

**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2007**

The May 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), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Chris Barnes, Michael Bippely, John Byrnes, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dwight Leeks, Carmine Lewis, John Seelman, Jodi Stefforia, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Hernandez

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Copping, Michelle O'Neill, Ron Reid, Bill Rodgers, Dick Skalski, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start, and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 12, 2007 MEETING

It was noted that the 43rd/Q Avenue/44th Street project and the 9th and Stadium Drive project will not be starting until FY 2008. A correction was made to clarify the Crosstown Parkway/Bronson Boulevard project description.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to adopt the minutes from April 12, 2007 meeting as corrected.***"
Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the April 25th Policy Committee meeting. The committee adopted the FY 2009 CMAQ applications. A public hearing on the 2030 Transportation Plan was established for May 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Public Library. From 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., the public will be able to view maps of the Transportation Plan and discuss the projects with technical staffs. They also heard an update on the public transportation systems in Kalamazoo County.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kathy Schultz reported on the April 19th Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. She discussed with those in attendance the status of the 2030 Transportation Plan and provided draft copies of the document. All of the committee members were encouraged to provide comments to KATS on the document prior to adoption.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission requested action on five resolutions for Local Bridge Program applications being submitted to MDOT. Jon Start also requested an update on the Village of Schoolcraft TEDF application previously discussed at the April meeting.

RECOGNITION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Resolutions were presented to Dick Skalski, Ron Reid, and Ron Copping for their years of service and assistance on the Technical Committee. The committee expressed their best wishes to all of them.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to adopt the resolutions honoring Dick Skalski, Ron Reid, and Ron Copping and to honor them as emeritus members on the Technical Committee.”*** Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A public hearing for the 2030 Transportation Plan was established for May 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Public Library at 310 South Rose Street. Jon Start requested that Technical Committee members be available to discuss the plan with the public from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. He noted that the Policy Committee will not be taking action on the document until the air quality testing can be completed for the three county area. The Battle Creek Area Transportation Study is working with MDOT to complete the model for their Transportation Plan. Once the model is completed, air quality testing can take place. When the air quality test results are completed, the results will need to be made available for public review and comment.

KATS staff will be working with the local agencies to be sure that the FY 2008 element of the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program is the same as the FY 2008 element of the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP. Amendments to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program and adoption of the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP will not be possible after July 1, 2007 until air quality testing is completed and the 2030 Transportation Plan approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Kalamazoo requested Local Jobs Today funding for Mills Street from East Michigan Avenue to King Highway. The mill and resurface project was originally in the FY 2007 element of the TIP as a locally funded project. In the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP, the project will be receiving STP funds in FY 2009.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the amendment to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program to identify Mills Street as a Local Jobs Today project.*” Motion approved.

Kathy Schultz reported that the FY 2008 - 2011 TIP information brochures are being printed and will be mailed to the property owners in the upcoming weeks. The TIP will not be able to be adopted until the air quality testing can be completed. All other elements will be drafted by the end of June.

Jon Start informed the committee that KATS sent a letter to MDOT notifying them of the KATS amendment process for the Transportation Improvement Program. Currently, all items, regardless of change, are taken to the Technical Committee and Policy Committee for adoption. Some MPOs allow staff to made administrative changes to the TIP without having to go through committee.

FY 2008 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Staff has met with Oshtemo Township to discuss working with them on funding a circulation study for FY 2008. Jon Start encouraged the technical staffs to let KATS know if there are studies that should be included in the FY 2008 program. The committees are scheduled to adopt the document at their June meetings. Jon also noted that KATS staff will be consolidating the UWP to fewer work elements.

MDOT ITS ARCHITECTURE DEVELOPMENT STATUS

MDOT is working with area agencies to develop a regional architecture plan that will include Kalamazoo County. The ITS plan is required in order to spend funding on ITS improvements. Two meetings have been held to date, with MDOT planning to have the architecture completed by the end of the fiscal year.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is in the process of hiring a project manager to assist with the transition from the Transit Authority Board to the Transportation Authority. The Authority will be working on a Human Service Coordination Plan in order to apply for Job Access Reverse Commute Funding and New Freedom Funding under SAFETEA-LU.

STATUS REPORTS

The construction on I-94 is continuing. Michelle O’Neill reported that there are lane shifts and ramp closures that will be occurring occasionally. Construction on the Oakland Drive bridge is moving forward and sound wall construction is being put in place. 12th Street will be closed during the weekend for bridge work.

Tom Hohm reported on the Road Commission’s projects:

- Parkview Avenue at Stadium Drive: The intersection has been pulverized and the township is placing sewer. Realignment work is taking place.

- Westnedge Avenue from Mosel Avenue to D Avenue. The contractor has set curb radius and grading work is ongoing.
- G Avenue from 37th Street to 39th Street: Traffic is being detoured and tree removal is taking place. The project will include a new bridge over Gull Creek.
- 38th Street from MN Avenue to Climax Drive: May letting
- Nichols Road from M-43 to Alamo Drive: June letting

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Kilgore Road from Lovers Lane to Portage Road: Work is starting May 16th.
- Bacon Street from Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road: Work is beginning on Monday, May 16th.

John Seelman reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- The Paterson Street project is ready to proceed.
- Crosstown Parkway at Howard Street intersection project will be starting soon.
- Mills Street will be in the August/September letting.

Ron Fleckenstein reported that the City of Parchment is working with the railroad in the brownfield redevelopment area of the city. He noted that there is a developer interested in the property redevelopment.

Lotta Jarnefelt reported that she is working to build a countywide GIS system for Kalamazoo County. She is working with Prein and Newhoff on the project since they have a lot of the GIS information for the jurisdictions. She is looking at hiring an intern this summer work on the GIS information.

The following information was provided on the CMAQ projects:

- Drake Road at West Main: Starting July 10
- Oakland Drive Signalization: Upgrades of the signals have taken place
- Crosstown Parkway: The project was delayed 1 month to match with the other Crosstown Parkway project improvements

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz reminded the committee that time sheets need to be submitted by the 15th of the month.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission requested five resolutions of support for the following Local Bridge Applications:

- 24th Street over Portage Creek: Rehabilitation
- TS Avenue over Portage River: Replacement
- 5th Street over Sand Creek: Replacement
- S Avenue over Portage River: Replacement
- 8th Street over Amtrak: Preventative Maintenance

This is the first year that agencies can apply for preventative maintenance funding for bridges. All of the projects would be scheduled for 2010 funding.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to support the Kalamazoo County Road Commission Local Bridge Program Fund applications to the Michigan Department of Transportation.”*** Motion approved.

Jon Start reported that he talked with the Village of Schoolcraft’s Village Manager about the Transportation Economic Development Fund application and proposed improvements along Eliza Street. The item was tabled at the April Technical Committee meeting due to discussions regarding the width of the bike path. Sheri Lutz informed Jon that the bike path will meet standards necessary for the project. The committee discussed whether to remove the verbiage in the resolution regarding the bike path and state that the path would be built to applicable standards.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to support the Village of Schoolcraft’s Transportation Economic Development Fund application for improvements to Eliza Street with a bike path that would meet applicable standards.”*** Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Szopo adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.