



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2005**

The February 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), Brian Burlingham, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Ron Reid, Bill Schomisch, John Seelman, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, John Sych, Dallas Williams, and Laura Wise.

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Cramer, Bill Deming, Tom Hohm, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2005 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the January 19th Policy Committee meeting. The committee elected Ron White, Pavilion Township, as chairperson of the committee and Gary Cramer, Kalamazoo Township, as vice-chairperson. They acted to release the FTA Section 5307 funds that were being withheld from Metro Transit and Care-A-Van and to approve the FY 2004 KATS audit. Status reports were given on the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Transportation Plan.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the vehicle deficiency map from the 2025 Transportation Plan and Jon Start gave an overview of how the map is created through the modeling process. The committee also discussed the oversight committee for the Care-A-Van transfer to Metro Transit and their desire to see a Care-A-Van user be a part of that committee. Bill Schomisch noted that negotiations were still taking place on the number of individuals who will participate on the oversight committee.

PORTAGE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT REQUEST

Bill Deming, City of Portage Parks and Recreation Department, presented the city's proposed enhancement grant application for the creation of the Southwest Portage Bikeway. The bikeway would be built from Centre Avenue south to the Walmart property on Shaver Road. It would connect with the existing trailway along Shaver Road. The city has an easement from Walmart for the trail. The total project cost is proposed at \$501,004 with \$357,903 being Enhancement funds. Should the project be funded, it will be constructed in 2006 or later.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the City of Portage’s Transportation Enhancement Grant Request for funding the Southwest Portage Bikeway Phase I and to add the project to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program should it be funded.”*** Motion approved.

NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM UPDATE

Jon Start reported that the project is almost complete. He has been working with the local road agencies and MDOT to finalize the proposed changes to the National Function Classification System in Kalamazoo County. A map of the proposed changes was distributed to the committee for their review. Once the changes are approved by the Policy Committee, they will be forwarded to MDOT and then to FHWA for their approval. Mr. Start noted that there were still several issues that needed to be resolved prior to the Policy Committee's approval, specifically with the amount of Collector roads. It was recommended that the subcommittee meet and make the final recommendation to the Policy Committee in order to finalize the project before the end of February.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to have the National Functional Classification Subcommittee make a recommendation to the Policy Committee for the changes to the Kalamazoo County National Functional Classification System.”*** Motion approved.

FY 2006 SAFETY PROJECT

The Safety Management System Subcommittee met to discuss the proposed projects for the FY 2006 Safety Project. Three projects were proposed:

- Improvements to the intersection of Crosstown Parkway and Howard Street
- Improvements to the intersection of Parkview Avenue and Stadium Drive
- Improvements to the storm water system in the Village of Augusta

The subcommittee agreed that the Crosstown Parkway at Howard Street project proposed by the City of Kalamazoo was the best project to submit based on its rate of return and cost benefit ratio. The proposed project would include signal upgrades and left turn lanes on all four legs. There is some property that would need to be acquired. Several schools are in the area, as well as businesses, and the city believes that they will support the project. Shahid Abbas is working to get support letters for the project and will submit them with the project application. The total cost of the project is \$380,000, with \$200,000 in Safety funds.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the City of Kalamazoo’s Crosstown Parkway at Howard Street Safety Application.”*** Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Steering Committee is continuing to meet to discuss the progress of the 2030 Transportation Plan. KATS staff is working to finalize the socio-economic data projections and is meeting with the local city, township, and village staffs to review the findings. Jon Start reported that he hoped to have the Technical Committee approve the projections at the March meeting. Once the figures are approved, they will be sent to MDOT for modeling.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jon Start informed the committee that staff was made aware of a possible increase in the FY 2005 STP funds but was recently told that the funds are not available. The STP funds for 2005 are estimates since a new transportation bill has not been passed. Should additional funds become available, staff will work with the TIP Subcommittee to allocate them to local projects.

The Technical Committee received a draft copy of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. Kathy Carrier requested that the committee review the projects and report any corrections by the March meeting. Staff will be working in March and April to notify the property owners of the upcoming projects. The TIP is scheduled to be complete by July 31, 2005. Staff is also working with Metro Transit and Care-A-Van on their projects for the final document.

The committee discussed the South Sprinkle Road from Centre Avenue to Zylman and its inclusion in the TIP. The Stryker Corporation is building a large facility in the area and the road will be widened to five lanes. Transportation Economic Development Funds are being applied for to fund the project. KATS staff will review the 2025 Transportation Plan to be sure the project is included in the approved document and that it was tested for air quality conformity. If it is not in the Plan, it can be amended into the document.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to amend the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program to include the South Sprinkle Road from Centre Avenue to Zylman Road project should Transportation Economic Development Funds be awarded.”*** Motion approved.

STATUS REPORT

FY 2005 CMAQ Projects: The Road Commission reported that they are working with their consultant on the South Sprinkle Road Signal Project. Both MDOT and the City of Kalamazoo are working on design work for their projects. Metro Transit is finalizing paperwork for the Ridesharing program.

Jim Cramer noted that the CMAQ funds for FY 2006 may not be available to Michigan since the law currently states that the CMAQ funds are for areas violating the 1-hour air quality standard. Michigan does not have any 1-hour areas. MDOT and FHWA are awaiting the reauthorization of the transportation bill to determine if the state will get more CMAQ funds.

Bylaws Subcommittee: The subcommittee will be meeting soon to discuss possible revisions.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier requested that time sheets be submitted by the 15th of the month.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

MDOT will be holding a meeting regarding the Parkview Avenue bridge over US-131 on Monday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Bill Schomisch reported that Metro Transit did not request any earmark funds for transit in the 2005 appropriations bill. He noted that Congressman Upton is working to get funds for I-94.

A copy of the MDOT 2010 proposed projects was distributed to the committee. The committee will discuss them further at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.