



**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

The September meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee was called to order at 9:00 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 Barnes, Dennis Durham, Rick Fowler, Darrell Harden, Keith Hernandez, Tom Hohm, Lotta Jarnefelt, Dan Lewis, Fred Nagler, Michelle O’Neill, Bill Schomisch, Jodi Stefforia, Frank Szopo, and Mike West.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dale Hein and Steve Skalski.

OTHERS PRESENT

Larry Hummel, Kathy Schultz, Jon Start and Steve Stepek.

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12, 2010 MEETING

MOTION by Stefforia, SUPPORT by Szopo, “*to approve the August 12, 2010 minutes.*” Motion approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Start reported on the August 25th Policy Committee meeting. The committee discussed the Goals and Vision Committee priorities list and asked them to rank the priorities in order. The ranking will be used to assist the committee in determining priorities for selecting projects. They also had a public hearing on the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program. No public comments were made.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS - None

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made to the September 9th agenda.

MOTION by Harden, SUPPORT by Stefforia, “*to approve the agenda for the September 9, 2010 meeting.*” Motion approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

At the August meeting, KATS staff discussed the possible addition of Surface Transportation Program funds for FY 2010. Since the meeting in August, staff has discussed the additional funds identified on the Local Agency Balance report with MDOT staff and was informed that due to the late date in the fiscal year, the funds would not be available to put on any projects. The Technical Committee took action at the August meeting to have the TIP Subcommittee meet to discuss this but the meeting was not necessary. The FY 2011 STP funds provided to KATS during the development of the FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program will remain the same with no increase at this time.

The FY 2011 - 2014 Transportation Improvement Program has been submitted to MDOT for approval. It has been transmitted to the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

A copy of the Transportation Improvement Program amendment schedule was distributed to the committee. Amendments to the document can only be processed by MDOT every other month. KATS will need to have amendments for the October submittal by October 7th.

2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT STATUS

The base year deficiency maps were made available for review. Projections should be available by September 25th. MDOT has completed the changes to the network. Currently staff is aiming for a November public hearing on the 2035 Transportation Plan. As the chapters are drafted, they will be made available online at the KATS website (www.KATSmpo.org) and at the KATS office. Staff needs to be made aware of any changes in road lanes in the future (i.e. going from 4 lanes to 3 lanes) as this will need to be modeled for air quality.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY

The 2014 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality project on Romence Road was submitted to MDOT for approval. The project would include signal coordination.

POLICY COMMITTEE GOALS AND VISION COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee is currently ranking a list of priorities that will be looked at for future project selection. The rankings are being requested by the Goals and Vision Committee and are due by the end of September. The Technical Committee will be advised of the project prioritization factors as they are ranked.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Bill Schomisch reported that ridership on the line haul system continues to be down but ridership on the demand response system is up. He attributed it to the economy and fare increases. The expansion of the Metro Transit offices will start in a few days with new office space and a board room. They recently received a shipment of new bus shelters for installation. He informed the committee that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) will be hiring a CEO by April. The KCTA is still working to have Public Act 196 amended to allow more than one governing body accessing two millage rates.

STATUS REPORTS

- City of Portage: The Milham Avenue project is moving along. Curb is being poured and paving will occur on the second half of the street. The project will be completed in November. A new signal is being installed on Centre Street at Currier Drive. They are working on the contracts for the FY 2011 projects, including Oakland Drive, Westnedge Avenue, and Portage Road.
- Kalamazoo County Road Commission: Miller Road at 35th Street is being relocated. Paving of the street is complete and a new signal is being installed at Miller Road. Ditch work is being done on Stadium Drive from 4th Street to 6th Street. A signal has been installed at Sprinkle Road and G Avenue. Paving of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway continues. Engineering work is being done on Sprinkle Road and VW projects for 2011.
- City of Parchment: Demolition of the mill will begin in October. Some utility work will be done in the spring with the construction of the new road in 2011.
- City of Kalamazoo: Paving will start on Lovers Lane, with the road being closed during paving. Michigan Avenue project on WMU campus is finished. Paving continuing on North Street from Douglas to Westnedge Avenue. Arboretum Parkway roundabouts will be open to traffic soon.
- MDOT: I-94 at Westnedge project is running about 2 weeks behind. Work is continuing on paving the eastbound section. A pilot guardrail project will be installed on US-131 south of Schoolcraft.
- City of Kalamazoo Planning: The bike parking proposal did not pass the planning commission. The planning department will be looking at the requirements for bicycle parking spaces for new developments.
- Kalamazoo County Planning: Website updates are being done on the County GIS program. They worked with officials during the oil spill in Marshall to provide information. They will be hiring a part-time GIS coordinator soon.
- City of Portage Planning: They are reviewing the Kalamazoo Valley Family Church permits since their opening of the church facility on Vincent. A review is continuing for redevelopment of Portage Road near Centre Street.
- Oshtemo Township: A plan for the Genesee Prairies along 11th Street and Parkview Avenue is ongoing.

AGENCY TIME SHEETS

Kathy Schultz thanked the agencies who have brought their time sheets up-to-date. She stressed the importance of the time sheets as KATS ends of the fiscal year September 30th.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011

Jon Start asked the committee to consider other days of the month for meetings of the Technical Committee. There are several members who are unable to attend the 2nd Thursday of the month. After discussion by the committee, it was determined to keep the Technical Committee meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month starting at 9:00 a.m.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

No further details have been presented on the President's transportation package recently announced.

ADJOURNMENT

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