



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

The February meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:06 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, Christopher Barnes, Michael Bippely, Dennis Durham, Debbie Dykema, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Carmine Lewis, Cheri Lutz, Fred Nagler, Michelle O'Neill, and Jodi Stefforia.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Muhammad Arif, Dale Hein, and Dallas Williams.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Jim Cramer, Joanna Johnson, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 8, 2009 MEETING***

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the minutes from January 8, 2009.”* Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported that at the January Policy Committee meeting, the committee voted to include Western Michigan University's Greg Rosine as a voting member.

There was an update on the Stimulus II projects and the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program. Public transportation discussed its plans going forward with a request for a millage and possibly a fare increase. Currently, Metro Transit is working as two separate authorities under one administration.

There was an overview of KATS and funding for projects, as well as the Transportation Improvement Program.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)***

Item 7a on the agenda is not an action item and was eliminated.

Jon spoke about the recent meetings of the TIP Subcommittee and the projects that have been added to the original list of projects for stimulus funds. He noted that MDOT handles enhancement project selection, and federal regulations will apply to Stimulus funds coming through the Federal Highway Administration.

Approximately \$5.25 million dollars may be awarded to KATS for local road projects. Jon Start is attempting to clarify with townships and the Road Commission whether some projects will proceed. The Texas Drive at 8<sup>th</sup> Street project may be moved to the Tier 1 project list.

Motion by the Technical Committee to ***“amend the I-94 from east of Oakland Drive to east of Lovers Lane project into the Transportation Improvement Program .”*** Motion approved.

MDOT is not looking for local match on the I-94 project. Stimulus II projects do not require local match.

Tom Hohm asked to amend the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s S Avenue project limits to between Sprinkle Road and 29<sup>th</sup> Street on the Stimulus II table. He also asked that the 8<sup>th</sup> Street project from KL Avenue to M-43 be part of Tier 2 on the table. The Kalamazoo County Road Commission requested to add a new project, 8<sup>th</sup> Street from R Avenue to Q Avenue, to the Tier 1 list. The reconstruction project was estimated at \$520,000.

There was a motion made to support both tiers. Jon reminded the committee that time is short to amend the TIP for the Stimulus projects. The Technical Committee could hold a special meeting or give the TIP Subcommittee authority to make a recommendation to the Policy Committee on the Technical Committee’s behalf.

Jim Cramer from Federal Highway said the committee could process Tier 1 project list.

Motion by the Technical Committee ***“to let the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee make a recommendation to the Policy Committee on Tier I and Tier II projects to be amended into the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program .”*** Motion Approved.

A meeting date for the subcommittee was set for Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level conference room of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

Currently, the TIP Subcommittee is reviewing the National Functional Classification system map. The review is to see if changes can be made to include the new City of Parchment street (River Reach). Candidate segments are being reviewed. Jon noted that a segment change in the National Functional Classification System will not require a change to Act 51 funding.

KATS staff is currently developing brochures to get public comment on upcoming road projects. Approval of these projects will go to the Policy Committee by June for their approval.

### ***PRESENTATION ON PARCHMENT RIVER REACH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT***

Parchment City Manager Dennis Durham gave a power-point presentation on the redevelopment plan for the old Crown Vantage paper mill site. This new development will be the site for new mixed use residential, retail and commercial space. The sale of the property was made in December 2008, and the activities set for the project includes soil testing, demolition, environmental remediation, construction of roadways, public utilities and vertical construction to begin soon. The link to see the plan and schedule is online at [http://www.parchment.org/pdf\\_docs/NewsletterJanuary%2009.pdf](http://www.parchment.org/pdf_docs/NewsletterJanuary%2009.pdf).

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

Carmin Lewis said the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) met with local jurisdictions to review the millage rate needed for the system. The recommendation will be a 2 tier millage. One tier is for a .6 mil for the city and the other tier is for a .4 mil countywide request. The county request will be made in May and the city request in November.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Chris Barnes said that bids on Milham from Angling to Oakland are at \$1.65 million, with construction to begin in April. All of Portage's Stimulus II projects are ready to go now.

Fred Nagler reported that the City of Kalamazoo's Bronson Boulevard and Lovell Street projects have had their grade inspections. The plans are at MDOT and are ready for a May letting.

Tom Hohm reported that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's project on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street from R Avenue to Q Avenue will start this spring. Also beginning in spring is the Sprinkle Road CMAQ project. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway segment 1 construction will begin soon. The safety project on Sprinkle Road at G Avenue is in the design stages.

Jodi Stefforia noted that Oshtemo Township will begin a beautification project this spring from Parkview Avenue to Stadium Drive.

Lotta Jarnefelt reported that all townships that have Geographic Information System (GIS) maps will be online soon. Some agencies have shown interest in pictometry, and the county may amend the contract for higher resolution. The company doing the photography will be doing their flyover in March or April. The GIS tactical plan will be presented on February 17<sup>th</sup> as a guide for the future.

Keith Hernandez said the City Commission is set to release a draft of the Portage Creek Corridor Plan. The City of Kalamazoo is starting to update their land use master plan.

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

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are needed through January 2009. An informational session on what activities can be submitted will be held at a later date. Please inform KATS of staff changes. A summary of time sheets turned in so far was handed out to each committee member.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Jon Start reminded the group of the FTA teleconference to be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> for localized bottleneck solutions, at the MDOT secondary complex in Lansing. KATS can forward the information about the meeting to interested Technical Committee members.

Michelle O'Neill also reminded the group of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) presentation at the Fetzer Center on Western Michigan University's campus from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.