



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2010**

The April meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

John Byrnes (Chair), Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Fred Nagler, Michelle O’Neill, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Dennis Durham, Dale Hein, Lotta Jarnefelt, Cheri Lutz, Bill Schomisch, and Steve Skalski.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Susan Berquist, David Dakin II, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2010 MEETING***

Corrections include; Dallas Williams should have been listed under “members absent” for the March 11<sup>th</sup> minutes, and the spelling of viaduct to be corrected.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve as corrected the March 11, 2010 minutes.*” Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported that the Policy Committee had taken action on the KATS expenses for 2010 and formalized a purchasing policy. There was some discussion about the Jobs for Main Street projects. The committee plans to have a public hearing for the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement program and the Jobs for Main Street projects at their May meeting. The Policy Committee was given an update on the TIP, and a small committee will be forming to establish KATS planning and goals for 2011.

***CITIZENS’ COMMENTS*** - None

## ***CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA***

Jon Start added to the agenda an item to discuss on the proposed 2011 Transportation Improvement Program amendment schedules. Rick Fowler added to the agenda a proposed amendment to the TIP.

### ***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

The development status of the TIP has not changed. A public hearing will be held at the Policy Committee's May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, to allow for comments. It will then be amended, if necessary, and sent to the Policy Committee's June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for committee adoption. MDOT unfunded projects, the M-96 project and the Stadium Drive bridge over US-131 project will be added to the TIP as illustrative projects.

Rick Fowler asked the group for their approval of the MDOT scoping project along I-94 in the Southwest region. It includes Kalamazoo County on I-94 from the county lines, west to east. This scoping does not include match from local agencies and will identify further I-94 projects.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***"to approve the recommended MDOT scoping project in Kalamazoo County."*** Motion approved.

Jon Start added to the agenda some discussion on the MDOT amendment schedule. A schedule was sent to KATS to review for an every other month or quarterly amendment schedule. KATS staff feels a bi-monthly schedule is best to start with. After much discussion, the committee finds that an every other month schedule would be better if a schedule is adopted.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***"to recommend to the Policy Committee the every other month MDOT amendment schedule."*** Motion approved.

If the Policy Committee approves the schedule, the amendments will only be accepted in October, December, February, April, June, and August.

### ***LOCAL SAFETY PROJECT***

The City of Portage and Kalamazoo County Road Commission each have a project in this category. The City of Portage plans to install a flashing light at the intersection of Oakland Drive and Osterhout Avenue. Sight distance improvement to the south at Douglas Avenue and G Avenue is the road commission's local safety project. Mr. Start reminded the group that applications are due for local safety projects on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***"to support both local safety projects as presented."*** Motion approved with one opposition from Jodi Stefforia.

### ***2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS***

MDOT is calibrating the network and KATS has sent capacity projects to be added.

Approval of the 2035 Plan should take place in September.

### ***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE***

Jon Start spoke on behalf of Metro Transit. The draft Comprehensive Operations Analysis draft has been developed, which includes recommendations eliminating and changing some routes in Portage.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Fred Nagler told the group the bridge is now in place at the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail at Veterans Memorial Park. Signal installation is ongoing along Drake Road. Design for CMAQ projects is done and will be let in July. Signal installation is continuing on Paterson Street. 2009 ARRA projects on Burdick Street from Cork to Crescent and on Lovers Lane from Kilgore Road to Cork Street will begin construction soon.

Chris Barnes said the City of Portage's West Milham from Angling Road to 12<sup>th</sup> Street project will be included in a special May 21<sup>st</sup> letting. The city will be installing a traffic signal on Centre Avenue at Currier Drive which will also serve Portage Central High School.

Tom Hohm said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission is working on Sprinkle Road at G Avenue safety intersection improvements. The 24<sup>th</sup> Street bridge rehabilitation project will be starting soon. The Stadium Drive from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street project and the 35<sup>th</sup> Street at Miller Drive project will be let in June. Texas Drive at 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection reconfiguration project will begin soon. The Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway kick off began April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle O'Neill from MDOT spoke about the public open house held at the North Side Association for Community Development. MDOT presented the north gateway street scaping project for community comment. The pump station project will close M-43 from June 16 to July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Grand Elk Rail Road Crossing near Porter Street will be improved after Labor Day. This will close Kalamazoo Avenue and Michigan Avenue for some time. Michelle suggested for updates to watch the Gazette.

Keith Hernandez reported that the City of Kalamazoo has released the draft Master Plan for a 63 day public comment period, with the official approval to be in June. It can be reviewed at [www.kalamazoocity.org/plankalamazoo](http://www.kalamazoocity.org/plankalamazoo). The final approval will be in June.

Jodi Stefforia said that Oshtemo Township board has passed a 2 million dollar sewer project for H Avenue. It will be installed under US-131 to H Avenue, with bidding to begin this spring.

### ***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please turn in your timesheets for the previous month at each Technical Committee meeting. A handout was provided for those who need to know what month they are missing. Billing is done quarterly, therefore timesheets need to be turned in each month to ensure timeliness.

### ***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Steve Stepek told the group about a GIS Business Planning and Framework Stewardship meeting held April 27<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

*ADJOURNMENT*

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.