



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2009**

The March meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:05 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, Muhammad Arif, Andrea Augustine, Christopher Barnes, Dennis Durham, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Dwight Leeks, Cheri Lutz, Fred Nagler, Michelle O’Neill, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Bippley, Dale Hein, and Lotta Jarnefelt.

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul MacNellis, Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2009 MEETING

Jodi Stefforia noted a correction to the February 12th meeting on page 3. Beginning at “Jodi Stefforia noted that” should read “Oshtemo Township will begin a beautification project this spring at the intersection of Parkview Avenue.”

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the corrected minutes from February 12, 2009.”***
Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on both the February 25th and March 9th Policy Committee meetings. At the February 25th meeting, the committee approved the Stimulus II projects for Portage, the City of Kalamazoo, and Schoolcraft Village. There was some discussion of the development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program and the National Functional Classification program.

There was an audit presentation given by Gardner, Provenzano, Schauman, and Thomas with some discussion of whether KATS should look for an outside accounting firm to handle the year-end trial balance. An update on public transportation was given by Linda Teeter, and KATS staff noted that the 2035 Transportation Plan is planned for completion by September, 2010.

At the March 9th special meeting of the Policy Committee, the committee moved to amend the 2030 Transportation Plan to include the I-94 project and RiverReach Boulevard project. The committee also found the 2030 Transportation Plan to be fiscally constrained and in accordance with the SAFETEA-LU legislation.

The Policy Committee amended the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include the I-94 project from east of Oakland Drive to east of Lovers Lane. The amendment was also found to be part of a conforming transportation plan.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Jon Start told the committee that the Schoolcraft project had been approved as a stimulus project, and the rest of the money will be distributed between the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, and Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The Policy Committee took action to approve the City of Portage, City of Kalamazoo, and the Village of Schoolcraft's projects to be included into the FY 2009 element of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Motion by the Technical Committee to ***“to restate support of the FY 2009 Transportation Improvement Program amendment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment projects.”*** Motion approved.

Mr. Start noted that there was a change in understanding in the National Functional Classification (NFC) review and on the River Reach Boulevard. There is no longer a requirement for there to be zero net gain in NFC mileage. KATS staff is filling out the appropriate worksheets needed to add the road to the NFC. This will include G Avenue from River Reach Boulevard to Riverview Drive. G Avenue then will then need to change to primary road status via the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed projects proposed for federal funding in the FY 2010-2013 TIP. Three of the four years are fiscally constrained. The subcommittee felt that it would be helpful if the Policy Committee would indicate their preference for funding the RiverReach project. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

The FY 2010-2013 TIP should be done by June 1st and will be brought to the Technical Committee at their June meeting.

SAFETY PROJECT AND HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD PROJECTS

John Byrnes handed out an executive summary of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's High Risk Rural Road project on West VW Avenue from South 18th Street to Portage Road. The summary gave history on this rural road for the committee to endorse the project.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the 2010-2011 High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) Project.”*** Motion approved.

There was also a recommendation from the City of Kalamazoo to apply for 2010 funds to upgrade 2.11 miles of guardrail throughout the City of Kalamazoo. John Byrnes added a Road Commission safety project at S Avenue/Nash Street and Sprinkle Road intersection for 2011 funds.

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the FY 2010 City of Kalamazoo guardrail replacement and FY 2011 Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s intersection safety projects.”* Motion Approved.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A handout was distributed providing the adopted goals and objectives of the 2030 Transportation Plan. Jon Start asked the committee to review the document for use with the 2035 Plan. Jon asked the committee members to come prepared to the April meeting for discussion, as it will go to the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on April 16th, 2009.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Bill Schomisch reported that campaigning and public education continues for countywide support of Care-A-Van and Metro Van. Bill will be attending a fare increase meeting later in the day. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will bring Metro Transit over \$3 million, with the possibility of more to come. Over the next four years, they plan to add hybrid electric vehicles and upgrade their vehicle fleet. An automated vehicle locator system is also being pursued. New computer programs are coming for use in Care-A-Van and Metro Van scheduling.

STATUS REPORTS

Fred Nagler reported that the City of Kalamazoo’s Bronson Boulevard and Lovell Street projects draft proposal is to MDOT for bidding. The CMAQ project on Paterson Street is progressing. The interconnect project on Drake Road from Michigan Avenue to Stonebrooke will have railroad interconnection.

Chris Barnes said that the Milham from Angling Road to Oakland Drive project is currently in the stage of moving utilities, with an April 15th construction start date. The City of Portage’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects are ready for June letting.

John Byrnes reported that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s project on 43rd Street from R Avenue to Q Avenue will start this spring. Engineering on ARRA projects has begun, with minor work to be done later. The Sprinkle Road corridor project will begin mid-March with some base work and minor dirt work.

Rick Fowler told the group that the MDOT local stimulus projects must be approved then passed on for certification. He reminded everyone that all projects must be certified before funds can be spent.

Mr. Start mentioned that the state feels confident they will get more money, therefore any additional projects must move quickly to be included in the TIP. All ARRA funds must be obligated by March 2010.

Michelle O’Neill told the committee that MDOT’s cable barrier projects had been removed for the time being.

The City of Portage is currently working with the Family Valley Church on traffic related issues. They are expected to open in July.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Jon Start reminded the committee to get their time sheets in to KATS at the beginning of each month. There will be a learning session to refresh on what can be charged to KATS at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.