



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2009**

The November meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:07 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Byrnes (Chair), Muhammad Arif, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Carmine Lewis, Dan Lewis, Fred Nagler, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Barnes, Michael Bippley, Dale Hein, and Keith Hernandez.

OTHERS PRESENT

Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 8, 2009 MEETING

Fred Nagler's City of Kalamazoo status report should have read, "The City of Kalamazoo's ARRA projects on Reed Street and Cork Street have begun but will not be completed as soon as expected due to weather. The redesign for the bridge over the Portage Creek project is done, and construction will begin again soon."

The status report given by Lotta Jarnefelt should have read "The Brownfield Redevelopment Plan grant has been extended. The County Brownfield Plan has two sites, Midlink Business Park and the old Goodwill Industries building."

Jodi Stefforia's Oshtemo Township status report on the non-motorized connection should have read "Jodi Stefforia followed up regarding the group walk on a proposed non-motorized connection on 10th Street from West Main to the Kal-Haven Trail. Jodi also invited representatives to attend the November 4th Safe Routes to School workshop in Lansing."

Bill Schomish was not shown as present or absent on the October minutes. There was not a representative sent, therefore the minutes should reflect his absence.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "*to approve the October 8, 2009 minutes as corrected.*" Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

During the Policy Committee meeting, a Public Hearing was held on the ARRA amendment to add the West Michigan Avenue project. No comments were made regarding the project. The committee approved the West Michigan Avenue project for ARRA funding and adjusted the Eliza Street project funds. The committee took action to approve the amendments for the FY 2010 Unified Work Program, as well as the accounting services and auditing services contracts. Both services will be performed for fiscal years 2009 through 2012. The Policy Committee also approved the contract with Midwest Software Solutions for the web based traffic information software and approved the endorsement of the Public Transit Human Services Coordinated Plan. The Policy Committee approved the use of ARRA funds to restore the non-motorized segments at 8th Street and Texas Drive relocation, and approved the ARRA funded addition of a non-motorized facility on the West Michigan Avenue.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A handout was given to all in attendance regarding MDOT's program ending procedures for the local agency projects using ARRA funds. Since the Policy Committee took action to approve the ARRA funds, all ARRA funding available to Kalamazoo County will be obligated by December 31st. This letter is to inform all MPO's that only half of local funds statewide have been obligated. The handout details the procedures in which MDOT will use to obligate projects. Jon Start told the group to be prepared, and all agencies should submit a candidate project list to KATS to prepare for additional funds. These projects should be ready by January 1st. Jon stated that all Act 51 agencies will be notified of the call for candidate projects.

Clarification of conditional approval for Transportation Enhancement projects was summarized. Conditional approval means that the project can be included in the TIP and it does have funding assigned from MDOT. There was action anticipated on the addition of three enhancement projects to the FY 2010 element of the TIP. The three projects included:

- US-131BR from Dunkley to Kalamazoo Avenue
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Segment 3
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Segment 4

After some discussion it was decided to table the proposed amendments.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to table the Transportation Enhancement Amendments until the December meeting.”*** Motion approved.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS

Mr. Start told the group that the employment and population numbers have been sent to MDOT where they are working on modeling. KATS will be contacting agencies to compile ideas for forecasting projections for 2035. Current Act 51 reports will be used to project revenue for the Plan. KATS will be collecting the Act 51 data. The goal is to approve the Plan by September 2010.

WEB BASE TRAFFIC COUNT SOFTWARE

Steve Stepek told the group about the new traffic counting software that KATS has obtained a license to use. Traffic counts are on the website currently, however user I.D.'s need to be assigned. Anyone that would like higher level access to the counts can contact Steve to have a user I.D. and password created. A meeting will be coordinated soon but access is available to the site at www.katsmpo.ms2soft.com. It is available for the public to view as well.

ANNUAL LISTING OF PROJECTS

Steve Stepek noted that Federal Legislation now requires that the listing of projects be put out for public input and be public friendly. The 2009 annual listing of projects will contain pictures this year. Please forward any pictures to Steve before Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Carmen Lewis told the committee that the millage in the City of Kalamazoo had passed. On November 1st, the Apple Bus Company started providing service for Metro Van and Care-A-Van under a new contract. The new service is called Metro County Connect and has a new logo and telephone number. She also noted that the fare increase is currently being developed.

STATUS REPORTS

Dallas Williams said the City of Portage's construction projects are complete. There will be public meetings with property owners on Milham Road between Angling Road and 12th Street.

Fred Nagler reported that the Cork Street project is complete. The Reed Street project will finish up on Saturday, November 7th. CMAQ underground work is complete, but the poles need to be installed yet. The Lovers Lane and Burdick Street project has been moved back to 2010. Bridge installation at the Veterans Memorial Park will begin soon.

Tom Hohm said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's projects are complete. The Texas Drive at 8th Street project final plan has been submitted for 2010 construction. The rural 2010 projects were submitted on November 5th. The Sprinkle Road CMAQ project is not completely finished yet.

Dan Lewis reported for the Village of Schoolcraft. The low bidder for the Eliza Street project came to the Village and asked if they could start the work this year. Weather permitting, the project will be done the second week of November.

Mr. Lewis also noted that the City of Parchment will begin demolition at the River Reach Development site in March 2010.

Jodi Stefforia said that Oshtemo Township was developing their Master Plan. The township applied for a grant to fill in sidewalk gaps along West Main Street.

Darrell Harden noted that I-94 was still under construction.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15th of the month. KATS is in particular need of time sheets for August and September 2009.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Muhammad Arif told the group that the Kalamazoo Valley Family Church would have a grand opening Saturday November 7th and Sunday November 8th.

The Mid-American Trails and Greenways (MATAG) Conference was held in Kalamazoo in late October. Steve Stepek attended the conference and announced that the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was named the state's trail project of the year.

KATS will host a webinar following the November 5th Technical Committee Meeting on Practical Transportation Design and Solutions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.