



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2005**

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), Shahid Abbas, Rob Bauckham, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Rick Fowler, Tom Hohm, Jason Latham, Bill Schomisch, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, John Sych, Frank Szopo, Dallas Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matt Crawford, Jeff Erickson, Peter Lenz, and Sheri Lutz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sue Srackangast, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 10, 2005 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Policy Committee took action to approve several TIP amendments and the Transportation Economic Development Fund grant application for South Sprinkle Road at their March 30th meeting. The committee also discussed the MDOT 2010 project list and the status of the Metro Transit/Care-A-Van merger.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on March 24th. They discussed the Friends of Transit meetings and the development of the oversight committee for the formation of the transit authority for Kalamazoo County. They moved their meetings to the third Thursday of the month in order to meet prior to the Policy Committee meetings.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS - AMENDMENTS

A copy of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis, dated April 13, 2005, was distributed to the committee. The report contains a summary of the air quality model run done by MDOT recently using the projects from the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2025 Transportation Plan. The findings were within acceptable levels for air quality. The Transportation Improvement Program, Transportation Plan, and State Implementation Plan will now need to be amended by KATS, BCATS, the Calhoun County and Van Buren County Rural Task Forces, and MDOT to include the air quality findings chapter. Resolutions to amend the TIP and Transportation Plan will be going to the Policy Committee at their April 20th meeting.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of approving the amendments to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2025 Transportation Plan documents to include the findings from the air quality conformity analysis.”*** Motion approved.

The FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program has not been tested for air quality conformity but will need to be prior to its approval in July.

The Technical Committee also considered an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was provided by MDOT. The MOU was previously signed by the Policy Committee in 1994, but now needs to be updated to reflect changes in the current legislation.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the Interagency Memorandum of Understanding.”*** Motion approved.

MDOT 2010 PROPOSED PROJECTS

A copy of the Technical Committee Subcommittee recommended priorities (dated March 22, 2005) was distributed to the committee for their review and comment. The subcommittee met in March to discuss the MDOT 2010 proposed rehabilitation projects and to assign a priority to each project. The list was emailed to the Technical Committee voting members for their comment, with only one comment being received by staff.

High Priority

I-94	West of 12th St. to Sprinkle Rd.	Reconstruct
US-131	U Ave. to Milham	Reconstruct
I-94 BL	US-131 to Michigan Ave.	Rehab
I-94 BL	Stadium Drive at Various Intersections	Intersection Upgrades

Mid-Priority

I-94 WB	40th to Helmer	HMA Overlay
M-43	G Ave. to W Village Limits of Richland	Resurface with 8' Shoulders
I-94	9th St. to 12th St.	Mill & Resurface

Low Priority

US-131 BR	At the US-131 Interchange	Complete Interchange
I-94	At the 35th St. Interchange	Resurface Exit Ramps

The KATS Policy Committee reviewed the list at their March meeting and expressed concern about the US-131/US-131BR project being in the Low Priority category. The subcommittee explained that they put the project in the Low Priority category due to the two recent studies that indicated that the full interchange was not feasible at this time.

Jon Start noted that the project list was intended for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects and not for improve/expand projects. The US-131/US-131BR interchange project was added by MDOT since KATS has recommended the project be considered by MDOT whenever asked for comment on future projects. He noted that if the project were reexamined and different options, such as lower ramp speeds, were examined that this could possibly reduce the cost of the improvements and change the benefit/cost results.

The \$7 million dollars noted for I-94 on the project list is the MDOT Southwest Region's portion of rehabilitation funds being set aside for the I-94 widening project.

The committee considered the project list and whether to move the US-131/US-131BR project to the High Priority category. It was noted that all of the projects are priorities for the area.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to accept the MDOT 2010 proposed project list as presented with changes to the categories to Priority 1 (High Priority), Priority 2 (Mid-Priority); and Priority 3 (Low Priority) and change the title to MDOT 2010 Proposed Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects.”*** Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Steering Committee met prior to the Technical Committee meeting to discuss the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan. Staff estimates that the document will be completed in December, 2005. Jon Start noted that BCATS is approximately two months behind their deadline.

A copy of the socio-economic projections was distributed to the committee for their review. Jon Start met with most of the area jurisdictions to get their assistance on where growth might occur in their area over the next 25 years. Employment was added to the Mid-link facility in Comstock Township. Tables projecting the number of vehicles per household was also distributed to the committee. During the Steering Committee meeting, the City of Kalamazoo staff noted that the vehicles per household ratio might be higher due to student dwellings. Jon will work with the city staff to make adjustments in some of the traffic zones to reflect this.

