



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2009**

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), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, Brian Burlingham, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Cheri Lutz, Fred Nagler, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Dennis Durham, Dale Hein, and Bill Schomisch.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Andrea Augustine, Paul MacNellis, Michelle O'Neill, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, and Jon Start.

***MINUTES FROM THE JULY 9, 2009 MEETING***

The August 13<sup>th</sup> agenda listed as item number three the minutes from the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It should read "Minutes from the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting".

Motion by the Technical Committee, "*to approve the minutes from July 9, 2009.*" Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported that the Policy Committee took action to approve the TIP amendments that the Technical Committee had recommended for approval. The committee also approved Kalamazoo County's pictometry agreement and Kalamazoo Metro Transit's Pass Through Agreement. The group discussed Oshtemo Townships letter to withdraw their request to look at the National Functional Classification of 10<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main to H Avenue.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

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

An amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program from MDOT will be added under Item 7: Transportation Improvement Program. Discussion of a request by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to approve a new project (Tier 2) for ARRA funding will also be included in Item 7.

## ***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

Following the August 6<sup>th</sup> MDOT bid opening, all local American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, with the exception of the Eliza Street project in the Village of Schoolcraft, have been bid. The City of Portage's and the City of Kalamazoo's projects came in close to the programmed funding levels. The Kalamazoo County Road Commission's bid opening showed that the bids came in significantly lower than the programmed funding levels. This resulted in approximately \$290,000 in urban area ARRA funds and \$150,000 in rural area ARRA funds. The Village of Schoolcraft's Eliza Street project has an engineers estimate approximately \$20,000 higher than the ARRA funds programmed for it. It is important to quickly reprogram these ARRA funds so that they can be spent in Kalamazoo County.

The options available to reprogram the ARRA funds include:

- Providing funding to a Road Commission Tier 2 ARRA project.
- Provide funding to another ARRA eligible project.
- Provide funding for a project not on the ARRA Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists. This would require new public involvement.
- Not program the funds.

At a special meeting of the Board of Kalamazoo County Road Commissioners, they elected to put forward the Tier 2 project of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Texas Drive as their candidate for the \$290,000 urban ARRA funds. They decided that the best use of the \$150,000 rural ARRA funds would be chip sealing four rural federal aid eligible roads using Road Commission employees under a force account agreement. The Rural Task Force has to decide on the rural funding before KATS can add it to the Transportation Improvement Program.

As added to the agenda, the Technical Committee discussed the excess urban ARRA funds and how best to program it. The Road Commission requested that the Technical Committee recommend inclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street at Texas Drive project into the Transportation Improvement Program or that the Technical Committee authorize the TIP subcommittee to make a recommendation to the Policy Committee.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the Kalamazoo County Road Commission amendment to add 8<sup>th</sup> Street at Texas Drive to the Transportation Improvement Program.”***

The Technical Committee also considered the MDOT amendment request. This amendment to the TIP is to include the installation of a median cable barrier on I-94 from Exit 88 to the east county line. This project was added due to lower than expected prices for previously bid median barrier projects.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve MDOT's amendment to add median cable barrier to the Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

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

Mr. Start told the group that he had met with cities, townships, and villages to review their 2008 population and employment data. Jon is waiting on the information back from the agencies and then the materials will be sent to MDOT for modeling purposes. He told the group that KATS will be needing Act 51 reports soon to help with this process.

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

A representative was not present to give the public transportation update.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Chris Barnes reported that the ARRA projects have begun construction. These projects are Centre Avenue from Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road and Kilgore Road from Westnedge Avenue to the Grand Truck Rail Road just west of Lovers Lane. Both projects are moving along well and should be completed before school starts or shortly after. The STP project on Milham Avenue is near completion, with paving to begin soon. The new signal at Milham Avenue at Angling Road will be up soon and completed by September.

Fred Nagler told the group that the Lovell Street project should wrap up next week. The Bronson Boulevard project is currently in the leveling stage with curb replacements being installed. The Veterans Memorial Park bridge foundation is being redesigned by the engineers, thus the project is on hold until the plan has been developed. The City of Kalamazoo's ARRA project estimates were very close to expected, and the projects are set to begin construction in September.

Tom Hohm said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's ARRA projects would be starting August 24<sup>th</sup>. Two urban ARRA projects: S Avenue from 29<sup>th</sup> Street to Sprinkle Road and 8<sup>th</sup> Street from R Avenue to Q Avenue. The one rural ARRA project is 12<sup>th</sup> Street from D Avenue to C Avenue. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Street project is complete, and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway bridge has not been shipped yet. Once it is installed, the trailway will be done. The CMAQ project on Sprinkle Road has been delayed due to equipment delivery times, but should be completed soon.

Andrea Augustine told the group that the first round of meetings for public input for "Plan Kalamazoo" have concluded. The second round is set for sometime in October. These meetings are for interested citizens to share ideas and offer questions to officials.

Jodi Stefforia noted that the RFP's for conceptual design for a non-motorized connection on 10<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main to the Kal-Haven Trail were submitted for bids and the prices were good. There will be a kick-off walk in early September.

Lotta Jarnefelt shared details of the 2009 aerial photographs now available on the county's website. Townships that elected to have their parcels done are available as well as the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. You can visit the link at [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com), then click on GIS mapping. There will be training available for the pictometry on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Lotta Jarnefelt.

Michelle O'Neill reported that the I-94 project has started construction and therefore the Portage Trailway is also closed until project is completed.

***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. As the end of the fiscal year closes in, it is very important KATS has your time sheets after each month.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Michelle O'Neill told the committee that the north gateway enhancement project had been approved, and there would be a TIP amendment coming soon. The project entails six intersection bump-outs, landscaping, and signs all to comply with ADA specifications.

Shahid Abbas was asked by the North Side Association to ask MDOT if they could improve the traffic signal along North Westnedge Avenue and North Park Street. MDOT has recently completed signal improvements at these locations a few years ago.

Chris Forth asked members to disclose TIP amendments a few days prior to meetings.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.