



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2010**

The March meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:04 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), Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, Brian Burlingham, Dennis Durham, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Carmine Lewis, Fred Nagler, Steve Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, and Tom Wheat.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Dale Hein

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Michelle O’Neill, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

***MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2010 MEETING***

Jodi Stefforia corrected the February minutes on page three. The paragraph that begins Jodi Stefforia should read “Jodi Stefforia said that Oshtemo Township’s Streetscape proposal will be out in February and then design of Phase I will begin shortly after the overall conceptual streetscape master plan is complete.”

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve as corrected the February 11, 2010 minutes.*” Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported that the Policy Committee had approved nine amendments at their February meeting. The group discussed Jobs for Mainstreet. KATS purchasing policy was approved, as well as discussion on the KATS quarterly financial report.

***CITIZENS’ COMMENTS*** - None

***TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

A TIP Subcommittee meeting was held to recommend projects for Jobs for Main Street. The projects will be posted on the KATS website for public comment.

These projects must be shovel ready in 90 days following the passage of Jobs for Main Street.

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the recommended Jobs for Main Street proposed project list as of February 18, 2010.”* Motion approved.

KATS has received several comments on the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Comment cards were sent out to solicit comments from individuals that own properties on or near roads that will be affected.

### ***HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD PROJECT***

The deadline for project applications for High Risk Rural Road and Local Safety programs is close. Members were asked to contact KATS if they had candidate projects.

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

Jon Start told the group that MDOT has the population and employment data for development of the 2035 Transportation Plan. A subcommittee meeting will be set soon for the Long Range Plan.

Approval of the 2035 Plan should take place in September.

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

Carmine Lewis reported that the Comprehensive Operations Analysis project is nearing completion. There are recommendations for changes to the fixed route system. Public comment is being received.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Fred Nagler told the group a June letting is set for the North Street from Douglas Road to Gull Road and Portage Street from Lakeway to the city limit projects. The Michigan Avenue ARRA project is close to being ready for a letting. The standards and mast arm are delivered for the CMAQ projects.

A portion of the bridge has been delivered to the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail at Veterans Memorial Park. More work is scheduled to be done along with the delivery of the rest of the bridge.

Chris Barnes said the City of Portage submitted the West Milham from Angling Road to 12<sup>th</sup> Street project to MDOT, but funding has fallen short. A new traffic signal for Portage Central High School at Currier Drive on Centre Avenue.

Dennis Durham reported that the RiverReach project has received approvals from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Security fencing has also been installed.

Tom Hohm said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission is accepting bids for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street at Texas Drive ARRA project. A meeting will be held soon with the neighbors near the 24<sup>th</sup> Street bridge project. The local bridge program includes 5 bridges.

Tom Wheat reported that the Schoolcraft projects will be moving forward.

Michelle O'Neill and Michael Bippley from MDOT said that pump station near the via-dock near the corner of Michigan Avenue and Riverview Drive will have pedestrian detour set up soon. The Maple Hill signal will be activated March 11<sup>th</sup>. North Westnedge and Park Street gateway enhancement project plan review was completed.

The railroad tracks on Kalamazoo Avenue near Water Street are in need of replacement. Grand Elk Rail Road would like to repair them. MDOT is waiting to hear from Norfolk Southern Rail Road to see if they want to repair their crossing at the same time. The I-94 lane shift will begin April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jodi Stefforia said that Oshtemo has been awarded a grant to fill in sidewalk gaps on both sides of West Main Street from Drake Road to Maple Hill Drive. Oshtemo township hired a traffic engineer. There are five or six pending commercial developments.

Keith Hernandez reported that the City of Kalamazoo will be releasing the draft Master Plan for a 63 day public comment period, with the official approval to be in June.

Lotta Jarnefelt spoke about a joint effort with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to convert the Act 51 maps electronic using GIS.

Chris Forth said the City of Portage has seen a increase in construction on new plat projects. Three plats are starting new phases soon. This is the most new plat construction the City has seen in three years.

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

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please turn in your time sheets for the previous month at each Technical Committee meeting.

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

Jon Start told the group about the State Transportation Budget meeting on Monday March 22 at the KVCC Oshtemo Township campus. Speakers will include Bobbi Welke, Joanna Johnson and Linda Teeter.

Kathy Schultz noted that she attended the MPO meeting for 2010 STP funding, where it was brought to the MPO's attention that they may be losing a year of funding if an extension of SAFETEA-LU is not passed soon.

John Byrnes welcomed members to attend the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit that will be held from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.