



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2009**

The January meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:35 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, Muhammad Arif, Andrea Augustine, Christopher Barnes, Dennis Durham, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Tom Hohm, Fred Nagler, Michelle O’Neill, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, and Mike West.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cheri Lutz, and Dallas Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT

Joanna Johnson, Ray Waurio, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 11, 2008 MEETING

Two corrections were noted for the December 11th minutes. On the bottom of Page 3, the minutes should have read “Security at the Kalamazoo Transportation Center has improved greatly. There will be an addition of one more public safety officer in January.”

Next, Chris Barnes was omitted from the Members Present section and was in attendance.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes from December 11, 2008 as corrected.*”
Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reviewed the December 17th Policy Committee meeting. There was an amendment approved for the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the I-94 engineering work to be broken into three sections. There was extensive discussion about the Stimulus II money. There was interest from the Policy Committee to prioritize the projects in some way.

The Policy Committee reelected Dennis Berkebile to be Policy Committee Chairperson and Jeff Bither to be Vice-Chairperson for 2009. The committee also adopted the 2009 meeting schedule, and there was an orientation session with a power point presentation given on what KATS is, how it is funded, and the responsibilities of the Policy Committee for the new members.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The Stimulus II projects that were submitted from the City of Kalamazoo, MDOT, Kalamazoo County Road Commission, City of Portage, Oshtemo township, and the Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway to KATS were reviewed. Once all projects are submitted with time frames, the list will go before the Policy Committee then KATS will forward them to MDOT to be included in the master list.

The Technical Committee moved ***“to recommend the list of projects with estimated ready by time frames to the Policy Committee.”*** Motion approved.

Staff asked that the Technical Committee review the draft 2010-2013 TIP and inform KATS staff of any corrections or additions by mid-week of January 12th. These need to be turned in so that the TIP can go out for public comment.

KATS staff will be contacting members to set up meetings for the TIP committee.

Review of the National Functional Classification System needs to be done in parallel to evaluate the addition of a new road in Parchment as a collector. Kalamazoo County has more federal aid mileage than recommended so any new mileage must be offset by removing mileage.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Bill Schomisch reported that diesel fuel prices were down, while ridership was still up. Since November, there was a recommendation made by the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County to postpone the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority (KCTA) switch-over. The two boards are looking at a two tier millage, with a separate work group set up to look at each millage. A revised 2009 budget still needs to go before the board for approval. Currently, Kalamazoo Metro Transit is running on fund balance.

STATUS REPORTS

Fred Nagler reported that the City of Kalamazoo's 2008 projects are complete and projects for next year are being organized.

John Byrnes reported that the Kalamazoo County Road is finishing billings for 2008 projects, and the projects for 2009 are ready to go.

Chris Barnes said that the median constructed with the 2008 Westnedge project has generated some comments. The Kilgore Road project is currently ready, should funding be awarded.

Andrea Augustine reported that a request for proposals for updating the City of Kalamazoo's land use plan has been issued. They anticipate starting the plan update in March.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are needed through December 2008. At the February meeting, there will be an informational session on the time that can be submitted to KATS.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Schultz announced to the committee that an Asset Management Internet Reporting Training Session will be held at the lower level conference room at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission on January 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Jon Start reminded the committee that safety projects need to be turned in so that they can be brought to the Technical Committee at the February meeting.

Bill Schomisch asked the group for insight into who can assist the Director when deciding to suspend Kalamazoo Metro Transit's service if the weather is too dangerous for both citizens and employees. He asked if anyone knows what protocol is in a situation like this. It was suggested that the Police, Public Safety, or Sheriff Department would be best able to assist.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.