The Technical Committee will be approving the projections, with staff providing projections to the Policy Committee for their approval at the April 20th meeting, and then forwarding the data to MDOT. MDOT will be running the model in May and have network deficiencies identified in May/June.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to support the 2025 Socio-Economic Projections as presented with potential changes to the vehicles per household tables based on discussions with the City of Kalamazoo staff.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

MDOT requested that the Capital Preventative Maintenance - Bridge funds be increased from \$1,963,000 to \$3,000,119. This is an increase in funding in the program based on additional funds being available for the region. 17 bridges will be repaired in Kalamazoo County this summer.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the MDOT amendment to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program to include the increase in funding for the Capital Preventative Maintenance - Bridge general program account.”*** Motion approved.

The City of Kalamazoo received funding for the continuation of the Portage Creek Trailway. \$475,000 was awarded to construct a trailway from Douglas Avenue east to Westnedge/Kalamazoo Avenue and the connection to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway. The funds will also be used to construct a 14' bridge over the Portage Creek at Rose Park. The City of Kalamazoo will be providing the local match (\$475,000) for the project.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the City of Kalamazoo amendment to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Transportation Enhancement Grant Funding.”*** Motion approved.

The FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program is on schedule for completion in July, 2005. Staff is currently receiving comments from citizens along the proposed project routes. To date, 73 comments have been received. Approximately 2,900 brochures were mailed. Comments are being taken until May 20th. Jon Start noted that many are asking for more specific details about the projects and whether they will be assessed for the improvements.

Tom Hohm reported that the Policy Committee approved the Transportation Economic Development Fund amendment to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program to include improvements to South Sprinkle Road from Centre Avenue to Zylman Street. The project will be starting in the upcoming months and be completed by fall.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS

The subcommittee met recently to review the proposed changes to the bylaws. A copy of the proposed changes were distributed to the committee. Once the Technical Committee approves the bylaws, they will go to the Policy Committee for their approval. The committee reviewed the designation of alternates, the number needed for a quorum, number of meetings that need to be attended in a year, and criteria for reinstating members to voting status. Jodi Stefforia requested that any comments to the bylaws need to be submitted to her by the end of April.

MDOT MEMORANDUM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT

The item was tabled until the May meeting.

METRO TRANSIT AND CARE-A-VAN STATUS REPORT

Bill Schomisch noted that Laurie Doering will be leaving Care-A-Van to move to Portland, Oregon with her husband at the end of May. To date, he has not heard many negative comments regarding the transition. They are working with MDOT on moving grants and other funding from the county to the city.

The oversight committee has been established, with four members each from the city and county. They will be working on the development of the transit authority and the millage request.

Bill also noted that the groundbreaking for the Downtown Transportation Center will be held Friday, April 22 at 11:15 a.m. at the train station.

MDOT DIRECTOR MEETING AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Transportation Director Gloria Jeff will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on May 16th at 9:00 a.m. KATS is working to get time with the director during the day as well. Details on the KATS meeting will be sent to members once it is confirmed.

STATUS REPORTS

Tom Hohm reported on the Road Commission projects:

- The Sprinkle Road at Comstock/Lake Street project is under construction.
- The Sprinkle Road from V Avenue to S Avenue has started.
- The CMAQ project on South Sprinkle Road is being designed by the consultant and should be let in July.
- The Portage Road Bridge over Gourdneck Creek and the V Avenue Bridge over Little Portage Creek recently received Critical Bridge funding from MDOT.
- The Road Commission may be applying for Transportation Economic Development Funds for 26th Street from East Main Street to H Avenue.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- Rose Street from Lovell Street to Kalamazoo Avenue will be starting soon. Curb and gutter work, as well as new sidewalks, will be done. Trees and decorative lighting will also be installed. Construction should be completed by August.
- The Michigan Avenue project is advancing, with property acquisition almost complete. Half of the project will be completed this year and the remaining next year.
- The design of the CMAQ project on Portage Road is almost finalized. Plans should be to MDOT in May.

- The Michigan Avenue at Stadium Drive project is advancing well. A new railroad signal and utilities are being installed, with the project scheduled to be complete by CommUniversity Night in August.

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Oakland Drive from Milham to Romence is being finished. The portion from Romence to Centre will be starting soon, with completion by October.

Jon Start reminded the committee that MDOT is requesting that any proposed CMAQ projects for FY 2006 have calculations completed. FY 2006 funding has not been identified for the state, but the MPOs are being told that there will be a quick turnaround time on the request for projects should funding be announced.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier reminded the committee that time sheets are needed from those working on eligible activities.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

KATS is hosting a pavement preservation conference on April 21-22. If members are planning to attend, they need to reserve their seat soon. The Asset Management Council is paying for the conference.

Kathy Carrier reminded members to fill out their membership update form. This form helps staff have current information on file for everyone who receives mailings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.