



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2005**

The October 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, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Dwight Leeks, Carmine Lewis, Ron Reid, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, John Sych, Frank Szopo, and Dallas Williams.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Matt Crawford and Cheri Lutz.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

Phil Reid, Laura Wise, Kathy Carrier and Jon Start.

***MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 11, 2005 MEETING***

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2005 Technical Committee meeting as transmitted.”*** Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

Jon Start reported on the September 28<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. The committee adopted the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan and has been transmitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation. They also heard reports on the Road Commission and KATS space agreement and the upcoming review of KATS staff. The Finance and Personnel Committee is currently reviewing the fringe benefit package.

***CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on September 15 and reviewed the 2030 deficiency maps. Many suggested that consideration be given to transit improvement and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures to help bring the vehicle to capacity ration (V/C) down. They heard status reports on the development of the transit authority and the project prioritization process. Their next meeting is October 20 at 5:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

***CITIZENS COMMENTS*** - None

### ***FY 2006 - 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

A copy of the proposed amendments to the FY 2006 Metro Transit's Transportation Improvement Program projects was mailed to the committee. Carmine Lewis explained that the amendments reflect Metro Transit's 2006 budget. She is anticipating increases in transit funding for Kalamazoo Metro Transit from SAFETEA-LU. The request to amend the TIP is to keep the document in line with what is submitted on their application to MDOT. She noted that Metro Transit is behind on their bus replacement schedule. They are currently operating at the same level of service until the decision of a transit authority for the entire county is made. She also noted that the Care-A-Van program funding and Metro Transit funding are combined to ease in tracking.

The committee reviewed the list and determined that since the funding figures for 2006 have not been released by MDOT for SAFETEA-LU, Metro Transit cannot anticipate an increase in STP funds for bus replacement. After discussion as to whether the document could be amended without knowing the funding, it was suggested that the TIP amendments be tabled until a later date.

Motion by the Technical Committee, "***to table action on Metro Transit's Transportation Improvement Program amendments for FY 2006.***" Motion approved.

### ***PROJECT PRIORITIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE***

The joint subcommittee of the Technical Committee and Policy Committee met to discuss the development of the prioritization process. Several other project prioritization processes were obtained from various organizations. The subcommittee is looking at whether there should be separate project selection criteria for safety, STP, CMAQ, and other funding categories and whether the process should be based on a numeric value. The KATS Goals and Objectives will be used during the development process to be sure that the new process reflects the Plan. The road agencies will be transmitting their project selection process to KATS prior to the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

### ***2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN***

Staff is working to set-up a meeting with several Technical Committee members to review the deficiency maps and to develop alternatives. The Citizens Advisory Committee recommended that options such as transit improvements be looked at as well as preservation and capacity projects.

### ***PUBLIC TRANSIT***

The Transit Oversight Committee is meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Administration Building. The draft Articles of Incorporation are complete and are being reviewed by members. The County is looking to take action on the articles at their November 1 meeting.

Phil Reid reported that Friends of Transit members are meeting with local cities, townships, and villages to help inform them about the Transit Oversight Committee's work and the millage request that may be on next November's ballot. They have received a grant for \$5,000 to help market their efforts for the transit millage.

### ***MEETING SCHEDULING***

Jon Start reported that several meetings need to be set up with committee members to discuss the traffic counting program, the deficiency maps, and the 2006 CMAQ projects.

MDOT and KATS are reviewing the HPMS program and are asking the local agencies to review the number of through lanes on their systems. Staff will be scheduling a meeting to review the current traffic count information available and the identification of HPMS segments.

The deficiency maps will be used to create alternatives to be tested as a part of the 2030 Transportation Plan. Key staff members from each road agency are being asked to participate.

MDOT has not made a call for projects for 2006 CMAQ funding but staff has been told to have projects selected in case a call for projects occurs and the time line for submission is short. The group also needs to discuss the process for developing CMAQ applications.

Kathy Carrier will be emailing the subcommittee members for the various meetings.

### ***STATUS REPORT***

Laura Wise handed out a status report on the MDOT 2005 projects.

- I-94 Galesburg Rest Area: Paving
- Oakland Drive Carpool Parking Lot: Paved and will be open October 8
- I-94/US-131 Bridges: 17 bridges are receiving capital preventative maintenance. Completion scheduled for 2006
- Kal-Haven Trail: Work on hot mix asphalt project completed in September
- US-131 in Schoolcraft: Resurfacing and intersection and streetscape improvements should be finished in November
- US-131 Signage Upgrade: Work to be completed in November
- US-131BR: Concrete repair is complete
- Various Trunkline Locations: Signal upgrade work ongoing. Planned completion of April 2006
- 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge on I-94: Open by the end of construction season
- US-131 Highway Dedication: Schoolcraft will be celebrating the naming of US-131 through town as the US-131 Underground Memorial Highway on October 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Frank Szopo reported on the following City of Kalamazoo projects:

- Rose Street: Completed
- Signal Optimization on Portage Road: The CMAQ funded project will be part of the November letting
- Michigan Avenue: Work started on north side of project. The majority of the project will be constructed in 2006.
- Fairfield Road at Portage Road: The city is working with Portage on a streetscaping project for the intersection. Frank noted that the intersection doesn't warrant a signal at this time. They will be looking at the timing of other signals to help with turning traffic.

Ron Reid reported on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects:

- Sprinkle Road from V Avenue to S Avenue: Project is complete
- Sprinkle Road from Zylman to Centre: Scheduled to open October 14
- Sprinkle Road at Romence/Bishop: Working on getting right-of-way
- Sprinkle Road at Miller/ML: Project complete
- Sprinkle Road at Lake/Comstock: Project complete
- Sprinkle Road Signal Optimization: The project is scheduled for a December letting
- Portage Road Bridge over Barton Howard Lake: Open for traffic
- Mosel Avenue Bridge: Scheduled for December letting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Street from M-43 to H Avenue: A public open house is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. Bid in January/February.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Street from East Main to H Avenue: Public meeting has been scheduled

Dallas Williams reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Oakland Drive: Will be wrapped up in November. The final course will be done in the spring.
- Lover Lane Widening Project: Bids came in 13% under engineering estimates. Some minor work will be done this year.

Land Use and Zoning Report:

- The Schoolcraft Township Board will be looking at the Access Management ordinance developed in coordination with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

- Keith Hernandez reported that the walkable communities seminar was well received. The City of Kalamazoo will be adopting their zoning ordinances on October 18. A copy of the ordinances is available online.

***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Carrier stressed that all time sheets for FY 2005 need to be submitted to KATS by Monday, October 17. The auditor will be in the office the week of October 24, and the local agency time needs to be figured in the progress reports.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Jon Start has been named to the Kalamazoo County Planning Commission. He is also attending the Citizen Planner course put on by the MSU Extension office.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Chairperson Arif adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.