



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2007**

The February meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Szopo (Chair), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Michael Bippley, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Michael Renk, Bill Schomisch, John Seelman, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ron Copping

OTHERS PRESENT

Michelle O'Neill, Adrian Stroupe, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 11, 2007 MEETING

Frank Szopo requested several changes to the January 11, 2007 minutes. He noted that under John Seelman's report on the city of Kalamazoo projects, the intersection project at Crosstown Parkway and Howard Street would be starting in April. He also requested the following change to his comments regarding the study of the property between Drake Road and Howard Street:

Frank Szopo noted that the Western Michigan University Foundation is funding a study to look at ~~the feasibility of a new road~~ **roadway options** between Drake Road and Kendall/Solon. The site is the location for the Kalamazoo Public School's new middle school. ~~and has been rezoned by the city for development.~~ **The west 30 acres have been recently rezoned by the city for development.** The east 80 acres are zoned residential.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***"to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2007 Technical Committee meeting as corrected."*** Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

The KATS Policy Committee met on January 31 at Comstock Township Hall. They heard a presentation by Fred Gardner of Gardner, Provenzano, Schauman, Thomas, P.C. on the KATS audit and accepted the FY 2006 audit report. They also approved amendments to the 38th Street Local Jobs Today project and the Drake at West Main intersection project. Status reports were given on the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and 2030 Transportation Plan. The committee did not have any changes to the alternatives as presented by the Technical Committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on January 18. They heard status reports on the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Transportation Plan. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A number of amendments were presented to the Technical Committee. A copy of the amendments is attached to these minutes. The shaded Year cells were identified as amendments for the February meeting. Most of the amendments were being completed in order to assist the local agencies in meeting Spring let dates. Several Local Jobs Today projects were also identified. Metro Transit submitted a number of amendments and administrative changes in order for the TIP to match their 2007 funding application to MDOT. Rural Task Force projects were also identified.

Kathy Schultz reviewed the project list with the Technical Committee. The city of Kalamazoo submitted several local street projects that were added to FY 2008. Projects in the FY 2008 element of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program need to match the FY 2008 year in the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the provided amendments to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

Kathy Schultz reported that the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program is underway. Brochures were being developed for the various projects and addresses were being obtained from the local townships, villages, and cities. The project list will also be made available on the KATS website. KATS intends to have the document approved by the Policy Committee at their May meeting.

The Interagency Work Group will be meeting on February 15 at 1:00 p.m. to review the Transportation Improvement Programs and Transportation Plans for the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Metropolitan Planning Areas and Van Buren and Calhoun counties. All three counties will be tested by MDOT for air quality conformity.

CITY OF KALAMAZOO ENHANCEMENT GRANT

A copy of a resolution of support was distributed to the Technical Committee. The city of Kalamazoo, along with MDOT, is applying for Transportation Enhancement funding for street improvements along Westnedge Avenue and Park Street, with specific improvements at six intersections. Improvements will include brick crosswalks, sheltering for pedestrians, bike lanes, and pedestrian lighting. The proposed budget is \$491,000 with \$351,725 in Transportation Enhancement funding. Keith Hernandez distributed preliminary sketches of what the area may look like once completed. He is anticipating late 2007 or 2008 funding for the project. Several community meetings have been held regarding the application and neighborhood support has been expressed.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the resolution of support for the Westnedge Avenue and Park Street Beautification Enhancement Project.”*** Motion approved.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY

Jon Start announced that the FY 2007 and 2008 CMAQ projects have been approved. A list of the preliminary 2009 projects was distributed to the committee. The committee will meet again to determine how to handle the overage in FY 2009 on the local funding side. A total of \$1,721,953 in CMAQ funding is available for FY 2009.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The list of alternatives has been sent to MDOT for modeling. The Interagency Work Group will be reviewing the project list and determining which projects will need to be tested for air quality conformity.

The Non-Motorized Plan is being finalized. Facilities along the federal aid system have been identified and staff is reviewing missing links in the system. A review of the pedestrian system is also being completed. Steve Stepek provided the committee with the environmental maps that highlight projects identified in the Plan near well fields, cemeteries, schools, and other natural resources. The maps will be part of the document.

Jon Start noted that staff has met with the Kalamazoo Environmental Council and several planning commissions regarding the 2030 Transportation Plan development.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Bill Schomisch reported that Metro Transit completed an origin/destination report to help determine where the new bus routes will be located in the city of Portage. The authority plans to have the new bus routes operating by the end of April.

A project manager is being sought for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. This individual will oversee the consolidation of the current transit authorities and operators into one authority. A job description is being finalized and will be noticed soon.

Metro Transit will be working on a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) that will be focus on the fixed route system. The new transportation authority has requested that Metro Transit look at whether the Care-A-Van system can also be a part of the study.

Bill Schomisch also reported that ridership for 2006 was down slightly from 2005. He also noted that Western Michigan University is looking to potentially downsize their service provided to students.

STATUS REPORTS

Michelle O'Neill reported on the Michigan Department of Transportation projects:

- The M-43 at Drake Road project has been obligated. Construction will start after July 4th. The milling and resurfacing of West Main will take place as well.
- Construction on the US-131 at I-94 project, as well as the Oakland Drive bridge, will be starting this spring. Funding for I-94 beyond Oakland Drive has not been identified.

Tom Hohm reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- The Westnedge Avenue project from Mosel Avenue to D Avenue will start in the spring. A Transportation Enhancement project that included wildflower plantings near the Kalamazoo Nature Center will also be completed.
- The Parkview at Stadium project will start this spring.
- The G Avenue project is scheduled for March letting.
- The 38th Street project from MN Avenue to Climax Drive is scheduled for April letting. This is a Local Jobs Today project.
- 9th Street from north of Stadium Drive to KL Avenue will be in the fall letting.
- 43rd/Q Avenue/44th Street project will be in the fall letting with construction in 2008. Tom noted that the FONSI was recently completed and design plans are now proceeding.

Dallas Williams reported on the city of Portage projects:

- The Kilgore Road project, as well as the Bacon Street project, will be in the March letting. Both projects will be completed this summer.

John Seelman reported on the city of Kalamazoo projects:

- The Paterson Street project will be in the March letting.
- The Crosstown Parkway project will start this spring. This is a Local Jobs Today project.
- The Crosstown at Howard Street safety project will start in April.
- The city is completing the Oakland Drive CMAQ project, with poles currently being constructed and signal equipment being done in the spring.

Keith Hernandez reported that the city is developing a well head zoning overlay. The city will not allow new development in the well head areas without specific mitigations based on the type of development.

Dallas Williams reported that the city of Portage is working on a long range visioning plan for the city. 150 people have participated to date. There has been discussion with residents about what they foresee for transit and other road improvements for the future.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are due by the 15th of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.