



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2005**

The November 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, Ron Copping, Ron Fleckenstein, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Allan Galicia, Jason Latham, Dwight Leeks, Ron Reid, Bill Schomisch, Richard Skalski, John Sych, Frank Szopo, Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matt Crawford, Keith Hernandez, Cheri Lutz, and Jodi Stefforia.

OTHERS PRESENT

Char Sumney, Laura Wise, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 13, 2005 MEETING

There was a grammar correction under Citizens Advisory Committee, correcting the word “ration” to “ratio.”

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2005 Technical Committee meeting as corrected.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the October 26th Policy Committee meeting. The committee approved the Technical Committee Bylaws and Cost of Living Adjustments for KATS staff. They are currently reviewing the fringe benefit package for full-time staff. Jon also noted that he has authorization to advertise the vacant planner/engineer position with the candidates being made aware that there could be changes to the fringe benefit package.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on October 20th and heard reports on the transit meeting held in Lansing to encourage lawmakers to provide more funding to transit systems statewide. They also received status reports on the Transit Oversight Committee and Friends of Transit. They requested data from Metro Transit for Care-A-Van statistics that can be used when visiting local jurisdictions while promoting the transit millage.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

The committee introduced themselves to Char Sumney, citizen and former Kalamazoo County Commissioner.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jon Start requested that he brief the Technical Committee on discussions he would like to have at the December meeting about the I-94 contracts and input to MDOT on the \$40 million available for the project. The committee also requested a discussion about MDOT's decision regarding US-131 in St. Joseph county. Both items would be discussed under Other New Business.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS

The Policy Committee adopted the Technical Committee Bylaws at their October 26th meeting. They did not recommend any changes. The new membership will begin on January 1. KATS staff will be contacting those who are being moved from voting to non-voting membership about the change in the bylaws. Ron Reid noted that during the next bylaws amendment, the reference stating that the committee "shall consist of representatives from the local governmental units and local state agencies in the KATS Metropolitan Area Boundary" be reworded due to the decision by several jurisdictions not to participate as voting members on the Technical Committee.

2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A meeting will be held November 7 at 9:00 a.m. to start looking at the network deficiency maps for the 2030 Transportation Plan. Staff requested that the jurisdictions provide multi-year project lists and information on upcoming projects and changes in land use. Jon Start noted that KATS will not need to ask for an extension of the 2025 Transportation Plan but will need to have the 2030 Plan completed by December 31, 2006. Any expansion projects being proposed need to be a part of the document.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Transit Oversight Committee approved the Articles of Incorporation and will be sending them to the County Board for their approval the week of November 14th. A public hearing was held on October 31st with several citizens supporting the creation of a countywide transit authority. Metro Transit staff will be working with the county to begin looking at how the old Transit Authority Board operates while the new board is being formed. The new board will have 9 members selected by the county board.

The vote on the millage will take place in November 2006. Under the current legislation, there is no opt out provision for jurisdictions who do not want to participate in the countywide millage. Bill Schomisch noted that if the new millage request fails, the city millage will still be in place for another year.

Bill Schomisch reported that the third quarter Care-A-Van report showed that expenses are down and ridership and revenues are up. The rural ridership has doubled. The Care-A-Van contract went out for bid, and Pride Care, who currently has the Metro Van contract, won the contract for Care-A-Van services. Bill noted that the pricing was very competitive. He noted that fuel costs are drawing on the fund balance. He also informed the committee that Indian Trails and Greyhound are considering moving back downtown.

STATUS REPORTS

Ron Reid reported on the Road Commission projects:

- Sprinkle Road from Vicksburg to S Avenue: Completing punch list items.
- Sprinkle Road from Centre to Zylman: Stryker has moved into their facility.
- Sprinkle Road at Romence Road: They have received permission to enter on to the property owned by the airport. The project will be let in January.
- Sprinkle Road at Miller Road: Complete
- Sprinkle Road at Lake/Comstock: Complete
- Sprinkle Road CMAQ project: Bids are being opened on November 4. The project was re-advertised due to the last bid prices coming in over budget.
- Mosel Avenue Bridge: Starting work on concrete repair.
- 6th Street from West Main to H Avenue: A public information meeting was held with residents. He noted that there are some sections of the road that are off the centerline and will be corrected during the reconstruction.
- 26th Street from East Main to H Avenue: A meeting was held with the public regarding the project. Issues regarding drainage are being addressed.
- Portage Road over Gourneck Creek: The bridge may have to be raised due to requirements by the DEQ.
- V Avenue over Little Portage Creek: The project is under design.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- West Michigan Avenue: The west end of the project is currently under construction. Utility work will be completed over the winter with the majority of the project starting in the spring.

- Rose Street: The project is complete. Mast arms for Rose Street at Michigan Avenue are being discussed.
- Kal-Haven Trail Connection: The city is still working to get a connection to downtown using the former railbed. They are considering purchasing property using a grant from MDOT. Once the project has been awarded, construction can start. A bridge over Portage Creek is part of the project.
- Portage Road CMAQ project: The project will have bids opened on November 4. The previous bids were over the estimated cost.

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Oakland Drive from Centre to Romence: The project is nearing completion. The top course will be added next year.
- Lover Lane from Kilgore to Milham: Robert Bailey was the winning contractor. A reconstruction meeting is being held November 10. Construction will start in the spring.

Laura Wise reported on the MDOT projects:

- Rest Area in Galesburg: Paving completed
- Carpool Lot at I-94 and Oakland Drive: Addition to carpool lot completed
- Bridge work on I-94 and US-131: 17 bridges are currently receiving maintenance.
- M-89 at Gull Lake Outlets: Project is almost complete.
- US-131 through Schoolcraft: Punch list items being completed.
- Sign Update Countywide: Currently underway
- I-94 at Lovers Lane: Bids have been opened.

Bill Schomisch reported on the Metro Transit projects:

- The Kalamazoo Transportation Center is almost 50% complete. So far the project is coming in under budget. Utility work is being completed.
- The Transit Operations Study will be underway this winter with a consultant looking at the change in the route structure for the line haul system. The study will be funded using KATS Section 5303 planning funds. He noted that a structure for one-way and two-way street networks will be studied for future changes to the traffic patterns downtown.
- Four new Care-A-Vans are being purchased.

Jon Start reported that KATS is working with MDOT on the review of the HPMS program and the traffic count program. He will be reporting back to the local agencies what is being proposed for changes to the program.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Carrier thanked everyone who provided time sheets in 2005. She noted that FY 2005 was closed out per the audit. October time sheets are due to KATS by November 15th. She stressed that KATS may need to bill monthly due to the Metro Transit study in order for KATS to pay the city in a timely manner. Time sheets are needed to provide local contributed effort towards KATS staff time.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Jon Start informed the committee that the I-94 project will be discussed at the December meeting. He would like KATS to provide input to MDOT on which I-94 contract should be considered for the \$40 million dollars allocated to the project through SAFETEA-LU. Jason Latham noted that MDOT has not made a decision on which segment will be completed with the funds.

Jason Latham reported that MDOT has selected a no-build option for US-131 in St. Joseph county. Several factors brought the state to the decision, including future traffic volumes. He noted that the state is more focused on preservation of the current system and not building new facilities. The committee discussed the option of joining with other communities and organizations to approach MDOT about changing their mind regarding the decision. The Policy Committee will be discussing it further at their November 16th meeting.

An article regarding the lawsuit against the City of Detroit was distributed to the committee for information. The article cites that wheelchair users and other disabled individuals are having difficulties with sidewalks and ramps.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.