



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2005**

The July 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 (Vice-Chair), Shahid Abbas, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Dwight Leeks, Carmine Lewis, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Muhammad Arif, Matt Crawford, Cheri Lutz, and John Sych.

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrea Augustine, Marty Dodge, Laura Wise, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2005 MEETING

Tom Hohm noted that the Sprinkle Road at Romence Road intersection improvement should be part of the August letting and may be reconstructed yet this fall.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2005 Technical Committee meeting as corrected.”*** Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the June 29th Policy Committee meeting. The committee took action to sign the Master Agreement and self-certification resolution with MDOT. They reviewed the draft Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Work Program and will be taking action on both documents at their July 27th meeting. The committee discussed the development of the project prioritization process and determined that a joint meeting between the Technical Committee and Policy Committee might be beneficial. The joint meeting was scheduled for August 31 at 8:30 a.m.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on June 16 and discussed the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan and the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. They had no comment on the TIP. Their next meeting will be held August 18 at 5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Marty Dodge from the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce outlined the Chamber's recent trip to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators about the reauthorization of TEA-21 and funding for I-94. Representatives from Battle Creek and Lansing also attended the trip.

FY 2006 - 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The draft FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program was mailed to the voting members. The document will be part of the July 27th public hearing. Corrections were mentioned for the Parkview at Stadium Drive project and the functional classification listings on several projects. These corrections will be made prior to the Policy Committee meeting.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to recommend Policy Committee approval of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program pending comments from the public hearing.***" Motion approved.

UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

The Technical Committee received a copy of the draft FY 2006 Unified Work Program. The UWP contains two special studies. One will focus on the transit operational analysis for Metro Transit due to the Kalamazoo Transportation Center being constructed. The other study will focus on the Arboretum property and the street network on the west side of Kalamazoo. KATS plans to hire a GIS student to work on correcting address information within Framework. Jon Start also noted that MDOT will be working with KATS on the review of the traffic counting program as part of the HPMS program.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to recommend Policy Committee approval of the FY 2006 Unified Work Program.***" Motion approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS

A copy of the draft bylaws was distributed to the committee. The bylaws will go to the Policy Committee for their approval once they are approved by the Technical Committee. The bylaws reflect one alternate per voting member and the addition of a City of Portage representative, currently Chris Barnes.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to approve the Technical Committee Bylaws and to submit the document to the KATS Policy Committee for adoption.***" Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

MDOT is working on developing the deficiencies based on information provided to them. Once the deficiencies have been received, staff will be working with the various road agencies on identifying alternatives to be tested.

A Non-motorized Committee meeting was held on June 28 to begin discussions about the Non-motorized Plan for Kalamazoo County. Staff will be working with the agencies who have non-motorized plans to incorporate them in the overall plan.

The Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

METRO TRANSIT AND CARE-A-VAN STATUS REPORT

The Friends of Transit meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. They held a workshop recently to educate participants on the different options for becoming a transit authority. They plan to work with the Transit Oversight Committee to be sure that both groups are focusing on the same issues. A joint meeting of the Friends of Transit and the Transit Oversight Committee is being planned in the upcoming month.

OVERVIEW OF TWO-WAY TRAFFIC CONVERSION MEETING

An overview of the consultant's recommendations was held on June 9th. KATS staff met with the consultant, MDOT, the City of Kalamazoo, and DKI. There was concern that the improvements would not meet 2025 traffic projections with several intersections failing. The consultant suggested that Lovell and South streets be converted to two-way traffic. An origin/destination study will be conducted to look at the traffic patterns downtown.

STATUS REPORTS

Dallas Williams reported on City of Portage project:

- Oakland Drive: Now open to traffic. Work should be finalized by September 1.

Tom Hohm reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- Sprinkle Road from V Avenue to S Avenue: Milling is complete. Some widening will be done at intersections as well as drainage improvements.
- Sprinkle Road at Zylman: The project is starting July 14th and will involve widening the section from two lanes to five lanes.
- Sprinkle Road at Romence Road: The Road Commission and City of Portage are waiting for right-of-way from the airport. The project will be constructed next year.
- Sprinkle Road at Miller/ML: The signal improvements are complete.

- Sprinkle Road at Lake/Comstock: The intersection alignment project is underway. It should be completed in a few weeks.
- Portage Road Bridge over Barton Howard Lake: The beams have been place and deck placement is scheduled.

Laura Wise reported on MDOT's project:

- Stadium Drive at Michigan Avenue: The project is almost complete. They are working with the railroad to get the signal installation completed.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- Rose Street from Lovell to Kalamazoo: The project is underway. Curb repair and replacement is taking place, as well as paving. The city is working with Consumers Energy on the placement of decorative lighting. It is scheduled to be complete in August.
- West Michigan Avenue: Bids have been opened, with the project coming in \$600,000 less than the engineer's estimate. Consumers Energy is moving utilities. The west end of the project will be constructed this year, with the remaining being finalized next year.

FY 2005 CMAQ Projects:

- KCRC: The bids were 26% over estimates for the signal upgrade/interconnect.
- MDOT: Earthwork has started on the expansion of the carpool lot.
- City of Kalamazoo: Bids for the signal project on Portage Road will be opened August 6.

Land Use and Zoning Reports:

Jon Start noted that the item will be on the agenda for members to talk about upcoming construction projects occurring in the community.

Jon Start requested that agencies submit their project status reports in writing prior to the mailings for Technical Committee and Policy Committee. This will help the committee see what projects are underway and prepare questions prior to the meeting.

Project Prioritization Process:

The Technical Committee will be holding a joint meeting with the Policy Committee in August. More information will be mailed soon.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier noted that everyone needs to have time sheets through June to her soon so that KATS can bill for the third quarter.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Fairfield Road at Portage Street: A consultant is looking at proposed improvements.

Frank Szopo requested the committee's assistance in locating someone at the railroad to work with on acquiring right-of-way for the non-motorized trail connection from the Kal-Haven trailhead on 10th Street to downtown Kalamazoo.

The committee congratulated Ron Fleckenstein for the recently developments on the paper mill in the City of Parchment. The Environmental Assessment will be taking place soon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.