



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2005**

The September 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***

Frank Szopo (Vice-Chair), Shahid Abbas, John Byrnes, Ron Copping, Rick Fowler, John Frakes, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Bill Schomisch, Richard Skalski, Jodi Stefforia, and John Sych.

***MEMBERS ABSENT***

Muhammad Arif, Matt Crawford, Chris Forth, Cheri Lutz, and Dallas Williams.

***OTHERS PRESENT***

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

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

Kathy Carrier noted that the Lovers Lane project will be bid in October 2005, not October 2006 as noted in the minutes.

Motion by the Technical Committee, ***“to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2005 Technical Committee meeting as corrected.”*** Motion approved.

***POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT***

The Policy Committee met on August 31<sup>st</sup> and approved the administrative change for the Lovers Lane project. A presentation was made to the committee on how local agencies develop the projects that are part of the Transportation Improvement Program. Subcommittee members were selected to meet jointly with the Technical Committee to develop the project priority process.

***CITIZENS' COMMENTS*** - None

***CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA***

Jon Start requested that the Technical Committee consider changing the November and December meeting dates so that there is a week between the Technical Committee meeting and the Policy Committee meeting. The new meeting dates will be November 3 and December 1.

Motion by the Technical Committee, “*to approve moving the Technical Committee meeting dates for November and December to November 3 and December 1.*” Motion approved.

***JOINT TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY***

The Policy Committee heard presentations from MDOT and the Road Commission on how they choose projects for consideration in the Transportation Improvement Program and Transportation Plan. The committee found the information useful. The Policy Committee wants economic development to have more emphasis in the selection process.

The following Technical Committee members volunteered to serve on the Project Prioritization Subcommittee:

Darrell Harden - Michigan Department of Transportation  
John Sych - Kalamazoo County Planning  
Muhammad Arif - City of Portage  
Shahid Abbas - City of Kalamazoo  
Ron Reid - Kalamazoo County Road Commission

***PUBLIC TRANSIT***

The Transit Oversight Committee has been meeting regularly with local governmental units and Friends of Transit on the development of a transit authority. They have received comments about the possibility of a countywide millage passing in the rural areas, as well as what the service area would be for the outlying jurisdictions.

Phil Reid from Friends of Transit noted that they are working on educating the public about the need for a public transit system in Kalamazoo County that is accessible to everyone. They are currently meeting monthly on the first Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Disability Resource Center downtown.

The Metro Transit’s Triennial Review was completed in August. This review is by the Federal Transit Administration to look at Metro Transit’s practices in various areas, including planning, ITS, and federal compliance. They did not get cited for any serious issues.

***STATUS REPORTS***

Tom Hohm reported on the Road Commission projects:

- Sprinkle Road from Zylman to Centre: October 3 is the move in date for Stryker. The road should be mostly completed by then.

- Sprinkle Road Signal Upgrade: The CMAQ project is being rebid and will be part of the November letting.

Chris Barnes reported on the City of Portage projects:

- Oakland Drive from Centre to Romence: The project is generally complete. Some finishing work is being done on utilities and sidewalks.
- Lovers Lane: The project will be in the October letting.

Frank Szopo reported on the City of Kalamazoo projects:

- Rose Street: The project is 95% complete.
- Michigan Avenue: Tree removal is currently underway. The project will be constructed in two phases, with the portion near Drake Road and Michigan Avenue being completed this year and the remaining being constructed next spring. He noted that the city needed to acquire 78 easements.
- Portage Road Signal Upgrade: The CMAQ project will be rebid due to high bid prices. Some items were removed from the proposal.
- Fairfield Road: The city is working with the City of Portage on plans for a possible boulevard section at the intersection of Portage Road and Fairfield. They are also looking at signals for the intersection.

Keith Hernandez reported on planning topics in the City of Kalamazoo:

- October 21 - 22 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. will be education sessions on the zoning ordinances for the City of Kalamazoo. They will be held in the city hall. They are currently receiving comments on the proposed Riverfront Redevelopment project.

John Sych reported that KATS has been asked to join the county planning commission.

Jodi Stefforia noted that a new road and utilities are being built on Stadium Drive for a new development on a brownfield site.

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

Copies of the network deficiency maps were made available for the committee to review. Members looked at the maps to get an idea of where deficiencies are located in the county based on 2002 data and 2030 projections. Jon Start noted that a subcommittee will be formed to develop proposed projects for the 2030 Plan. The projects must meet financial constraint.

The non-motorized map from the Southwest Michigan Commission has been updated. A meeting will be called soon to get comments on possible expansion and improvements to the network.

Jon Start reported that the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study is requesting an extension of their Transportation Plan through 2006. KATS and BCATS will also be developing a TIP amendment schedule so that if projects need to be tested for air quality that they are tested all at once for the three county area.

Keith Hernandez informed the committee that Dan Burton will be in Kalamazoo on September 19 doing a walkable communities inventory. A copy of the notice will be forwarded to the committee.

***AGENCY TIME SHEETS***

Kathy Carried stressed the importance of getting time sheets to KATS by October 13 for 2005 so that she can input them prior to the audit.

***OTHER NEW BUSINESS***

Bill Schomisch reported that with SAFETEA-LU, \$7 million over a 4-year period was identified for Metro Transit bus purchases.

A CMAQ meeting for the 2006 projects will be scheduled in the upcoming months to determine how travel speeds will be calculated for each project. MDOT is looking at the intersection of Drake and Stadium for possible improvements.

The Policy Committee will be taking action on the Technical Committee Bylaws at an upcoming meeting.

Jon Start will be meeting with the Finance and Personnel Committee to discuss the new staff position prior to advertising the position.

***ADJOURNMENT***

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