



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2007**

The June meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Szopo (Chair), Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, Brian Burlingham, John Byrnes, Curt Flowers, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Carmine Lewis, Mike West, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Shahid Abbas, Darrell Harden, Lotta Jarnefelt, and Jodi Stefforia.

OTHERS PRESENT

Cheri Lutz, Kathy Schultz and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 10, 2007 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the minutes from May 10, 2007 as presented.”*
Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the May 29th Policy Committee meeting. A public hearing was held at the Kalamazoo Public Library on the 2030 Transportation Plan. Three citizens were in attendance for the hearing, with one speaking about the consideration of alternative fuel sources for future transportation plans. No action was taken on the Transportation Plan since the air quality portion cannot be completed due to a delay in the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study’s Transportation Plan.

Resolutions were adopted for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s Local Bridge Program applications and a change was made to the Mills Street project in the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program.

The Technical Committee discussed the comment made by an individual at the public hearing about the consideration of alternative fuel sources. Currently, KATS does not forecast what would be the impact to the Transportation Plan should liquid fuels not be readily available in the future. The committee discussed looking at this in the future transportation plan and doing scenarios based on changes in fuel types, land use impacts, and zoning changes. It was noted that Metro Transit will be switching their fleet to bio-diesel in the upcoming months. It was suggested that a short section on the fuel source subject be added to the 2030 Transportation Plan and that more review and study be done when the 2035 Transportation Plan is completed.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on May 17th to discuss the 2030 Transportation Plan. Those present did not have any issues with the document. The committee will be meeting again in September, unless something comes up that needs Citizens Advisory Committee review.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jon Start requested that the committee take action on an amendment to the FY 2007 Unified Work Program. The item will be discussed under Agenda Item 10.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Technical Committee discussed the moving of the I-94 project from South Sprinkle Road to 35th Street to reduce the amount of capacity projects within the 2030 Transportation Plan. In reviewing the financial component of the Plan, Intermodal funding was added to revenues available for street projects, resulting in more funding being available for street projects. By reducing the funding, general preservation projects were reduced so the identified capacity projects represent a higher percentage of the total street projects. KATS staff proposed moving the I-94 project to illustrative to bring the Transportation Plan to a better balance of preservation and capacity expenditures over the life of the document.

The committee had extensive discussion regarding the moving of the project. Several members noted that currently there is no funding or plans by MDOT to move forward with this section of I-94 but by keeping the project in the document, it shows MDOT that this corridor is important to Kalamazoo County. The 2030 Transportation Plan will be reviewed again in four years. There was concern about the percentage of capacity projects in the document when the KATS Goals and Objectives state that KATS will focus on the preservation of the transportation system and due to budget issues, this is the direction most of the road agencies are heading.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to keep the I-94 project from South Sprinkle Road to 35th Street in the 2030 Transportation Plan.”*** Motion approved.

Jon Start reported that KATS is still waiting for Battle Creek's model to be completed so that the air quality analysis can take place. Staff is currently addressing comments received regarding the document, and staff encouraged comments from the Technical Committee members. It was noted that the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club requested that federal-aid roadways have a bike facility. Frank Szopo stated that due to right-of-way, competing needs, and funding issues, this is not able to be done. Staff anticipates a recommendation for approval of the 2030 Transportation Plan in August, 2007.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Several amendments to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were presented to the Technical Committee. Staff noted that the FY 2008 element of the FY 2006 - 2008 TIP needs to match the FY 2008 year of the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP due to KATS not being able to amend the document after July 1, 2007 since KATS will not be SAFETEA-LU compliant.

Tom Hohm informed the committee that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission may be getting Transportation Enhancement funding for trailway work under an application that was approved several years ago. He requested that the project be amended into the TIP should funding be granted by MDOT. There is currently a placeholder in the FY 2006 - 2008 TIP for enhancement projects and the amount can be changed should the project be funded.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to amend the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program, with the addition of the Transportation Enhancement funds should the Kalamazoo County Road Commission find they are receiving funding.”*** Motion approved.

KATS staff is working to complete the FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The document cannot be approved until air quality testing is completed. Brochures have been returned by citizens commenting on the projects. Copies of the comments will be sent to the local agencies for their response.

Jon Start informed the committee that after December 12, 2007, projects in the Transportation Improvement Programs and Transportation Plans have to account for inflation. He will be meeting with the TIP Subcommittee to determine if the project estimates are adjusted or are at current rates.

2008 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Staff is working on the development of the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program. A copy of the funding tables and projected hours for the local agencies was provided for review. The narrative is currently being drafted and will be provided to the committee soon. Jon Start noted that the number of work elements was reduced in the program to ease financial billings and the tracking of time from the local agencies. Staff will also be asking for a cash match for the Program Management work element to match KATS staff time. The local match will be paid for by the cities of Portage and Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and Metro Transit. The document will be taken to the Policy Committee for approval in June.

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

A copy of an amendment to the FY 2007 Unified Work Program was provided to the committee. KATS staff is making an adjustment to the program since more effort was made on the Transportation Plan development than anticipated last year during the development of the budget. The changes have a neutral impact to the overall budget. Funding was shifted from Work Elements 210, 220, 230, 350, and 420.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to amend the FY 2007 Unified Work Program.*” Motion approved.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

The Kalamazoo County Transit Authority hired Dale Hein to assist in the transition from two transportation authorities to one. Carmine Lewis noted that ridership is up from last year.

STATUS REPORTS

Michael Bippley reported on the MDOT projects:

- # I-94: The bridge over US-131 in the westbound lane has been removed. Various ramp closures will be taking place over the next few months. Lane shifts are also implemented.
- # M-43 at Drake Road: The project will be starting July 10th. The intersection will be widened to accommodate dual left turn lanes and paving will be done from the county line to Kalamazoo Township.
- # Stadium Drive: Concrete repairs are being finished. The eastbound lanes will be completed in the fall.

Tom Hohm reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- # Parkview Avenue at Stadium Drive: Construction underway and progressing well.
- # Westnedge Avenue from Mosel Avenue to D Avenue: Underway
- # G Avenue: Project is under construction.
- # 38th Street: Tree removal currently taking place.
- # Nichols Road: The project was in the June letting and will be done the first three weeks in July, with the current four-lane facility being striped for three when complete.
- # VW Avenue: Scheduled for September letting.

Chris Barnes reported on the City of Portage projects:

- # Kilgore Road: Scheduled to be completed by the end of August.
- # Bacon Avenue: Sanitary sewer work currently being done.
- # Centre Avenue at Shaver Road: Intersection work starting next week.
- # Oakland Drive: Culvert replacement over Portage Creek will be done north of Vanderbilt.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- # Paterson Street: Contractor is working on the project.
- # Portage Road at Fairfield: Work is continuing with the addition of islands and a new signal.
- # Crosstown Parkway: The project is scheduled for September letting.
- # Howard Street at Crosstown Parkway: Curb removal and utility work is currently taking place.
- # Oakland Drive: The CMAQ project is complete.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets are due by the 15th of the month. It is even more important as staff comes to the close of the fiscal year.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

John Seelman has been promoted at the City of Kalamazoo and will no longer be attending the Technical Committee meetings. Fred Nagler will be his replacement.

Jodi Stefforia had a baby boy recently. The committee wished her and her new baby well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.