



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2008**

The January 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***

Frank Szopo (Chair), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, John Byrnes, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Fred Nagler, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Dennis Durham, Dale Hein, Lotta Jarnefelt, and Cheri Lutz.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Joanna Johnson, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

***MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 6, 2007 MEETING***

A correction was made on page 2 under the 2008 Technical Committee Meeting Schedule discussion. The motion stated that the committee was approving the voting schedule, not the meeting schedule for 2007. The meeting schedule was approved by the Technical Committee.

Members asked if the road engineers were going to meet to discuss the OHSP study or if a response was sent back to OHSP regarding their concerns about the intersection safety report. Jon Start recommended that the road engineers meet briefly after the Technical Committee to discuss the response to the report.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes from December 6, 2007 as corrected.”***  
Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported on the December 19<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. Several members will be participating with Technical Committee representatives to discuss the US-131/US-131BR study. They heard reports on the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport and the OHSP study. Dennis Berkebile was elected chairperson and Jeff Bither will remain vice-chairperson.

### ***CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on December 20. They discussed the next Transportation Plan development and how the committee can be incorporated into the development.

A subcommittee was established to begin the discussions of the 2035 Transportation Plan. Members include:

Darrell Harden, Rick Fowler, Fred Nagler, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia, Chris Forth, Lotta Jarnefelt, John Byrnes

The Citizens Advisory Committee will be meeting quarterly.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

### ***FY 2008 - 2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

The FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program is being reviewed by FHWA. Without the 2030 Transportation Plan being approved, the KATS TIP cannot be approved. Because of the time frame for letting projects this spring, Jon Start recommended that the committee take action to approve amendments to the FY 2008 TIP so that when the TIP is approved, the projects can move forward. The following projects were proposed for amendments:

Mosel Avenue - Westnedge Avenue to Kalamazoo River Bridge. Advanced through Local Jobs Today from FY 2009 to FY 2008.

Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway - Segment 1 Gull Road to Mosel Avenue. Enhancement funds are being proposed for this project. Additional segments of the \$6 million dollar construction of the entire trailway will be brought before the committee at a later date.

S Avenue from South Sprinkle to east urban boundary. The project has received \$375,000 in federal TEDF funds, with total project cost of \$850,000.

I-94 from Lovers Lane east for 1,220 feet: Construction of noise barrier. This is a new project, with federal cost of \$597,240 and state cost of \$58,894.

US-131 North Village Limit of Schoolcraft to U Avenue: Addition of funding to this project. New amount: \$1,662,374 federal; \$368,626 state.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation project amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

The Mosel Avenue project is a Local Jobs Today project that will be in the spring letting. The Road Commission will be reducing the number of lanes on the facility from 4 to 3 with bike lanes.

MDOT has committed funding for Phase 1 of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, with the project being coordinated through the Road Commission. The local share of the project is being funded by the Kalamazoo Parks Foundation. The official award will not be available until March, 2008 but MDOT has informed the Road Commission and KATS that the funds are available for the project.

The S Avenue project has Transportation Economic Development Fund monies totaling \$375,000.

Separation of action taken on the amendments was suggested in case FHWA does not recognize funding for the trailway project until after the announcement of 2008 Enhancement projects has been made.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to amend the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the Mosel Avenue and S Avenue projects.”*** Motion approved.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to amend the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include Phase 1 of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway.”*** Motion approved.

### ***SAFETY PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS***

The Safety Subcommittee met before the Technical Committee meeting to discuss the proposed FY 2009 Safety Projects. The call for projects is due March 28. The two projects being recommended are:

- # Angling Road at Milham Road: The intersection meets 5 warrants for signal installation. Milham between Oakland and Angling will be widened in 2009 and this project would be incorporated with the widening project. Total project cost: \$300,000; \$250,000 safety.
- # Sprinkle Road at G Avenue: The project would include modernization of the signals and left turn lanes. Currently there are a number of angle accidents at the intersection. Total project cost: \$200,000; \$150,000 safety.

Jon Start reminded the committee that the agencies need to contact property owners prior to submittal to the Policy Committee for approval.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the proposed safety projects for FY 2009 Safety funding.”*** Motion approved.

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

Bill Schomisch reported that trolley service has ended in Portage and downtown Kalamazoo. Both services are being planned again for next year. The new City of Portage bus routes are increasing in ridership. Bill noted that Metro Transit received a \$245,000 earmark from the federal government. The funding will be put aside for now.

Five new vans have arrived at Metro Transit. Four new diesel coaches are expected to arrive in February. There is a new chairperson for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority.

Metro Transit was asked to examine ways to encourage Portage school students to take the bus to school versus driving cars.

### ***REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECT***

Jon Start met with the committee examining a regional transportation project. The committee decided that Battle Creek and Kalamazoo will not be part of the region being examined (Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon). He will be keeping in contact with the group regarding future plans.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Michael Bippley reported on the MDOT projects:

- # I-94: The westbound soundwall is being installed.
- # Pat Gibbons is no longer with MDOT.
- # The signal along Gull Road at Sprinkle Road has been upgraded.

Tom Hohm reported on the Road Commission projects:

- # The 9<sup>th</sup> Street bridge and 35<sup>th</sup> Street bridge will be in the February letting.
- # Signal improvements along Sprinkle Road will be done this summer, with June/July letting being scheduled.

Chris Barnes reported on the City of Portage project:

- # The city will be meeting with property owners along Westnedge to outline the proposed widening this summer. Two focus group meetings are being scheduled.

Shahid Abbas reported on the City of Kalamazoo project:

- # Construction at four intersections along Burdick and Crosstown have been updated. More work will be completed this spring.

Keith Hernandez reported that the Planning Commission endorsed the Gateway Plan and has submitted it to the City of Kalamazoo for their endorsement. Funds would be sought in fiscal years 2009 - 2011.

Work has started on the Arboretum property, with the new Kalamazoo Public School's middle school being constructed. Kendall and Solon are going to be converted to two-way streets and residential access will be available from the east.

Jodi Stefforia expressed her concern over the installation of driveway cuts without any proposed development for the property along Drake Road. The Road Commission certifies Drake Road in this area and has signed off on the right-in / right-out driveway cuts.

A request for Aggregate Resources to fund the resurfacing of 10<sup>th</sup> Street will be considered in the upcoming weeks by Oshtemo Township. If Aggregate Resources funds the improvement, the project does not need to be put in the TIP.

***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are needed through December, 2007.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Jon Start introduced Joanna Johnson, who is the new Managing Director of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.