director	
Director, Kalamazoo Metro Transit		<i>Federal Highway Administration</i>
City Planner		Transportation Planning Engineer
	<i>Village of Vicksburg</i>	
	Village Manager	
<i>City of Portage</i>		<i>Southeastern Michigan Planning Council</i>
Director, Public Services		Director
Transportation Systems Engineer, Transportation and Utilities	<i>Village of Schoolcraft</i>	
Traffic Engineer, Transportation and Utilities	Village Manager	
Director, Community Development		<i>Citizens Advisory Committee</i>
	<i>Oshtemo Township</i>	Chairperson
	Planner	
<i>City of Parchment</i>		<i>KATS Policy Committee</i>
City Manager		Chairperson
	<i>Michigan Department of Transportation</i>	
<i>Kalamazoo County Road Commission</i>	Transportation Planner,	<i>Special Interest Groups Representatives</i>
Managing Director	Bureau of Transportation Planning	
Traffic Services Director	Project Development Engineer	
Special Projects	Region Traffic Engineer	
	Project Manager - UPTRAN	

⁴ This listing includes current active or assigned members by position or interest group. The listing includes both voting and non-voting members.

Table A-5
Policy Committee Voting Membership
January, 2002

Ron Commissaris, Supervisor (Chairperson of Policy Committee)
Texas Charter Township

Richard Atwell, Representative
Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board

Gary Cramer, Supervisor
Kalamazoo Charter Township

Dan DeGraw, Mayor
City of Parchment

Mark Geib, Service Center Manager
Southwest Region Office
Michigan Department of Transportation

Tim Hudson, Supervisor
Comstock Charter Township

Dan McGlenn, Commissioner
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

Hannah McKinney, Commissioner
City of Kalamazoo

Lara Meeuwse, Commissioner
Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County

Susan Richardson, Supervisor
Rural/Urban Unit
Michigan Department of Transportation

Jeff Sorensen, Supervisor
Cooper Charter Township

Robert Thompson, Representative
Kalamazoo Chapter of Michigan Townships Association

Terry Urban, Councilman
City of Portage

John VanDyke, Supervisor
Oshtemo Charter Township

Ronald White, Trustee
Pavilion Township

Table A-6
Technical Committee Voting Membership
January, 2002

Dallas Williams, Director (Chairperson of Committee)
Transportation and Utilities
City of Portage

Shahid Abbas, Traffic Engineer
City of Kalamazoo

Muhammad Arif, Traffic Engineer
Transportation and Utilities
City of Portage

John Byrnes, Traffic Services Manager
Kalamazoo County Road Commission

Jeff Chamberlain, City Planner
City of Kalamazoo
Economic Development and Planning Dept

Ronald Copping, Special Projects
Kalamazoo County Road Commission

Matt Crawford, Village Manager
Village of Vicksburg

Jeff Erickson, Director of Community Development
City of Portage

Ronald Fleckenstein, City Manager
City of Parchment

Darrell Harden, Village Manager
Village of Schoolcraft

*Dean Holub, Assistant County Administrator for
Economic and Community Development*
Kalamazoo County Department of Planning and
Community Development

Paul Lott, Transportation Planner
Michigan Department of Transportation - Lansing

Peter Lenz, Transportation Coordinator

Kalamazoo County Human Services: Care-A-Van

John Polasek, System Manager
Michigan Department of Transportation -
Southwest Region

Ronald Reid, Managing Director
Kalamazoo County Road Commission

William Schomisch, Director
Kalamazoo Metro Transit

Richard Skalski, Senior Construction Engineer
City of Kalamazoo

Jodi Stefforia, Planning Director
Oshtemo Township

Frank Szopo, City Engineer
City of Kalamazoo