



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2009**

The September meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:10 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), Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Arif, Michael Bippley, Chris Forth, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Fred Nagler, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, and Dallas Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Barnes, Dennis Durham, Dale Hein, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, and Cheri Lutz.

OTHERS PRESENT

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

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2009 MEETING

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the minutes from August 13, 2009.”* Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported that the Policy Committee took action to approve the TIP amendments for FY 2010-2011 that the Technical Committee had recommended for approval. The group also approved the 2008 population and employment estimates. Policy Committee approval allows for the information to be sent to MDOT for modeling.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS - None

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Start stated that there was a difference between the TIP and MDOT balance sheet amounts for some of the ARRA funds. The City of Kalamazoo's ARRA funding had been lowered by less than \$20,000 on all of their projects. All projects are capped to "as bid" prices. A meeting will be set up soon for the TIP Subcommittee to look at what funds are available to be allocated and how to reprogram the difference. The ARRA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2009. Once the TIP Subcommittee has developed a plan, it will be brought back before the Technical Committee for their recommendations at the October 8th meeting.

Jon also spoke about the SAFTEA-LU Rescission meeting held on September 8th. If this rescission is passed, future project lettings may be delayed.

An updated FY 2008-2011 STIP/TIP showing the recommended amendments was included in the Technical Committee packet. These recommended amendments were made by the TIP subcommittee who asks the Technical Committee to approve it.

Motion by the Technical Committee, *“to approve the FY 2008-2011 STIP/TIP amendments.”* Motion approved.

These amendments will go on to the Policy Committee for approval at their September 30th meeting.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS

Staff has completed the 2008 population and employment estimates. The estimates were sent to MDOT in Lansing on September 9th. MDOT will build and validate a model with the information provided.

Jon also asked the group for input on goals and objectives, as well as ideas on improving the next plan. A Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled soon to gather citizen comments and input.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Bill Schomisch told the group that the consultant hired to do a comprehensive operational analysis is set to begin on September 22nd. The City Commission has also approved a contract to operate Metro County Connect, which will allow Metro Van and Care-A-Van to become one unit. There will be 15 new vans and 7 cut-away vans added to the fleet of 42 vehicles. ARRA funds will be used for an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system. This AVL system specifications and implementation plan will be developed by a consulting firm, with the overall goal of improved efficiency and operation. This will allow riders to have same day demand response service, which is currently not always available.

The fare increase is moving forward. If passed, the fare for line haul would go from \$1.35 to \$1.50. The consultant will also be looking at how to simplify the fare system.

The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority is working to create the Public Transportation Human Services Plan (PTHS). There are federal funds available through New Freedom and Job Access Reverse Commute programs if there is a PTHS Plan in place.

Planning for a ballot request for .6 mill for City of Kalamazoo residents is being developed.

STATUS REPORTS

Fred Nagler reported that the Lovell Street project is complete with the exception of signs and stripping. The Bronson Boulevard project is near completion. The Veterans Memorial Park bridge foundation is being redesigned. Once it is done, the bridge will be set. The City of Kalamazoo's ARRA projects on Reed Street and Burdick Street, as well as Edwards Street, will begin next week. The Lovers Lane project will require water main work and this may delay the project until next year. The Cork Street project will begin this year but no date has been set.

Shahid Abbas noted that the City of Kalamazoo's CMAQ projects on Drake Road and Paterson Street started last week. The poles are not in yet but everything is on track. The Rose Street and Mills Street CMAQ projects are being designed now and are set to begin next year.

Frank Szopo told the group that the Arboretum Roadway opened last week and is fully operational.

Dallas Williams reported that the ARRA project on Centre Avenue from Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road is complete. Kilgore Road from Westnedge Avenue to the Grand Truck Rail Road just west of Lovers Lane is expected to finish in October. The STP project on Milham Avenue is also near completion.

John Byrnes said the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's ARRA project on S Avenue from 29th Street to Sprinkle Road has segment 1 completed. The project on 8th Street from R Avenue to Q Avenue will be pulverized soon. The rural ARRA project on 12th Street from D Avenue to C Avenue will be completed soon. The 6th Street project from Stadium Drive to N Avenue will also be completed soon and includes improvements at the 6th Street and N Avenue intersection. The Sprinkle Road and G Avenue safety project will be bid next week. The CMAQ project on Sprinkle Road requires the signal installation and camera adjustments before it will be complete. There is design work being done for the 35th Street project slated for FY 2010. This will require signal relocation and access management.

Michael Bippley noted that the I-94 at Westnedge project is still under construction. He also noted that the I-94 median cable barrier will be installed in Kalamazoo soon.

Jodi Stefforia announced a walk along 10th Street September 14th at 10:00 a.m. The group will be walking a proposed non-motorized connection on 10th Street from West Main to the Kal-Haven Trail.

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 September 22nd with working groups at various times throughout the day. The public meeting portion will begin in October. The Commission is also working to redevelop Whiskey Alley. This area is the current parking lot area behind Michigan Avenue, east of the Kalamazoo Mall.

Chris Forth told the group that the Kalamazoo Valley Family Church will have a soft opening in October and a grand opening in November. This time will allow for signal timing adjustments to be made if necessary. The church can accommodate up to 2,000 people.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz informed the committee that KATS time sheets are due by the 15th of the month. KATS must have your September time sheets no later than October 15th for billing purposes.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Schultz told the group that there were some asset management funds left for non-federal aid roads. She will be in contact with agencies to see if there is interest in data collection.

Frank Szopo announced that Shahid Abbas will be leaving the City of Kalamazoo for a position in Arlington, Virginia. This will be the last Technical Committee meeting he will attend.

Bill Schomisch asked if Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funds need to be included in the TIP if Metro Transit accepts them. If accepted, the funds would go toward snowmelt for the tracks and a possible canopy for passengers. Jon Start said that because they were federal funds, they would need to be included in the TIP.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.