



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2005**

The May meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:30 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, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Peter Eldridge, Ron Fleckenstein, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Tom Hohm, Carmine Lewis, Michelle O'Neill, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, John Sych, Frank Szopo, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matt Crawford and Cheri Lutz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 14, 2005 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.”* Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the April 20th Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved the air quality findings report, the Memorandum of Understanding between KATS and MDOT, the 2030 socio-economic data, and two amendments to the FY 2004 - 2006 Transportation Improvement Program. The MDOT 2010 proposed projects were discussed and the US-131/US-131BR interchange project was moved and the US-131 Bypass of the Village of Schoolcraft was added to the High Priority listing. A subcommittee is currently reviewing the bylaws.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jon Start provided a report on the April 14th Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the socio-economic data for the 2030 Transportation Plan and the MDOT 2010 proposed projects. Only two citizens were in attendance, but both agreed that the US-131/US-131BR interchange project should be moved to the High Priority list. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Road Commission requested consideration of several resolutions of support for Local Bridge project applications that will be submitted soon. The item will be discussed under Agenda Item 11.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY

The Interagency Work Group met on May 9th to discuss the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Programs for Kalamazoo, Calhoun, and Van Buren counties. The Road Commission's Grand Prairie project was removed from the TIP since it is not in the current 2025 Transportation Plan and would have to be amended in order for it to be funded with federal funds. The Road Commission will be examining the details of the project and making modifications.

Jon Start noted that the air quality readings from last summer showed that Kalamazoo County is now in conformity with the air quality standards. The area can have its designation changed from Basic to Maintenance but will still have to perform the same air quality testing. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is working on a redesignation request from several areas.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN STATUS

The socio-economic data was submitted to MDOT recently, with the deficiency runs being completed hopefully by the end of May. Once the deficiencies have been received, KATS will schedule meetings with the local agencies to determine alternatives to be tested. The Non-Motorized Subcommittee will begin meeting soon in the upcoming months.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The brochures highlighting the projects contained in the FY 2006 - 2008 Transportation Improvement Program were mailed to 2,900 residents within the area of proposed projects. To date, 108 comments have been received. The agencies are sending letters back to those who sent a comment to KATS. Jon Start noted that the Grand Prairie project received several negative comments. The Interagency Work Group suggested moving it off the FY 2006 - 2008 TIP since it is currently not in the 2025 Transportation Plan. The Road Commission is reexamining the project and will be providing changes to the project soon. Jon also noted that he talked with Ed Finnerty from the Kalamazoo Gazette about putting an article in the paper about the TIP development. The TIP will be adopted by the KATS Policy Committee at the July 27, 2005 meeting.

TRANSPORTATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATIONS

The City of Kalamazoo is applying for Transportation Economic Development Funds for improvements to Fairfield Road at Portage Road. The project would improve the roadway around the Stryker building. The application is currently being developed with preliminary costs at \$400,000 total and \$350,000 in Category A funds. The city has already sent a letter of interest to MDOT.

The Road Commission is applying for TEDF funds for 26th Street from East Main to H Avenue. The project would upgrade the road to all-season standards.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the City of Kalamazoo and Road Commission Transportation Economic Development Fund applications and should the projects be funded, amend the Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved.

The Road Commission requested support for several Local Bridge project applications that they will be submitting to MDOT for funding. The bridges are:

Proposed Years 2007 / 2008

- # 24th Street over Portage Creek
- # 40th Street over Little Portage Creek
- # TS Avenue over the Portage River

Proposed Years 2008 / 2009

- # 5th Street over the Sand Creek
- # 9th Street over the Amtrak Railroad
- # 35th Street over the Kalamazoo River

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to recommend Policy Committee support of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s Local Bridge Fund project applications and to amend the Transportation Improvement Program should funding be awarded.”*** Motion approved.

MDOT MEMORANDUM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT

Michelle O’Neill will be checking for more information on the memorandum and reporting back at the June meeting.

METRO TRANSIT AND CARE-A-VAN STATUS REPORT

Bill Schomisch reported that Laurie Doering will be leaving Metro Transit at the end of May to move to Portland, Oregon. He noted that the Oversight Committee has met once and will be scheduling meetings in the upcoming weeks. The meetings are open to the public.

MDOT DIRECTOR MEETING (MAY 16)

Jon Start reminded the committee that Transportation Director Gloria Jeff will be at KATS on Monday, May 16th at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the I-94 project, US-131/US-131BR interchange, the building of US-131 to the state line, and the Metro Transit/Care-A-Van merger. He noted that the Policy Committee has been discussing ways of notifying MDOT of project priorities for Kalamazoo County.

STATUS REPORTS

Metro Transit:

The STP funds have been flexed to FTA for 2 ADA vehicles. Bill Schomisch noted that due to the move of the intercity bus to the airport, several Metro Transit buses will not be able to be replaced at this time because some of the 5309 monies will replace the loss of intercity funds.

Road Commission:

The Sprinkle Road at Lake/Comstock is underway, as is the signal improvement on Sprinkle Road at Miller/ML Avenue. South Sprinkle Road from V Avenue to S Avenue will be starting in June, with two sewer projects being completed during the project period.

The CMAQ funded signal optimization project on South Sprinkle Road from I-94BL to Gull Road will be let in July.

City of Kalamazoo:

The City of Kalamazoo is finalizing property acquisition on the Michigan Avenue project. Five properties are going through condemnation. The city plans to have the letting in August.

The CMAQ project for signal upgrades on Portage Road is at MDOT for letting in the upcoming months.

Michigan Department of Transportation:

The plans for the expansion of the carpool lot at I-94 and Oakland Drive are in the final stages. The project will be completed this fall.

US-131 south of I-94 is having concrete repairs done. This work is being done under warrantee.

Bridge work on Oakland Drive over I-94 will be starting soon.

The Stadium Drive at Michigan Avenue project is ahead of schedule. Work is continuing on relocating the roadway and rail crossing.

City of Portage:

The Oakland Drive project from Milham to Romence is being finalized. The new non-motorized trail from Angling Road to Constitution Boulevard is finished. The Shaver Road at Centre Avenue project is under design. The city will be shifting the roadway to provide for a right turn movement for eastbound traffic. The project will be completed next year.

Technical Committee Bylaws: The City of Kalamazoo requested having more than one alternate from the Planning Department for Technical Committee membership. They want to continue to be voting members and feel the additional alternates would allow for more participation. Jon Start will talk with Jeff Chamberlain and Jeff Erickson from the City of Portage about what staff should be voting and alternate members.

Unified Work Program: Staff will be working on completing the Unified Work Program by the end of July. Meetings with the local agencies will again occur this year to determine if there are areas of interest that can be pursued.

Asset Management Training: KATS will be hosting the Asset Management Training on June 28 starting at 9:30 a.m. MDOT will be providing information on the program and a review of the PASER ratings. KATS plans to start data collection in August.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier reported that most of the agencies are up-to-date on their time sheets.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Count Program: Jon Start informed the committee that KATS is requesting traffic counts during the year from the local agencies and that they do not need to follow the schedule as provided. Staff will be working with MDOT and the local agencies to determine where counts are needed over the next year. HPMS counts will still need to be taken for two days.

Bikeway Training: Dick Skalski reported that MDOT will be holding a bikeway training class on Monday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Check Presentation: The Road Commission will be presented a check by Transportation Director Gloria Jeff on May 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the new Stryker Center on South Sprinkle Road at Centre Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.