



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2005**

The March 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

Muhammad Arif (Chair), Shahid Abbas, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Ron Reid, Bill Schomisch, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Chamberlain, Matt Crawford, Sheri Lutz, John Sych, and Frank Szopo.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Cramer, Tom Hohm, Laura Wise, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 10, 2005 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the February 23rd Policy Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the Citizens Advisory Committee bylaws and took action to approve the document, with the addition of an annual review. The committee also recognized three Policy Committee members who were stepping down from the committee, supported the City of Portage enhancement grant application, the City of Kalamazoo safety application, the revisions to the National Functional Classification System for Kalamazoo County, and the CMAQ amendments. Status reports were given on the Metro Transit/Care-A-Van merger and the 2030 Transportation Plan.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on February 24th and discussed the 2025 Transportation Plan and how the deficiencies were developed through the modeling process. The group also discussed the ISAAC Transit Forum and the Friends of Transit meetings scheduled for March. They are currently reviewing the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program. Jon Start noted that he is working with the committee to select a chairperson since the bylaws have been approved by the Policy Committee.

NATIONAL FUNCTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM UPDATE

A subcommittee meeting was held recently to discuss the final submittal of the National Functional Classification System changes to the Policy Committee for their approval. The Policy Committee approved the recommended changes at their February 23rd meeting. The changes are now at MDOT and will then be forwarded to FHWA for their review and approval.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Steering Committee did not meet prior to the Technical Committee meeting. Staff is currently working on socio-economic data projections and is finalizing meetings with the local agencies on base and future projections. The Plan is an estimated two months behind schedule.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The committee received information on several MDOT amendments. These amendments include:

- Increase in Capital Preventative Maintenance - Bridge Funds to \$1,962,931 (\$1,570,347 Federal)
- US-131BR from US-131 to North of Hopkins Street
Full depth concrete repairs; Hot mix asphalt shoulder reconstruction
Total: \$792,000; \$648,252 Federal; \$143,748 State
- M - 43 from G Avenue to DE Avenue
Hot mix asphalt overlay
Total: \$423,000; Federal: \$346,226; State: \$76,774
- US-131 from Cass Street to Holmes Street - Village of Schoolcraft
Streetscaping including streetlighting, concrete pavers, plantings, and benches
Total: \$663,552; \$530,842 Federal; \$132,710 Local

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the above stated amendments to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

Metro Transit and Care-A-Van also had several amendments to the FY 2005 element of the FY 2004 - 2006 TIP. These changes were due to the consolidation of Care-A-Van with Metro Transit and the FY 2005 application for funding to the state.

- 2005-52 Intermodal Transportation Center Operating Costs: Removal of Project
- 2005-54 Operating Assistance for Care-A-Van - Change in Funding Level (County portion)
New Total: \$501,600; Federal (Section 5307: \$36,000) (Section 5311: \$17,300); \$448,300 Local
- 2005-54A Operating Assistance for Care-A-Van - Change in Funding Level (Metro Transit)
New Total: \$1,206,900; Federal (Section 5307 \$72,400) (Section 5311 \$35,100);
\$1,099,400 Local
- 2005-55 Specialized Services Operating Assistance: Change in Funding Level (County portion)
New Total: \$122,100; \$0 Federal; \$122,100 Local
- 2005-55A Specialized Services Operating Assistance: Change in Funding Level (Metro Transit)
New Total: \$138,000; \$0 Federal; \$138,000 Local
- 2005-56 Fleet Replacement - Change in project scope to purchase AVL/radio communication equipment - No change in funding
- 2005-58 Transit Study: Removal of Project

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to recommend Policy Committee support of the Metro Transit and Care-A-Van amendments to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program.”* Motion approved.

A copy of a map outlining the location of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program was presented to the committee. The TIP is being reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee and will be sent to the local cities, townships, villages, libraries, and neighborhood associations for public comment. Brochures will be mailed to those along project limits to provide them an opportunity to comment. The document is scheduled to be approved by July, 2005.

Tom Hohm reported that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission submitted a Transportation Economic Development Fund - Category A application to MDOT for improvements to South Sprinkle Road from Zylman Avenue to Centre Street. The improvements would include widening the two lane roadway to five lanes in front of the new Stryker plant on the corner of South Sprinkle and Centre. Design has started on the project, with the Road Commission planning for July construction and completion in October. Total cost is \$1,348,000, with \$400,000 in Category A funds.

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to support the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s Transportation Economic Development Fund - Category A application for South Sprinkle Road from Zylman Avenue to Centre Street.”* Motion approved.

