

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
**MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2024 - 9:30 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The February 8, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro, by Chairperson Stefforia.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Nolan Bergstrom	City of Kalamazoo
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Heather Bowden	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Alexander Franchi	Kalamazoo County
Josh Grab	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Colten Hutson	Oshtemo Township
Sarah Joshi	Central County Transportation Authority
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Jim Mallery	Village of Vicksburg
Whitney Pizzala	Village of Mattawan
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Josh Raney	City of Galesburg
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Paul Sotherland	Citizens Advisory Committee
Jodi Stefforia	Comstock Township
Shannon Stutz	City of Parchment
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Phil Doorlag	Wightman
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Lisa McNees	City of Galesburg

Megan Mickelson  
Fred Nagler  
Elizabeth Rumick  
Ali Townsend

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## **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 Gwin, ***“to approve the agenda of the February 8, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

## **MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING**

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Arif, ***“to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mickelson reported on behalf of the Policy Committee who met at the end of January. Technical Committee recommended Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were adopted. The Amended Limited Orphan Maintenance Area (LOMA) Ozone Conformity Document for the Transportation Improvement Program was adopted. The Technical Committee recommended State Safety Performance Measure Targets resolution was approved. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study auditor made a presentation on the fiscal year 2023 audit results and financial data.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

## **TITLE VI PLAN DRAFT DISCUSSION**

Referring to the document enclosed in the meeting packet, Townsend explained the updates are highlighted. Act 51 subrecipients were notified of the new required state standards for researching and responding to Title VI complaints. New federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration guidelines require agencies to refer any Title VI complaints to agencies one level up as opposed to self-investigating complaints. Therefore, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) complaints would be referred to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Mickelson added this document will be out for feedback this month on both KATS website and social media accounts. It will be presented for approval next month.

## **CONTRIBUTED SERVICES FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

Mickelson explained a summary of the contributed services for the fiscal year-to-date January 31, 2024 is included in the packet for your review. Please continue to turn in time sheets.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE-** Townsend reported the subcommittee’s next meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Expect an email from Mickelson next week with more details.

**COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN-** Mickelson stated the Complete Streets Implementation Plan Subcommittee will meet next week. The draft document will be issued for review along with an updated prioritization scoring matrix. The Prioritization Subcommittee work will be

introduced at the March or April meeting. In response to Stefforia's inquiry, Mickelson responded the Prioritization Subcommittee has good representation from agencies including Metro.

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION-** Mickelson announced the next Traffic Signal Coordination Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024 after the Technical Committee meeting.

**PRIORITIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE-** Mickelson reported Stepek will be sending out a Doodle Poll to schedule the meeting towards the end of the month for this new subcommittee. Subcommittee members are asked to please review the current scoring.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Joshi reported the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) / Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) board approved Via Transportation as the microtransit program vendor. Service is expected to be launched in April. Plans are underway to determine north, south, east, and west zones and how they will connect to the fixed route system.

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### **ROADS-**

DenBraber reported the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) grant to fund the I-94 Paw Paw interchange project was not awarded. The project is now programmed for 2030. MDOT will continue to look for other grants to fund it to potentially move up timing. To respond to Arif, DenBraber said the project is a new bridge over I-94 with roundabouts on each side. The US-131 KL Avenue project was awarded. Construction will start in April. Horner asked how MDOT shared projects with the public. DenBraber explained MDOT holds public open houses early in the preliminary project planning process.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta 2024 Washington Street bridge project plans continue. Road improvements will be made on M-96 this summer. Plans continue on the potential extension of the non-motorized trail from Galesburg to Fort Custer.

Harmon reported the City of Portage 2024 Portage Road project from Romence Road to I-94 bids came in 7% over estimates. The project was red flagged by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for non-balancing. MDOT requires a response for each of the 129 flagged items. Gwin detailed the project. Arif asked if MDOT had procedures in place to alert affected contractors and to have them justify flagged items. Gwin agreed that it would make sense for MDOT as the project administrator, to be in contact with the contractor. DenBraber will inquire further and follow-up with MDOT on this topic. Stefforia suggested, and it was agreed that an update would be on the March meeting agenda. Bids are open for the Cooley Drive project. Other local projects are under design.

Hoort reported that Van Buren County Road Commission has one small, local, two-mile project in Paw Paw Township out for bid now.

Waring reported the City of Kalamazoo Westnedge water main and resurfacing project will start in early March. Northbound traffic will be detoured on Burdick. The Whites Road project will begin in early March. Westbound traffic will be detoured from Oakland to Westnedge. The Inkster Bridge project will require closure of Bronson Blvd from Whites Road to Crosstown beginning March 18, 2024 for approximately one to two months. Alternate routes are recommended for north and southbound travel on either Burdick or Portage Road. The Ransom Street project beginning at Pitcher going west, will restart in March. The Howard Street project between Stadium Drive and Michigan Avenue is out for bid now. This will include mill and fill, curb and gutter work and U-turn pockets. Single lane closures are planned. The Riverview Drive bids came back close to estimates except for mobilization and traffic control which were 50% over. There were contingencies and it was a locally let project. Sidewalk work will start in April with road work in May and June. The road will be down to

one lane north and south. The Safe Streets for All grant request for proposals are going out now. Installation for the pilot study will begin in early May and last through 2025. Winchell neighborhood Safe Routes for School will be out for bid soon. The Michikal Street project came in significantly over budget. It will be rebid soon. Michigan Avenue design will be underway soon. Request for Proposals for other downtown streets will follow. A public open house with information on 2024 construction projects is scheduled for February 20, 2024 at the Girl Scout Building at Maple and Crosstown.

#### **LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-**

Stefforia invited attendees to the Comstock Township Planning Commission meeting tonight. It will include a presentation by industry representatives on battery energy storage systems. The February 22, 2024 Planning Commission meeting will feature solar energy industry representatives. Meetings are available on the Public Media Network.

Bowden of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) agreed with Stefforia that MDOT has both a Road Usage Funding survey and a Complete Streets survey out now.

Heppler reported that the Village of Augusta zoning commission is working on a project for a solar farm. Strategic planning is underway to revise village zoning. A survey will be sent out in March for upgrading zoning maps.

Hutson reported Oshtemo Township is hosting a public hearing for a new mixed-use ordinance.

McNees reported the City of Galesburg approved a Consumers Credit Union. Construction will start in October with opening planned for early in 2025.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought forth.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sotherland referred to flyers he had available inviting attendees to the Kalamazoo Bike club 'cycling shorts' program on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Oshtemo Township Community Center. It will feature guest speaker George Waring of the City of Kalamazoo. The March program on 'Pedaling in Portage' will feature guest speaker Pat McGinnis.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

*The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.*