



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2006**

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

Muhammad Arif (Chair), Shahid Abbas, Chris Barnes, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Curt Flowers, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Ron Reid, Bill Schomisch, John Seelman, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Forth, Richard Skalski, John Sych, and Laura Wise.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dean Blanchard, Tom Hohm, Jason Latham, Yali Li, Jack Mekemson, Jennifer Osborne, Kathy Carrier, and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 5, 2005 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the December 14th Policy Committee meeting. The committee took action to approve a pass through agreement with Metro Transit for a route analysis study as a part of the new downtown transfer center. The 2006 meeting schedule, FY 2005 KATS audit, and a resolution supporting the continued study of US-131 in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo counties were approved. Action was also taken to submit the Road Commission’s Parkview at Stadium Safety Application to MDOT and to approve resolutions honoring Richard Atwell and Hannah McKinney.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on December 15th to discuss the status of the new transportation authority board, I-94, and the study of US-131 in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo counties. They were notified that KATS will be holding a public hearing in February on the I-94 widening project.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jon Start requested that the committee discuss the use of STP funds for the support of KATS staff under Other New Business.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Jon Start noted that the recently approved Technical Committee Bylaws are now in effect, with new changes to the voting membership. He noted that the village managers for Schoolcraft and Vicksburg now have non-voting membership status.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)

A list was distributed to the committee outlining the projects proposed by the CMAQ Subcommittee for FY 2006 and 2007. The FY 2006 projects were identified in priority order. As of the meeting, the 2006 - 2008 call for CMAQ projects had not been made by MDOT. MDOT staff reported that the call for projects should occur before the end of January. The committee discussed the further review of the intersection of West Main at Drake as a combined project between the City of Kalamazoo, Road Commission, and MDOT for FY 2007. The intersection project would be done in conjunction with improvements MDOT has proposed for FY 2007 along West Main.

Since the FY 2006 CMAQ project list was complete and in priority order, members determined that action on the FY 2006 project list would be needed at this time, and the FY 2007 and FY 2008 projects would need to be reviewed and prioritized prior to submittal to MDOT once the call for project was received.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee approval of the FY 2006 CMAQ project list with the understanding that funds are not currently known and that changes may be necessary once the call for the projects has been released.”*** Motion approved.

I-94 PROJECT STATUS

KATS will be looking at amending the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2025 Transportation Plan to add the I-94 widening project from US-131 to east of Oakland Drive. FHWA is allowing amendments to the 2025 Transportation Plan for 90 days. An email to the Interagency Work Group will be sent to determine whether the group feels the project needs to be tested for air quality conformity. Once the results are in from the email, the project will be sent to MDOT for inclusion in the air quality model run. The public hearing will be scheduled for the February 22nd Policy Committee meeting, and any changes needed to the documents will be made in March. It was noted that the current 2025 Transportation Plan does mention the I-94 widening project but not as the new limits being planned by MDOT or with the correct funding amounts.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A meeting was held prior to the Technical Committee to discuss the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan. The alternatives are scheduled to be delivered to MDOT by the end of February, with the Plan being completed by October, 2006. It was noted that the final air quality run cannot be completed until BCATS completes their data.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of a transportation advisory board. The new nine member board will be named in January and will work to develop a millage request by the November, 2006 elections. A total of 19 applications were received for the board and 13 will be interviewed. An agreement between the new board and the current Transit Authority Board will be developed until the millage is passed. The Friends of Transit are meeting monthly and working with local officials to inform the public about the needs of transit in the community.

RESOLUTION HONORING JOHN SYCH

John Sych will be leaving Kalamazoo County Planning and taking a position up north. A resolution was presented honoring his contributions to the Technical Committee.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve a resolution honoring John Sych for his many contributions to the KATS Technical Committee.”*** Motion approved.

STATUS REPORTS

FY 2006 STP and CMAQ Projects:

- Tom Hohm reported that the 6th Street project will be let in April. The 26th Street project will be submitted for March letting. The Sprinkle/Romence intersection project will be in the January letting.
- John Seelman reported that work will start again on the Michigan Avenue project this spring. The intersection of Fairfield and Portage is currently under design as is the Howard at Crosstown safety project.
- Chris Barnes noted that Oakland Drive from Romence to Centre will be completed this spring with sidewalk and leveling being finished. Tree cutting and utility relocation has started on the Lovers Lane project.

Land Use and Zoning Reports

- Keith Hernandez reported that a PUD in the Winchell neighborhood is being developed with 18 new houses. He also noted that the city is reviewing allowing tax breaks to property owners who purchase homes in designated revitalization neighborhoods.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Jon Start asked for input on whether the committee would support using STP funds for KATS staff once the remaining balance of planning funds has been spent down. The committee initially noted that they would support such a request in the future. Jon will work with the major road and transit agencies to determine the amount of the future request. He also noted that the County would like to discuss merging the county planning position with the KATS planner/engineer position.

MDOT will be holding a meeting on January 30th to discuss the 2011 MDOT projects. The meeting will be held at the Transportation Service Center at 1:00 p.m.

MDOT will be asking the Act 51 agencies for information on their road construction projects as a part of the Asset Management Inventory Project. KATS will be working with the local agencies on the submission of the data.

Bill Schomisch noted that Metro Transit is finishing an origin/destination study of Care-A-Van trips. He will be presenting the report at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.