



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2007**

The March 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), Andrea Augustine, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, Brian Burlingham, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Lotta Jarnefelt, Michelle O'Neill, Bill Schomisch, John Seelman, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Muhammad Arif

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Dwight Leeks, Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, and Jon Start.

***MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 8, 2007 MEETING***

Motion by the Technical Committee, *"to approve the minutes of February 8, 2007 as presented."*  
Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported on the February 28<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved the FY 2007 and 2008 Transportation Improvement Program amendments and a resolution supporting an Enhancement grant for Westnedge Avenue and Park Street. Updates were given on the 2030 Transportation Plan, CMAQ projects, and public transportation. A request was also approved to change the National Functional Classification for 38<sup>th</sup> Street.

***CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on February 15. The committee reviewed the environmental maps for the 2030 Transportation Plan and reviewed the status of the document. The next meeting will be held April 19 at 5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

***CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA***

Jon Start requested that the committee discuss the MDOT Five-Year Program, the moving of STP funds for the City of Kalamazoo's Paterson Street project, and the reinstatement of Chris Barnes's voting privileges. These items were to be discussed under Other New Business.

***CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)***

A handout was presented to the committee that outlined the 2009 CMAQ projects that were discussed by the subcommittee. The following projects were proposed:

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Federal CMAQ Funds</i>		<i>State</i>	<i>Local</i>
				MDOT	Local Agencies		
Metro Transit	Community Ridesharing	100% funding of Ridesharing program for staff support	\$38,246	--	\$38,246	\$0	\$0
MDOT	M-43	Perform PE services and construction for actuating, interconnecting, modernizing, and optimizing the existing signals at up to 11 intersections (at 9th; 10th; Maple Hill; Mall Hill; Drake; Picadilly; Turwill; Nichols; Kendall; Fletcher; Berkley) Work involves upgrading equipment	\$589,000	\$589,000	--	\$0	\$0
MDOT	M-43	Perform PE services and construction for actuating, interconnecting and modernizing existing signals at up to 3 intersections (at I-94BL; Mill; Riverview at M-43) Work involves upgrading equipment	\$262,000	\$262,000	--	\$0	\$0
Kalamazoo	Paterson	Signal interconnection, modernization, and optimization at five traffic signals (at Riverview; Burdick; Rose; Pitcher; Douglas)	\$590,000	--	\$532,706	\$0	\$57,294
KCRC	Drake Road	Signal interconnection and optimization of Drake Road corridor (at West Michigan; KL; Green Meadow; Stonebrook) Equipment modernization at West Michigan and KL intersections	\$300,000	--	\$300,000	\$0	\$0

A total of \$1,721,953 is available in CMAQ funds being split between MDOT and the local agencies. MDOT provided \$9,976 to the local agency's program. The City of Kalamazoo will be applying \$57,294 in local match to the Paterson Street project.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***"to approve the FY 2009 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality projects as presented."*** Motion approved.

It was noted that if additional CMAQ funds are received for FY 2009, the funding will be applied to the City of Kalamazoo's Paterson Street project.

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

Kathy Schultz reported that brochures will be mailed to property owners to inform them of the TIP development and provide opportunity for comment. She will be giving the local road agencies the draft brochures in the upcoming weeks prior to their distribution to the public. The document is scheduled to be adopted by the Policy Committee in May, 2007.

### ***ASSET MANAGEMENT***

The Asset Management Council will be holding a training for the data collection of PASER data on March 19 at the Road Commission. Staff reminded the agencies that someone from each agency needs to be present and trained in order to be reimbursed during the data collection process.

The Asset Management Council is also holding a conference on April 11 in Lansing to discuss how local agencies can use the data collected as part of the Asset Management program.

Staff plans to assist the cities of Portage and Parchment with local street data collection this summer as time permits.

Kathy Schultz reminded the major road agencies that they need to report their road projects to the council by April 2 using the on-line reporting system. More information and assistance on reporting is available from KATS staff.

### ***2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN***

Jon Start reported that staff anticipates having the draft document completed by the end of March. Once it is drafted, it will be provided to both the Technical Committee and Policy Committee. It will also be made available online. KATS is waiting for BCATS to complete their model so that air quality testing for the three county (Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren) area can be completed. If it is not completed by the time KATS has drafted the 2030 Transportation Plan, the document will likely be developed without the chapter and the air quality chapter information will be added and the Plan approved later.

### ***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION***

Bill Schomisch reported that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is seeking a Project Manager to fill a two-year position to help with the transition from the City of Kalamazoo to the authority. Control of the fixed route and demand response system is scheduled to take place by January 1, 2009. A service agreement between the city and the authority is currently being developed.

