



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2009**

The October meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission lower level conference room. Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Barnes (Vice Chair), Muhammad Arif, Dennis Durham, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dwight Leeks, Fred Nagler, Michelle O'Neill, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, Mike West, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dale Hein and Cheri Lutz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Nicole Dalman, Kathy Schultz, and Jon Start.

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, *"to approve the minutes from September 10, 2009."* Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported that the Policy Committee took action to approve the TIP amendments for FY 2008-2011 that the Technical Committee had recommended for approval. There was an informational "Transit Talk" presentation given by Blaine Lam of Lam and Associates. The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority wants to learn more about what the public wants in regards to public transportation in the county.

There was discussion about the 2009 SAFETEA-LU Rescission that may impact Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds as well as KATS operations and staff.

Jon also noted that the Policy Committee will be taking action to approve contractors for accounting and auditing services at their October meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There was a request to add discussion regarding the 8th Street at Texas Drive non-motorized path to be funded with ARRA funds. This would be handled under the Transportation Improvement Program agenda item.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Jon Start informed the committee that MDOT is requesting that all ARRA projects be obligated by December 30, 2009. If this is not done by the local agencies, MDOT will be reviewing the funds remaining and reallocated them. A decision on how the funds will be reallocated will be determined in the next few months. Jon recommended that agencies look at projects that could be quickly submitted to MDOT in order to have fast turn around. More information on the selection of projects and the availability of additional ARRA money will be reported in the next few months.

The City of Kalamazoo requested the addition of West Michigan Avenue from Sprague to the west line of Section 21. The project would include milling and resurfacing West Michigan Avenue with the remaining ARRA funds from bid savings for the City of Kalamazoo and any other remaining funds from the Village of Schoolcraft Eliza Street project. The Policy Committee approved increasing the Eliza Street project by \$26,000 in September and bids recently opened funded the project at approximately \$222,000. The tentative amount of ARRA money allocated to the project would be \$132,000. After the Eliza Street bid is reviewed, there may be more money for the project.

Muhammad Arif asked if the Michigan Avenue project was on the Tier 1 or Tier 2 project lists for ARRA. The City of Kalamazoo did not have the project on either list and the TIP Subcommittee met before the Technical Committee to discuss what to do with the remaining funds from the ARRA funding. None of the Tier 2 projects were able to be funded with the remaining money. Since the Michigan Avenue project was not on the original ARRA fund list, a public hearing will be held at the October 28th Policy Committee meeting to address the addition of the Michigan Avenue project to the ARRA funding list. Frank Szopo noted that the Michigan Avenue project was needed and was able to be submitted to MDOT in the short time frame so that was the reason for its addition to the TIP. Muhammad felt that the projects on the Tier 2 list should be funded before new projects are added to the ARRA list.

The group was asked to support the construction of non-motorized path as part of the 8th Street at Texas Drive project in Texas Township. Based on the estimates for the project, MDOT felt that there may be remaining ARRA funds after the bids. The Road Commission and Texas Township would like to see the non-motorized connection reconnected along Texas Drive since the realignment of the intersection will disrupt the current connection to 8th Street. In order for non-motorized to be funded under ARRA, it needs to go through the MPO committee process.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the use of ARRA funds to add non-motorized facilities for the 8th Street at Texas Drive project.”*** Motion approved.

Tom Hohm also recommended that Segment III of the Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway be added to the public hearing section of the October Policy Committee meeting. Staff will look into the project details of the trailway before having it as a part of the public hearing.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program.”*** Motion approved, with one objection noted.

FY 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

KATS staff is requesting two amendments to the FY 2010 Unified Work Program:

- Addition of funds for the Comprehensive Operations Analysis. The addition of \$45,000 in FTA Section 8 for the Analysis is needed in FY 2010 because when the 2010 budget was developed in July, Metro Transit anticipated that the study would have been started and funded in FY 2009. The study was started in FY 2010 so more money was needed in the FY 2010 budget. The funds programmed for this study in 2009 were not spent or lost. The match will be coming from Metro Transit.
- Addition of the Oshtemo Township Circulation Study for \$20,000. Oshtemo Township will be looking at the intersection area of Stadium Drive and 9th Street and Parkview and the traffic circulation for their downtown area. This study will be funded with Section 112 funds and the match will be coming from Oshtemo Township.

Both projects are being funded with funding available to KATS through FHWA and FTA.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the Unified Planning Work Program amendments.”***
Motion approved.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS

Jon Start told the committee that MDOT has the 2008 population and employment data. Jon also mentioned that he would be in contact with agencies again soon to review population and employment data projections. The committee may need to look at various levels of employment and population due to the uncertainty in the employment currently in the Kalamazoo area.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

No one was present to give a public transportation update.

STATUS REPORTS

Fred Nagler reported that the Lovell Street and Bronson Boulevard projects are complete. The City of Kalamazoo’s ARRA projects on Burdick Street and Cork Street have begun but will not be completed as soon as expected due to weather. The redesign for the Portage Creek project is done, and construction will begin again soon.

Tom Hohm said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission’s S Avenue project from 29th Street to Sprinkle Road and 8th Street project from R Avenue to Q Avenue will finish up soon with paving and gravel on the shoulder. The CMAQ project on Sprinkle Road is complete. The Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway bridge will be going up with connections to follow.

Chris Barnes reported that the ARRA project on Centre Avenue from Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road and the Kilgore Road from Westnedge Avenue to the Grand Truck Rail Road is complete. The STP project on Milham Avenue is also complete. The Milham Avenue project from Angling Road to 12th Street is scheduled to begin next year.

Michelle O'Neill noted that the I-94 railroad bridge deck will be poured the week of October 12th. There is clearing of trees and sound wall installation going in at the southwest and northeast quadrants of the I-94 project in Portage. The crew that is installing the cable barrier in Kalamazoo County is working very slowly and may not get it completed before cold weather.

Keith Hernandez said the Kalamazoo City Commission is moving forward with the Master Plan and will be working with a steering committee. There will be a meeting on October 27th at Linden Grove Middle School from 4-6 p.m. and another one November 10th from 6-8 at an undetermined location. The City of Kalamazoo is asking residents to help prioritize projects.

Lotta Jarnefelt spoke about the training for the software usage for the county's pictometry. Currently the software is being distributed. A Complete Count Committee has been formed for the upcoming census. The Brownfield Redevelopment Plan grant has been extended and the next phase will include the Midlink Business Park and the old Goodwill Industries building.

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. General consensus was that the path would be better placed on the west side. Jodi also invited representatives to attend the November 4th Safe Routes to School workshop in Lansing.

Dennis Durham noted that the Department of Environmental Quality will be finishing up at the River Reach Development site and sometime after that demolition can begin.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15th of the month. KATS is in need of all time sheets through September 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairperson Barnes adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.