MDOT 2010 PROPOSED PROJECTS

A copy of the proposed MDOT 2010 projects was mailed to the Technical Committee. MDOT is requesting a review and priority listing from KATS on the projects. Darrell Harden noted that \$7 million was put in the 2010 program for I-94 due to the Southwest Region’s commitment to spend some of their annual preservation budget on the widening of the interstate. Several members requested that MDOT look at intersection improvements on West Main and Stadium Drive.

After some discussion, it was recommended that a TIP Subcommittee meeting be held to discuss the proposed projects and assign priority. KATS staff will notify the voting members of the meeting in the next few weeks.

METRO TRANSIT AND CARE-A-VAN STATUS REPORT

Bill Schomisch reported that the transition of Care-A-Van to Metro Transit has been smooth. He thanked MDOT staff for their assistance on getting contracts changed over to Metro Transit. He also reported that a meeting was held recently with ISAAC, with a good turnout. He, along with representatives from the Lansing and Grand Rapids transit systems, spoke on what a transit authority was and its function in the community. Several Friends of Transit meetings are being held in the upcoming months to educate the public about the importance of transit in the community and the creation of a transit authority. The oversight committee, made up of representatives from the county and city, will be formed soon to begin the work on the transit authority creation and the millage request.

STATUS REPORTS

FY 2005 STP Projects: Ron Reid reported that South Sprinkle Road at Romence/Bishop project will be starting soon. Work is also starting on the Portage Road Bridge over Barton/Howard Lake. The Road Commission is currently taking bids for South Sprinkle Road from V Avenue to S Avenue.

The City of Kalamazoo is finalizing appraisals for Michigan Avenue. They expect to start construction this summer. The plans for Rose Street are in Lansing. Work has started on the Michigan Avenue/Stadium Drive project. The project should be completed by August.

The City of Portage's Oakland Drive project will start in April. Dallas Williams noted that costs are coming in 10-15% under estimates. The project should be completed by September.

Bill Schomisch reported that the groundbreaking for the Downtown Transfer Center will be held in April.

FY 2005 CMAQ Projects: A meeting regarding the signal work on Sprinkle Road using CMAQ funds will be held next week. The Road Commission will have to acquire 7-8 parcels for right-of-way. The City of Kalamazoo is developing plans for the Portage Road signal project, with a letting expected in spring/summer. MDOT is midway through design of the carpool parking lot. Metro Transit is working with MDOT on the funding of the Ridesharing program.

Traffic Counting Meeting: Staff met with the road agencies recently to discuss the traffic count program for Kalamazoo County. MDOT is working on a review of the entire traffic count network. Jon Start noted that having traffic counts for the area impacts the amount of federal aid that comes to Michigan and to the area.

MDOT Traffic Safety Summit: Jon Start and several Road Commission employees attended the two-day event. It was noted that most of the participants were law enforcement personnel, with not much focus on engineering.

Bylaws Subcommittee: A subcommittee of the Technical Committee is reviewing the Technical Committee Bylaws. Several changes are being proposed. A meeting of the subcommittee will be held March 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the MDOT Southwest Region offices. The Technical Committee will be reviewing a draft in April.

Roadsoft Training: LTAP recently held a training session on version 6.1.1 of Roadsoft. There are some changes to the program. Contact KATS for more information.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier reported that most agencies have time sheets turned in to KATS. She thanked everyone for their cooperation.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Bill Schomisch reported that he met recently with Congressman Fred Upton in Washington. The House and Senate are working on passing a new transportation bill. The current extension of TEA-21 expires May 31, 2005.

Jon Start noted that KATS received an e-mail from the Federal Transit Administration asking about the area's ITS architecture. If an architecture is not in place, transit will be limited on what items they can purchase for buses that pertain to ITS. Darrell Harden reported that MDOT will be hiring an individual who will be working with ITS for the department.

Muhammad Arif reported that a professor from Western Michigan University is working with the City of Portage on modeling Westnedge Avenue traffic. Several students are working on the project. It was proposed to have the professor attend an upcoming meeting of the Technical Committee and Policy Committee to explain the project.

A meeting regarding the Parkview Avenue bridge over US-131 will be held March 14 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will focus on the bridge improvements and changes to the approaches.

A meeting will be hosted by State Representative LaJoy in Grand Rapids to talk about MDOT's Transportation Plan and funding for the state on March 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Ron Reid distributed a letter to the committee regarding MDOT's policy on attending preconstruction meetings and additional costs for projects due to an increase in MDOT staff time (letter dated February 24, 2005 from Rudolph Cadena - Local Agency Programs). He noted that he was unaware of the memorandum stated in the letter (2005-02: Regional Oversight of Local Agency Construction Projects). Rick Fowler and Darrell Harden will be getting more information on the issue and reporting back in April.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.