

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 31, 2024 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The January 31, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Metro in Kalamazoo, by Chairperson Thompson.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all present. Greg Kinney, Van Buren County, joined the meeting virtually.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Curt Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Heather Bowden	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Rob Britigan	City of Parchment
Marsha Drouin	Richland Township
Tim Frisbie	Village of Vicksburg
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Todd Hackenberg	Village of Lawton
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Adam Herringa	City of Portage
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Judy Lemon	City of Galesburg
Traci Locey	Brady Township
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Aditya Rama	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens' Advisory Committee
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jordan Smith	Maner Costerisan

Jon Start
Steve Stepek
Ali Townsend
Bret Witkowski

Citizen
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Van Buren County Road Commission

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Sorensen, **“to approve the agenda of the January 31, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.”** MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens’ comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT
- ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 20, 2023 MEETING

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, **“to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda.”** MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Referring to the amendments enclosed in the meeting packet, Stepek explained there are only four proposed amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) this month. Two are Road Commission of Kalamazoo County cost adjustments. There is a Sprinkle Road railroad project and removal of a Michigan Department of Transportation project at Sprinkle Rd and M-343 (Gull Road).

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Ulsh, **“to approve the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments.”** MOTION CARRIED.

AMENDED LIMITED ORPHAN MAINTENANCE AREA (LOMA) OZONE CONFORMITY DOCUMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Documents are included in the meeting materials. With the addition of the US-131 BR project to last month’s Transportation Improvement Program, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) was required to prepare a new Conformity Document. An Interagency Work Group met and agreed on the designation of the projects for air quality conformity. No public comments were received on the document that has been out for public review. KATS Staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the Conformity Document.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Aardema, **“to approve the Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) Ozone Conformity Document for the Transportation Improvement Program.”** MOTION CARRIED.

2024 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS

Referring to the safety documents and resolution in the packet, Stepek reminded attendees this was discussed at last month's meeting. Stepek reiterated Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is required to adopt the statewide safety performance targets every year. The safety targets are not goals but are predictions of what is expected. KATS Technical Committee added verbiage to the resolution of support showing decreasing trends of death and injury in our Metropolitan Planning Organization region. The Technical Committee approved the revised resolution. KATS staff and the Technical Committee recommend approval of the resolution.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Drouin, ***"to approve the 2024 Safety Performance Measure Targets and for the Chairperson to Sign the Resolution on Behalf of the Committee."***

MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION AND REPORT

The Audit Governance Letter is included with the meeting materials along with a link to the Fiscal Year 2023 Audited Financial Statements. Jordan Smith, Principal Auditor from Maner Costerisan presented Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) financial highlights and audit results for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. Upon completion of the audit, Maner Costerisan issued a clean opinion, the highest level of assurance, that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. There were no audit findings nor adjusting journal entries. The current ratio or ability to meet obligations at September 30, 2023 was 3.04 percent. Unrestricted Net Position, or the ability to operate without generating additional revenue is 26%. Graphs depicted 5-year trends of revenues, expenses, and total net position. During the audit, material deficiencies in internal controls were not identified. Upcoming accounting pronouncements to be aware of include reporting of accounting changes and error corrections, compensated absences liability reporting, and risk disclosures, GASB No. 100, No. 101, and No. 102, respectively. In responding to Britigan's question, it was discussed that it is difficult to compare KATS Net Position to other Metropolitan Planning Organizations due to differing organizational structures, size, and program support requirements and policies.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Aardema reported Metro continues development of its microtransit program. Earlier this month, the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) / Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) board approved River North Transit as the vendor for the program. River North is part of Via Transportation. Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and metro Detroit are already using River North for their microtransit services. It was noted that River North would have a local presence and handle all aspects of the program with in-house staff, marketing, vehicles, reservation systems, and technology. The 18-month pilot program will start with eight leased minivan vehicles branded as Metro, housed at Avis. Adjustments will be made depending on the successes and opportunities for improvement of the pilot program. The service is expected to be rolled out before the end of the year. Details of the program, including its name, are still being planned. The program will be a technology-based service intended to complement the existing metro service. Further discussion ensued.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The updates are included in the meeting packet. Stepek added his biannual review is underway. Email any comments to Chair Randy Thompson. The Finance and Personnel Committee will meet immediately following this meeting. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) received a draft of the Certification Review document. No corrective actions were discovered. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided recommended corrections to KATS Public Participation Plan. All agencies in the state, including KATS are required to update their Title VI plans to adhere to new FHWA/FTA guidelines. Instead of self-investigating any complaints, complaints must be transferred to agencies one level up. Local community agencies and KATS complaints would be referred to the Michigan Department of Transportation. KATS will present an updated Title VI plan next month. KATS Technical Committee Prioritization Subcommittee will begin meeting next month. Changes will be incorporated into the KATS prioritization process to prepare for the call for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) this fall. Stepek reminded attendees to return their agency FY 2025 contributed service agreements if you haven't already.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Sotherland announced the Kalamazoo Bike Club is starting to feature 'cycling shorts' presentations about cycling. They are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Township City Center. The February 13, 2024 presentation will feature guest speaker George Waring, Civil Engineer with the City of Kalamazoo. He will discuss Kalamazoo's quest for safe access to all streets.

Praedel reported that the City of Kalamazoo water main project on Westnedge Avenue will be a very impactful traffic project in 2024. Alternate north/south travel routes are recommended. Expect delays on Whites Road since traffic will be down to one lane during the project there. Bronson Blvd will be closed intermittently during bridge reconstruction. As a follow-up to Gisler's question on safety progress resulting from road projects, an email from Praedel was forwarded to all members. It included links to the City of Kalamazoo live webinar presentations on Major Streets and Engineering. Attendees discussed parking in the city.

Heppler reported plans are underway for the Village of Augusta 2024 Washington Street bridge project. The road will be totally closed during construction. Repair on M-96 is anticipated in summer. Sotherland and Heppler discussed trail expansion in and around the village.

VanderRoest announced Charleston Township approved road projects for this year. VanderRoest expressed appreciation to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for holding the joint meeting with Charleston Township and Ross Township regarding the M-96 and D Avenue concerns. VanderRoest expressed concern about the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) paying people to complete and submit a survey on future roadway funding.

Gisler stated the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners is seeking a replacement for Angelina Barnes who served as Corporation Counsel. Her last day is Friday, February 2, 2024. Contact Gisler if you are interested in Avelo Airline coupons for roundtrip flights taken through the end of June 2024.

Sorensen reported progress continues on the Cooper Township Hall renovation. Tresses that were too long are being re-engineered on site. Their installation is planned to begin tomorrow.

Worden reminded attendees to continue to drive for conditions during the winter season. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is seeking feedback via a 'safe streets for all' survey. The survey is available on the kalamazooountyroads.com website. RCKC's 2024 schedule of joint meetings with townships is available on the website. RCKC is hosting an open house for its new location from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on March 21, 2024. Seasonal weight restrictions went into effect at 6:00 a.m. this morning, January 31, 2024 for Kalamazoo County roads not designated as all season roads.

Frisbie announced the Village of Vicksburg's council meeting was held this past month for the first time at the village's new municipal building which was paid for in cash. An open house is anticipated in spring.

Pfeiffer reported that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) spring weight restrictions will be in effect starting Friday, February 2, 2024 at 6:00 a.m. for statewide seasonal roads. There is only one state road in the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization area that is a seasonal road. It is M-89 and M-43 west of Richland toward the Barry County line. All other roads are all season roads.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Thompson adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Approved 2/28/24 (er)

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.