

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2023 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The December 7, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro, by Chairperson Minkus.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet. Introductions were made by all present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christina Anderson	City of Kalamazoo
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Alexander Franchi	Kalamazoo County
Josh Grab	Kalamazoo County
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Sarah Joshi	Central County Transportation Authority
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Whitney Pizzala	Village of Mattawan
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Paul Sotherland	Citizens Advisory Committee
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo
Bret Witkowski	Van Buren County Road Commission

OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Doorlag	Wightman
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Larry Hummel	Fleis and VandenBrink
Jacob Kapa	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

Connie Morrison	Value Engineering
Spencer Nosal	
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Steve Stepek, AICP	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jason Whitmyer	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hoekstra moved, and it was duly seconded by Feldt, ***“to approve the agenda of the December 7, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2023 MEETING

Stefforia moved, and it was duly seconded by Hoekstra, ***“to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported on behalf of the Policy Committee who met at the end of November. The Technical Committee recommended Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Public Participation Plan were adopted. Stepek noted additional edits to the Public Participation Plan may be necessary next year upon Federal Highway Administration’s issuance of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Certification Review in a couple months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Referring to the amendments enclosed in the meeting packet, Stepek explained the majority of the projects are traffic safety projects. Another large project is the regionally significant US-131 at US-131BR interchange. This project is fully funded with state funds. In response to Arif, Stepek clarified the project is funded solely by earmarks with no federal money.

Stefforia moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and to recommend them to the Policy Committee for approval.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

2024 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS

Stepek explained the Michigan Department of Transportation 2024 Safety Newsletter with Targets, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Target Letter for 2024, our local safety data graphs, and the Resolution of Support for Safety Performance Measures are included in the meeting packet. As the MPO for the Kalamazoo region, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is required each year to either adopt the state’s safety performance measure targets or create their own. In the past, KATS has adopted the state’s safety performance measure targets. Stepek pointed out these safety measures are targets and not goals. Targets must be met by the state as a whole. Members discussed the trends and targets, noting the predicted fatalities will increase. Inclusion in the federal process requires we meet these targets. Locally within our planning processes, we can set clear safety goals lower than the targets. The targets could alternatively be thought of as predictions

for safety performance measures. Members further discussed approval of the State's safety performance measures. It was noted that the KATS must report safety targets to the Michigan Department of Transportation by February 27, 2024. A subcommittee will be formed to re-word the resolution. Language more specific to the KATS region may be added to the resolution. The revised resolution will be presented for approval at the January 11, 2024 meeting.

Anderson moved, and it was duly seconded by Waring, ***“to postpone voting on the 2024 Safety Performance Measures.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OFFICER DISCUSSION

Stepek stated no other volunteers stepped up. Officers were discussed at the prior meeting. Attendees showed appreciation and thanked Minkus for serving as Chair for the past two years.

Anderson moved, and it was duly seconded by Heppler, ***“to approve Jodi Stefforia as Chair, and Anna Horner as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE- Townsend reported the non-motorized counts are wrapped up for the season. Data is now available on the katsmpo.org website under the Maps menu. In response to Heppler's inquiry, Minkus responded he will be discussing the trailway from Galesburg to Ft. Custer with the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Rail and will update the committee at a future meeting. In response to Waring's question, Townsend said email her any requests for counts next spring. Stepek mentioned that KATS is purchasing another counter. Minkus asked if the counter counts seemed accurate. Townsend responded; vehicles were being counted in some areas. Those areas are noted on the map.

COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- Mickelson stated the Complete Streets Implementation Plan Subcommittee did not meet since the last update. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) continues restructuring the prioritization methodology based on comments received at the last meeting.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION- Minkus reminded attendees that the Traffic Signal Coordination Subcommittee will meet directly after this meeting.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

There were no public transportation updates.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

DenBraber reported the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) I-94 Portage Road construction is complete and the road is fully open. Wall painting and plantings are planned for next spring. The US-131 from Schoolcraft to Three Rivers construction will wrap up on December 19, 2023 for the season and start again next spring. The US-131 bridge project over KL Avenue was just in bid letting. Work is anticipated to last from April to November in both 2024 and 2025. A June 2024 mill and fill and ramp project on Westbound I-94 by Mattawan is planned. A Capital Preventive Maintenance chip seal project on M-40 and M-43 is planned for 2024. The US-131 Business Spur project design is nearly complete. Environmental reviews are ongoing. A December 2024 letting is planned to be built in 2025. There are other projects in design and planned.

Horner reported Oshtemo Township received a draft of their Non-Motorized Asset Management Plan. The data will be exported to Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) to include in the interactive map. Horner expressed appreciation for the partnership with KATS on this. The township

has quite a few non-motorized projects planned for completion in 2024 and 2025. The township has a Moratorium Ordinance on Private Roads in place. With the assistance of a consultant, the township is developing a detailed Streets and Mobility Ordinance. It will be presented to the Planning Commission and available for public comment next week. Lubbert added the township anticipates adoption in early 2024.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta 2024 Washington Street bridge project is planned for a January or February 2024 letting. The water project that included roads on the south side of the village is complete.

Ladd reported the City of Kalamazoo Patterson Street bridge project is largely complete and open to traffic. Phase One of the Ransom Street project is complete. The city is waiting for construction schedules on Whites Road, Westnedge, and the next phase of Ransom Street. Public outreach on these projects will follow. The City's Michigan Avenue Request for Proposals was issued December 6, 2023. This is the first project that will be funded by the 2022 RAISE grant. The 2024 Michikal Street project will be bid in the upcoming weeks.

Hoekstra reported the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County 2023 projects are all complete. W Avenue and Douglas have been bid. Squires Road and the Drake roundabout are planned for the January letting. MN and Mercury are planned for an April letting. In today's Transportation Improvement Program amendment were the G Avenue and Sprinkle Road safety projects.

Harmon reported all City of Portage projects are done for the year. Shaver Road is planned for spring. The Portage Road project will be in the February bid letting with an anticipated start in April 2024. Several projects are in stages of design.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Stefforia mentioned Comstock Township and its officials were named in a lawsuit as was reported in the local news.

Feldt reported the City of Portage is presenting a preliminary draft of the Master Plan Future Land Use map in Mid-Late January. It can be found on the Master Plan website page within the City of Portage Website. Information on an open house will be posted soon on the city's website. Public input will be welcome. The city is working with a planning consultant for the project. Adoption is targeted for summer 2024. The city became the eighteenth community in Michigan to allow accessory dwelling units (ADU's) sometimes referred to as mother-in-law suites.

Hepper mentioned there is concern of a largescale traffic increase due to the potential consolidation of regional United States Postal Service operations to their 9th Street facility.

NEW BUSINESS

Attendees were reminded of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study holiday breakfast on December 20, 2023 prior to the Policy Committee meeting. DenBraber added the Michigan Department of Transportation is abandoning an intersection improvement project on M-343 and Sprinkle. Minkus announced the RTF Region 3 meeting will be held December 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County offices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.*

Approved 1/11/24 (er)