



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2007**

The July meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:40 a.m. at Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

John Byrnes (Vice-Chair), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Michael Bippely, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Carmine Lewis, Fred Nagler, Mike West, and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Chris Barnes, Ron Fleckenstein, Allan Galicia, Jodi Stefforia, and Frank Szopo.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

***MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2007 MEETING***

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes from June 14, 2007 as presented.”***  
Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported on the June 27<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved amendments to the FY 2007 Unified Work Program and FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. They adopted the FY 2008 Unified Work Program. They heard a status report on the 2030 Transportation Plan.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

### ***2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN***

The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study is making progress towards completing their model in order for MDOT to run air quality for Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Van Buren counties. Without the air quality analysis, the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Transportation Plan cannot be adopted. MDOT is expecting the air quality run to take place in August. Currently, staff is looking to have the Technical Committee and Policy Committee approve both documents in September. Edits are currently being completed by staff.

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

The projects included in the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program have been distributed to the local agencies for comment and changes. A copy of the comments received from the postcards mailed to property owners in May were distributed to the committee. It was noted that no significant comments were made on any projects resulting in changes by the local agencies. Jon Start requested that the local road agencies respond to the comments. Staff also contacted a number of Federal, State, and local agencies to get input on the proposed projects in the TIP. To date, 3 comments have been received.

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

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is working to develop a coordinated human services plan to address funding available through the Federal Transit Administration. They are also working on policies and other contracts needed for the transition from the Transit Authority Board to the new authority in 2009. Jon Start noted that Dale Hein has been named Project Manager for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. The committee will need to discuss having the new authority on the Technical Committee and Policy Committee.

Carmine Lewis noted that the Metro Transit fleet will be switching over to B-5 bio-diesel fuel.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Michael Bippley reported on the Michigan Department of Transportation projects:

- I-94: Several ramps will be closed on and off over the next few months as the project is slowed down for the winter. The Oakland Drive bridge will be opened at the end of July with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The westbound ramp will be closed for a few weeks after the bridge is opened. The beams are being set over 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Kilgore Road: The project is moving forward with the expected opening date in September.
- Bacon Street: The project is currently being completed and should be opened around the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

Tom Hohm reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- Parkview Avenue at Stadium Drive: The sewer and paving work have been completed. The new signal should be operational on July 14.
- Westnedge Avenue from Mosel Avenue to D Avenue: The road has been pulverized and concrete curb is being placed. Paving work is complete, and the road is open to traffic.
- G Avenue from 37<sup>th</sup> Street to 39<sup>th</sup> Street: The road has been completed and includes a new bridge over Gull Creek.
- 38<sup>th</sup> Street from MN Avenue to Climax Drive: The road is being widened and ditching is taking place.
- Nichols Road from M-43 to Alamo Drive: The project is complete and was marked for 3 lanes versus the 4 lanes it was prior to resurfacing.

Fred Nagler reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- Howard at Crosstown: The project should be completed next month.
- Crosstown Parkway at Burdick Street: September letting has been scheduled.
- Mills Street: September letting has been scheduled.
- Paterson Street: The project has completed curb and gutter repair.

The Drake at Stonebrooke and D Avenue at 14<sup>th</sup> Street projects are scheduled for September letting. Both are funded safety projects with Local Jobs Today funding.

Shahid Abbas noted that the Oakland Drive CMAQ project has been completed.

The West Main at Drake Road intersection project is starting the first of July. Paving will be done from the county line to Arlington Street near West Main hill.

Lotta Jarnefelt reported that a group is working on the I-94 Business Loop beautification plan. Draft drawings of potential improvements have been developed by MDOT and public input is being sought. A number of partners are working on the project, including Kalamazoo County, Kalamazoo Township, and MDOT. It is the intent of the group to apply for Enhancement funds for improvements to the area between Sprinkle Road and Michigan Avenue.

Tom Hohm asked about the Portage Road Master Plan and the status of improvements. DKI is working on the project and they are attempting to address funding issues. They are intending to move forward with the plan that will address aesthetics, safety, and non-motorized traffic.

Lotta also informed the committee that she is working to update the road layer in MDOT's Frameworks. She has a temporary staff person working on the project and will be meeting with the local agencies to discuss elements for the update. She noted that the tax maps are available online at [www.kalcounty.gov](http://www.kalcounty.gov).

***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are due through June. Staff needs to have time sheets on a timely basis near the end of the fiscal year in order to keep up-to-date with billings to MDOT.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

The collection of PASER data for the Asset Management Council has started. Kathy Schultz reported that the team will be collecting on federal-aid roads initially and if time and money allows, the local streets will be collected.

Steve Stepek noted that Kathy Schultz was nominated for an award from the Michigan Transportation Planning Association for Technical Excellence in Metropolitan Planning. The awards will be handed out the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.