



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2006**

The April meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Muhammad Arif (Chair), Andrea Augustine, Brian Burlingham, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Tom Hohm, Carmine Lewis, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, Dallas Williams, and Laura Wise..

MEMBERS ABSENT

Shahid Abbas, Chris Barnes

OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Reid, Kathy Carrier, and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2006 MEETING

It was noted that in the minutes, there was a reference to M-331. This street is commonly called Westnedge Avenue.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2006 Technical Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon start reported on the March 29 Policy Committee meeting. The committee took action on two resolutions amending the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2025 Transportation Plan to include the I-94 widening project. They also had discussions regarding the KATS Planner/Engineer position and the status of the public transit authorities and the millage request.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on March 16 and discussed the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan and the public transportation meetings with the new transportation authority.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

KATS PLANNER/ENGINEER POSITION

Jon Start informed the committee that staff will be posting the Planner/Engineer position in the upcoming weeks. He anticipated having a subcommittee formed by the end of May to review resumes received.

LOCAL JOBS TODAY PROGRAM

An announcement was made recently stating that funding may be available for local agencies to advance FY 2007 or FY 2008 funded projects. The program would require legislation and projects would need to be in the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. The legislation was still in committee in Lansing.

It was noted that the Road Commission may move the North Westnedge Avenue project from Mosel Avenue to D Avenue if the legislation is passed.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Under SAFETEA-LU, funding is available for communities to create a Safe Routes to School plan. Over \$19 million is available over the five year life of the bill in Michigan. Seventy percent of the funding must be used for infrastructure and ten percent must be used for non-infrastructure programs. A handbook is available at www.saferoutesmichigan.org.

I-94 PROJECT STATUS

FHWA has reviewed the amendments and EPA is currently looking at them. Once they are approved, the project can move forward at MDOT. MDOT plans to start construction in the fall, 2006.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A network development meeting was held on April 10. The group discussed the process of developing several alternatives to be tested. A list of proposed projects was distributed to the committee. Jon Start requested that each agency take time to review the list and provide the capacity projects with a ranking of:

- 1: Should be tested as a part of an alternative and be in the 2030 Plan
- 2: Should be considered
- 3: Should not be considered in 2030 Plan

Any capacity projects that may be built in the next four years needs to be in the 2030 Transportation Plan. A copy of the Plan Goals and Objectives were distributed and Jon encouraged the rankings be based on the approved document. The rankings need to be submitted to KATS by the April 21 In order for staff to compile the rankings and schedule another meeting.

A Non-Motorized Committee meeting has been scheduled for May 2 at KATS. Jon Start noted that KATS will be looking at missing sidewalk segments in the network as well as non-motorized missing links. The final Non-Motorized Plan will be part of the 2030 Transportation Plan.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority has been meeting every two weeks and working towards a November millage request. Several retreats have been held, informing the committee on issues regarding millage amounts and education of the public. EPIC/MRA is conducting a survey of Kalamazoo County residents. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 at 5:00 p.m.

The Friends of Transit have been working on developing an education campaign for when the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority makes a decision on the millage amount. They currently have 23 individuals and groups that are part of the coalition with their goal to have 60. They meet the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Disability Resource Center.

The Care-A-Van Origin/Destination report is still not completed. Carmine Lewis reported that Metro Transit is having difficulties with the old DOS software the data is in and may have to look at more recent figures for the report using current software.

STATUS REPORTS

Status reports were mailed to the Technical Committee voting members.

Darrell Harden reported that MDOT will be starting work on I-94 in the Mattawan/Paw Paw area.

Frank Szopo noted that the West Michigan Avenue project will be starting again on April 24.

Dallas Williams reported that the Lovers Lane project is underway and that the contractors are 1 month ahead of schedule. They are working on finalizing the Oakland Drive project by completing the sidewalks and paving. It should be completed by June 1. The turn lane project at Centre and Shaver will be advertised in the next 6 weeks.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier noted that she needed reports through March soon. KATS will be setting up meetings with the local agencies to talk about the FY 2007 Unified Work Program.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

The Road Commission requested the Technical Committee's support for a Transportation Economic Development Fund - Category F application for all-season road improvements to Nazareth Road from East Main Street to Gull Road. The project would be a continuation of the Nazareth Road project completed in 2003. The all-season road improvements would help a concrete business and provide a link in the road network.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to support the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s Transportation Economic Development Fund - Category F application for improvements to Nazareth Road from East Main Street to Gull Road and to add the project to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program should funding be awarded.”*** Motion approved.

Darrell Harden reported that MDOT is in the process of reviewing the no-build recommendation for US-131 in St. Joseph County. There is currently no time line for an announcement on the decision.

A copy of an amendment of the Metro Transit’s element of the FY 2004 - 2006 and FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Programs was distributed to the committee. Due to the remaining STP-Flex funds in FY 2004, Metro Transit requested that the remaining FY 2004 funds be applied to the FY 2006 STP project to purchase up to 3 ADA vehicles. The remaining funds are from cost savings when the vehicles were purchased in FY 2004.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the amendments to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program and the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program to change the funding amounts for the Metro Transit ADA vehicles.”*** Motion approved.

Tom Hohm noted that the Road Commission will be asking for Technical Committee support of several Local Bridge Program projects at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.