New bus routes are being developed within the City of Portage. Bill noted that Western Michigan University will be downsizing their bus services on campus. They will also be changing the use of the student identification for riding the bus, resulting in free rides on campus but paid rides off campus. He expressed concern that this will likely cause more congestion on and near campus which has been

reduced since the inception of Metro Transit's campus bus services. Western Michigan University pays for the campus bus services out of parking revenues, which are down for the university.

### ***FY 2008 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT***

Staff will be meeting with the local agencies to discuss the FY 2008 Unified Work Program scheduled to be adopted in June, 2007. Any studies that agencies would like funded through KATS or will need KATS assistance need to be brought to staff's attention.

### ***STATUS REPORTS***

Michelle O'Neill reported on the MDOT projects:

- The signal optimization on Kalamazoo Avenue and Michigan Avenue will be done in March.
- Construction on the Oakland Drive bridge is taking place currently with lane closures scheduled primarily during the weekend.
- The M-43 project came in 7% under bid estimates.

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Kilgore Road and Bacon Street projects will have bid letting on April 6.

John Seelman reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- The Paterson Street project came in 15% under bid estimate.
- The city is finishing public comment on the Crosstown Parkway project. A July letting is scheduled.
- Work on the Howard Street at Crosstown Parkway safety project will start on April 1.
- New signals are currently being installed on Oakland Drive.

Allan Galicia reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- The G Avenue project came in 1% under estimate.
- The Westnedge Avenue project will be starting this spring with funding assistance from the Local Jobs Today program.

- The Parkview Avenue at Stadium Drive intersection project is currently having utilities moved.
- The 38<sup>th</sup> Street project is scheduled for an April letting.
- The Road Commission will be meeting with the railroad to discuss the 9<sup>th</sup> Street project. Discussions are taking place to signalize the intersection of KL Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street during the construction period.

Jodi Stefforia reported that the new apartment complex on KL Avenue will have 372 units in Phase 1.

Frank Szopo reported on the study of the Arboretum property. A draft document of the study report was made available on Friday. It recommended a street from Drake Road to Kendall/Solon. Left turn pockets and potential bus turnouts are also recommended on the two-lane facility. A public meeting is scheduled for March 21 at Arcadia School at 7:00 p.m. It was noted that care should be taken to minimize the impact on the basswood forest on the property.

Jon Start noted that KATS will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, MDOT and other individuals on Monday, March 12 to discuss the US-131/US-131BR intersection improvements. The meeting is being organized by the Chamber and Southwest Michigan First. He noted that funding was made available for the interchange's preliminary engineering and design under TEA-21. The funds, however, are not part of an appropriations bill with Congress. He also noted that if the funds are used, a local match will be needed.

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

Kathy Schultz noted that time sheets for the local agencies are due to KATS by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

A handout was given to the committee outlining MDOT's Five Year Plan for bridge and rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. Michelle O'Neill explained that MDOT is moving the project scheduled for M-96 in FY 2008 to 2012 in order to use the \$4 million in funding for the Stadium Drive project. Stadium Drive between US-131 and Oliver Street is failing, and the funding for the M-96 project will be used as a temporary fix until additional funds are available to totally reconstruct the roadway. She estimates that totally reconstructing Stadium Drive will cost \$20 million dollars. She has discussed the moving of M-96 with Supervisor Tim Hudson of Comstock Township and he concurs with the decision.

A public meeting to further discuss the MDOT five-year plan is scheduled for March 29 at 1:00 p.m. at the MDOT TSC building on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve moving Stadium Drive to FY 2008 within the MDOT Five Year Plan.”*** Motion approved.

The committee discussed the FY 2012 projects proposed since the previous year's projects have been reviewed by KATS over the last few years. The bridge over US-131 on Stadium Drive, as well as the M-96 project, were being planned for FY 2012. Michelle O'Neill noted that the bridge project on Stadium

Drive may be completed when the remainder of Stadium Drive is reconstructed should funding be made available.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to support the M-96 project and the Stadium Drive Bridge over US-131 project for the FY 2012 Bridge and Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program for the Michigan Department of Transportation.”*** Motion approved.

Frank Szopo presented the committee with a letter requesting that \$201,000 in STP funds originally programmed for the Paterson Street project be moved to the Crosstown Parkway project. The Paterson Street project bids came in favorably, and the city would like to use the remaining STP funds for the Crosstown Parkway project. The Paterson Street agreement has not been signed. Rick Fowler, Kathy Schultz, and Jon Start stated that they will work to process the funds to the Crosstown Parkway project.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to move the additional Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds scheduled for the Paterson Street project to the Crosstown Parkway project, contingent on MDOT’s rules for moving funding between projects.”*** Motion approved.

Jon Start noted that Chris Barnes has attended the last three Technical Committee meetings, therefore he is eligible for voting member status again.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to reinstate Chris Barnes as a voting member of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee.”*** Motion approved.

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.