



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2010**

The August meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:10 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, Andrea Augustine, Chris Barnes, Rick Fowler, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Michelle O'Neill, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Bippley, Dennis Durham, Chris Forth, Dale Hein, Cheri Lutz, Fred Nagler, and Steve Skalski.

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachael Tupica, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2010 MEETING

Tom Hohm clarified that the Sprinkle Road project from F Avenue to G Avenue will be obligated in FY 2010 but will not be completed until 2011.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to approve the June 10, 2010 minutes.***" Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the June 30th and July 28th Policy Committee meetings. At the June meeting, the Policy Committee approved the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program and numerous amendments to the FY 2010 Transportation Improvement Program. They also approved the FY 2011 Unified Work Program. At the July meeting, they took action on several MDOT amendments and discussed the Goals and Vision Committee meetings to date. Currently the committee is weighing priorities for the project prioritization process.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jon Start announced that Dallas Williams will be retiring from the City of Portage September 3. The Technical Committee wished him the best and thanked him for his years of service.

Kathy Schultz requested discussion under Agenda Item 8 on the STP funds for FY 2010.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the agenda for the August 12, 2010 meeting.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Transportation presented four amendments to the FY 2010 element of the FY 2008 - 2010 Transportation Improvement Program. The additional projects included:

Fiscal Year	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Federal Cost (\$1000s)	Federal Fund Source	State Cost (\$1000s)	State Fund Source	Local Cost (\$1000s)	Local Fund Source	Total Cost (\$1000s)	MDOT Job No.
2010	MDOT	US-131	at Lyon St	88	NHG					88	108793
2010	MDOT	M-43	at Fletcher St	90	NHG					90	108827
2010	MDOT	M331	at Kalamazoo Math and Science Center	25	NHG					25	110786
2010	MDOT	M331	at Kalamazoo Christian Middle School	18	NHG					18	110787

NHG - National Highway System - Safety (100% Federal)

Due to when the amendments were given to KATS staff, the Policy Committee took action on the amendments prior to the Technical Committee. Staff has submitted the amendments to MDOT for approval.

Jon Start reported that a public hearing on the completed FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program will be held August 25th as part of the Policy Committee meeting. When the Policy Committee held their public hearing in May, it concentrated on the project list for federally funded projects. The entire TIP was available online for approval prior to the Policy Committee’s final action on June 25 but in order to make sure that all approval processes are met, a second public hearing on the entire document will be held.

Kathy Schultz reported that as of August 11, there was \$467,634 in unobligated balances in STP funds for Kalamazoo County. She has contacted MDOT to find out if this money can be obligated yet this fiscal year. Rick Fowler noted that due to the budget being passed late for FY 2010, MDOT is now updating the balances for the MPOs and that the money may not be able to be obligated. A number of the agencies indicated that they have projects that could be through MDOT quickly if the money is available. The Oakland Drive from Kilgore Road to I-94 project and a signal project for the City of Kalamazoo were mentioned. Other projects from the Jobs for Main Street project list will be considered. Jon Start stated that a TIP Subcommittee meeting will be called after the MPO Directors meeting next Tuesday if the money can be obligated by mid-September.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to authorize the Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee to submit projects to the Policy Committee for the remaining STP funds for FY 2010.”***
Motion approved.

As of August 11, \$16,353 in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds were remaining. The funds will not be spent due to the lack of time to get them obligated and through the process at MDOT. The remaining funds are a result of bid savings on projects.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS

A copy of the survey results from the online survey was presented to the committee. Many of the responses wanted to see sidewalk improvements and filling in the gaps between sidewalk segments and preservation of the system.

Staff is currently waiting for MDOT to provide final results of the model so that capacity projects can be determined. Steve Stepek presented several maps showing where 500 trucks traveled in one week throughout the United States and Canada. Each of the pages showed a 24-hour period. The information was made available from the Federal Highway Administration.

Staff is currently focusing on having the 2035 Transportation Plan adopted at the December 15th Policy Committee meeting.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY

The FY 2014 projects for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program have not been determined. Currently there is \$172,000 for FY 2014 not programmed. Steve Stepek requested a meeting after the Technical Committee to determine the project that will be submitted to MDOT for funding.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Bill Schomisch reported that ridership on the line haul system is down but is up on the demand response service. He noted that the transfer point on Brown Street will be eliminated this fall. The buses will still travel down Brown Street so that there is access to the various services in the area.

POLICY COMMITTEE GOALS AND VISION COMMITTEE

Several Policy Committee members have been meeting with Jon Start to discuss the goals and vision for KATS. The committee’s intent is not to be the Technical Committee but to have a better understanding of how projects are selected and to be more involved in the decision process. The committee last month provided a list of criteria for project selection to the Policy Committee and asked for their ranking of the criteria. The criteria will help in the Project Prioritization process as well. The Technical Committee will be asked to participate in the Goals and Vision Committee in the upcoming months. The list provided to the Policy Committee will be emailed to the Technical Committee.

STATUS REPORTS

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects - Milham Avenue between 12th Street and Angling Road is approximately 60% complete. It is open to two-way traffic. Completion is anticipated in October.

Tom Hohm reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission Projects - The Sprinkle Road at G Avenue safety project has the new traffic signal installed and operational. The 24th Street Bridge over the Portage Creek is complete. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway between Mosel and D Avenue has been partially paved. The 35th Street project between Miller and the Kalamazoo River is progressing. The 12th Street rural project between C Avenue and the north county line is being redesigned. The Road Commission has applied for Transportation Economic Development funding for this 12th Street project.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo Projects - Burdick Street from Cork to Crescent is complete. Lovers Lane between Kilgore and Cork is under construction. Michigan Avenue between Burrows and Western Michigan University is under construction. North Street between Douglas and Gull is under construction. Construction is being done on North Street west of Westnedge before the east portion. The roundabouts at Arboretum/Solon/Kendall/Howard are progressing well and are expected to be opened August 28. The City of Kalamazoo Master Plan has been adopted and is available on the City of Kalamazoo's website at www.kalamazoocity.org.

Michelle O'Neill reported on the Michigan Department of Transportation Projects - The I-94 widening project is progressing. Michigan Avenue at the viaduct is open. The former pump house still needs to be removed. The railroad crossing on Michigan Avenue east of Pitcher is closed for repair. The paving project on Westnedge from Kilgore to Michigan Avenue will begin later this year with work limited to sidewalk ramps. Paving will be done next year.

Jodi Stefforia provided information on projects within Oshtemo Township - Missing sidewalk is being installed along West Main from US-131 to Drake Road. The draft of the Master Plan update is expected to be done by the end of the year. Sanitary sewer installation on H Avenue is progressing.

Lotta Jarnefelt gave a report on the Kalamazoo County Planning Department activities - A contract has been made to add the parcel information for the rest of the county to the GIS system. The GIS system was used following the oil pipeline leak.

A public meeting was being held at Downtown Kalamazoo Inc. at 1:00 p.m. on August 12th to discuss the proposed downtown arena.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15th of the month. Please turn in your timesheets for the previous month at each Technical Committee meeting. As staff ends the fiscal year on September 30th, time sheets are important for match for the KATS program.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Tom Hohm reported that the Local Bridge Program has changed their ranking of projects for project applications. More weight will be given for economic benefit and discretionary points. In the past, the formula favored rural areas.

Chris Barnes will be the new director at the City of Portage for the Transportation and Utilities Department. He will be replacing Dallas Williams who is retiring September 3.

The Road Commission asked the status of the Milham Avenue / 12th Street / Texas Drive CMAQ application. To date, no funding has been allocated to the project. Rick Fowler will see what the status of the project application is.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.