



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2006**

The May meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:38 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, Ron Copping, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, John Frakes, Allan Galicia, Darrell Harden, Ron Reid, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, Dallas Williams, and Laura Wise..

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Barnes, Keith Hernandez, William Schomisch

OTHERS PRESENT

Harvey Beatty, Tom Hohm, Michelle O'Neill, Phil Reid, Nicole Dalman, and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2006 MEETING

It was noted that in the minutes, Richard Skalski and Ronald Reid should have been listed as members present.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2006 Technical Committee meeting as corrected.”*** Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the April 19th Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved the use of FY 2004 STP and 2006 STP Flex funds for the purchase of three new vans for Metro Transit. The FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program should be approved at the June 2006 meeting. A report was given on the Transportation Asset Management Council conference and the items that were addressed. The Planner/Engineer position has been advertised and action will be taken soon to select interview candidates.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on April 20 with very low attendance. Thus, the May meeting was cancelled and an every other month meeting schedule was implemented for the time being. There was good discussion on the map deficiencies, the 2030 Transportation Plan and the capacity projects.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ron Reid asked that a TIP amendment be added as an action item following the Transportation Enhancement Grant agenda item.

LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM FUNDS

Ron Copping gave an overview of the bridges that were scheduled to be fixed if local bridge funding is approved for the projects. The bridges included:

- 5th Street over Sand Creek
- 24th Street over Portage Creek
- TS Avenue over Portage River
- S Avenue over Portage River
- 40th Street over Little Portage Creek

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the resolutions of support for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s Local Bridge Fund applications.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Darrell Harden informed the committee about the MDOT’s Enhancement Grant application on M-43 (West Main Street) from 2nd Street to Arlington Street, including streetscaping, pedestrian lighting, a non-motorized pathway. MDOT has consulted with the townships, the City of Kalamazoo, and has had a public information meeting on this project.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the resolution of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation’s Enhancement Grant application.”*** Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT REQUEST

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission proposed an amendment to the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program to resurface Stadium Drive in preparation for expected increases in traffic when I-94 is under construction. The proposed amendment would remove the Road Commission’s FY 2007 Portage Road project from XY Avenue to W Avenue and use the federal funds assigned to the Portage Road project to mill and resurface Stadium Drive from 8th Street to 11th Street. In order to have Stadium Drive resurfaced before I-94 reconstruction work begins, the Road Commission will advance construct Stadium Drive in FY 2006 and convert the STP funds in FY 2007.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to authorize the deletion of the FY 2007 Portage Road project and replace it with Stadium Drive from 8th Street to 11th Street and to add the Stadium Drive project as a FY 2006 advance construction project.”*** Motion approved.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A network deficiency meeting was held on Tuesday May 9th where projects were ranked by relative importance by participants. Jon Start will collate the results and schedule another committee meeting to develop alternatives to be tested.

A Non-Motorized Committee meeting was held with discussions about the gaps that are on the current non-motorized system, such as US-131, I-94, Kalamazoo River, Amtrak, and Oakland Drive. Information will be applied to the map.

Jon also reported on the non-motorized teleconference that was held on May 8, with disappointing results. The conference covered SAFETEA-LU and non-motorized programs. Due to technical difficulties, the teleconference was ended after 90 minutes. If a DVD becomes available, another meeting will be scheduled to watch it.

FY 2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

The Unified Work Program draft should be completed in June. A meeting was held and some specific studies or difficulties were addressed and will be incorporated into the FY 2007 UPWP.

Special studies addressed include:

- ▶ Metro Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis
- ▶ City of Kalamazoo Study of the west side street network (Drake Road & Howard Street south of West Main Street)
- ▶ Oshtemo Township Circulation study in downtown Oshtemo Township

Ron Reid suggested that KATS staff help with these studies for increased revenue.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority meeting was held on May 8. The group discussed the information collected from a survey done on public transportation costs and services. There was a campaign committee set up for the millage. The group addressed educating the public to gain their support for the millage.

The Transit Authority Board for Metro Transit noted that cutbacks would likely be implemented due to the cost of diesel fuel. Also, Western Michigan University will reduce their contract with Metro Transit due to declining enrollment and funds. WMU students have formed a group opposing the bus cutbacks. They held their first meeting recently and will continue to meet until their goal is achieved.

Friends of Transit met on May 4th where they were looking for new members attending their meetings for more useful information and input. There is currently a web site being created. Friends of Transit meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

The Care-A-Van origin/ destination report will be completed soon.

STATUS REPORTS

Status reports were mailed to the Technical Committee voting members.

Laura Wise reported that the MDOT project on I-94 was going well, and there will be two lanes open at all times during peak periods. Any lane closures will occur during non-peak times and will operate with one lane. The I-94 capital improvement job will be let in August. The TIP is back and the jobs will be progressing with construction to start in October. Michelle O'Neill reported that the M-43 (West Main Street) CMAQ project was programmed but Lansing had not given the authorization to proceed.

Frank Szopo noted that the West Michigan Avenue project has begun, but is going slow due to traffic backups and vehicles turning left. Beginning in July, there will be no left turns in construction areas to alleviate traffic crunch. The Portage Road CMAQ project has started. The design for the FY 2006 CMAQ project is at MDOT and they will be meeting on May 18.

Dallas Williams reported that the Lovers Lane project is underway and should be completed in June. The Oakland Drive project from Romence Avenue to Centre Avenue should be completed the first week of June.

Tom Hohm noted that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission project on Sprinkle Road from Romence Road Parkway/Bishop Road is underway. There will be a right turn lane added on Sprinkle Road. The Portage Road bridge replacement project will have a detour on Mandigo/23rd Street and U Avenue. The H Avenue project has begun. 6th Street & 26th Street sewer work has started, with road work to follow. Work to Mosel Avenue over the Kalamazoo River is set to finish soon, and the V Avenue bridge replacement starts in June.

Jon Start discussed that the KATS Planner/Engineer position has been advertised and applications have been received to date. A committee will be developed to go over the resumes.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Jon reminded everyone to turn in their time sheets.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Ron Reid talked about the Local Jobs Today Program that can be used to move FY 2007 federally funded projects to FY 2006 and FY 2008 projects into FY 2007. The Road Commission is planning to use this program to move North Westnedge Avenue from Mosel Avenue to G Avenue forward to FY 2006. Ron stated that it is important for cities and villages, as well as the road commissions, to take advantage of the program. The cities of Portage and Kalamazoo will be examining whether they can advance FY 2008 projects into FY 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

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