



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2009**

The June meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:07 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, Christopher Barnes, Dennis Durham, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dwight Leeks, Carmine Lewis, Cheri Lutz, Fred Nagler, Michelle O'Neill, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, Mike West, and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Muhammad Arif and Dale Hein.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Ben Chen, Paul MacNellis, Don Ulsh, Jack Urban, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***MINUTES FROM THE MAY 14, 2009 MEETING***

Lotta Jarnefelt noted that she was not listed under Members Absent portion of the minutes.

Under Status Reports, Fred Nagler noted that construction of the bridge at Rose Park Veterans Memorial would be starting June 5 and was not currently under construction as reported in the minutes.

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the corrected minutes from May 14, 2009.”* Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported on the May 27<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved the amendments to the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and discussed the status of the FY 2011 - 2014 TIP. They heard a status report on the US-131/US-131 Business Route Study planned by Oshtemo and Kalamazoo townships. There was also an update on the Truck Ordinance in Oshtemo Township and the ruling by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

### ***WEB BASED TRAFFIC INFORMATION PRESENTATION***

Ben Chen of Midwestern Software Solutions presented their traffic counting software program that KATS staff is considering for inputting and analyzing traffic count data. The software highlights include:

- The counts can be uploaded directly to the software online from the field or office. The traffic counter equipment for each agency would be able to connect to the program.
- The agencies will help in deciding what traffic count data is available online to the public and what is able to be viewed by other agencies.
- The software uses a Google mapping program and can bring counts down to a point on the map versus a range that is currently being done in Roadsoft.
- Other agencies use the software, including the Southeast Michigan Council of Government and the Flint MPO. For a live demonstration of the software, Mr. Chen recommended visiting [www.ms2soft.com](http://www.ms2soft.com).
- Midwestern will be able to work with staff to migrate older data into the program.

Other software programs are available from Midwestern, including turning movement and crash statistics. Staff is currently only looking to purchase the traffic count element. The cost of the program would be approximately \$18,000. Staff has programmed the funds in the FY 2010 Unified Work Program. Jon Start noted that staff would meet with the Traffic Count Subcommittee to work on final details for the software and discuss elements to be seen by the public. For the cost, there will be unlimited local agencies that can access and upload data to the website. Steve Stepek commented that the program will help KATS in the future if the Study becomes a Transportation Management Area (TMA).

### ***UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM***

A copy of the draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) was made available to the committee. Kathy Schultz summarized the program for the next fiscal year, noting it was similar to the FY 2009 program except the increase in work for the 2035 Transportation Plan and the finalization of the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program. A table of estimates from the local agencies was also included in the document. There was no increase in FHWA Section 112 funds for the year and a slight increase in FTA funds. The budget also included \$20,000 in MTF funds for data collection for Asset Management. The \$15,000 for the traffic count program was included in the budget. She stressed the importance of agencies providing time sheets to provide soft match for the KATS program. Without the time sheets, KATS would have to receive dues from the local agencies to match the program. Jon noted that should the agencies fail to match the program, staff will have to ask for financial contributions to make up the difference.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee approval of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program.”*** Motion approved.

### ***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

Staff suggested that the agencies present their FY 2010 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program changes for action in July in order to get the two fiscal years updated before the end of the fiscal year. The FY 2011- 2014 Transportation Improvement Program won't be due to MDOT until next spring. Action on the amendments will take place at the July Technical and Policy Committee meetings.

Agencies need to submit their FY 2014 TIP projects to KATS.

### ***NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM***

KATS staff will be meeting with the road agencies and Oshtemo Township to discuss their request to make 10<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main (M-43) to H Avenue a local street. A subcommittee meeting will be held in the upcoming weeks. Jon Start noted that anyone can attend the meeting. The request for functional classification change came from Oshtemo Township.

### ***2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS***

Staff is currently cleaning up the 2008 employment data for transmittal to MDOT. The population projections should be completed soon, with staff meeting with the local agencies to discuss the outcome.

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

Carmine Lewis reported that the Comprehensive Operations Analysis is out for RFP until the end of June. The contract for Metro Van and Care-A-Van is out for bid as well. Metro Transit is also requesting proposals for AVL/GPS consultants to help develop an outline for the AVL program.

She noted that Metro Transit has been receiving comments regarding the removal of the traffic light on West Main at Fletcher Street. Several sight impaired individuals are having a difficult time crossing the street in that section. MDOT is currently reviewing the signal during the yellow caution signal phase before potential removal of the light. Michelle O'Neill noted that MDOT is studying the signal and is listening to the comments about its removal.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Fred Nagler reported that the Lovell Street project has started. The bridge project by the Veterans Park has begun as well. All of the City of Kalamazoo ARRA projects are submitted to MDOT for bid letting.

Tom Hohm reported that 43<sup>rd</sup> Street is getting a top course soon and then the project will be complete. The Sprinkle Road CMAQ project is progressing, with the contractor waiting for traffic signal poles. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway is moving along with construction along the Kalamazoo River and Riverview Drive. The Road Commission's ARRA projects are in the July letting.

Dallas Williams reported that the Kilgore Road and East Centre ARRA projects were bid the first part of the June, with some savings. The West Milham project is underway with construction expected to be completed by September 1.

Michelle O'Neill reported that the Vice-President is scheduled to be at Loy Norrix High School on Friday, June 12. A preconstruction meeting was being held on June 11 to discuss the I-94 at Westnedge Avenue project. The Westnedge Avenue at Crosstown Parkway project is completed, with the addition of a left turn lane.

Darrell Harden reported that the Southwest Region office will be combining the CMAQ funds for the region and selecting projects regionwide instead of by county. This was in an attempt to better use the funds for the region. He noted that Kalamazoo County would then not get a CMAQ project every year as before.

Lotta Jarnefelt reported that the pictometry pictures are complete and that training will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Jodi Stefforia reported that Oshtemo Township has a RFP out for a non-motorized trail connection plan along 10<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main Street to the existing Kal-Haven Trail. Tom suggested that the study also include 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Stadium Drive to M-43.

Keith Hernandez reported that the City of Kalamazoo is working on the Master Plan update. There are several committees meeting during the update process, including infrastructure, neighborhoods, and quality of life. Public meetings are scheduled for July 21 and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Keith also noted that the Planning Department has a Facebook page to gather input. It is listed under Plan Kalamazoo.

### ***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### ***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

It was reported that 50% of the states have met their goal of programming ARRA funds. KATS should know if additional ARRA money is available in July.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.