

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES APRIL 11, 2024 - 9:30 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The April 11, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC), by Chairperson Stefforia. Stefforia thanked RCKC for hosting the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christina Anderson	City of Kalamazoo
Barry Anttila	Van Buren County Road Commission
Muhammad Arif	City of Portage
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw
Heather Bowden	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Brenda Burdick	Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Service Center
Josh Grab	Michigan Department of Transportation, Region
Rachael Grover	Kalamazoo County
Kendra Gwin	City of Portage
Todd Hackenberg	Village of Lawton
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Scott Hess	Comstock Township
Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Alex Johnson	City of Portage
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
Lisa McNees	City of Galesburg
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Tom Palumbo	City of Kalamazoo
Whitney Pizzala	Village of Mattawan
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Kathy Schultz	Central County Transportation Authority
Clayton Sigmann	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Paul Sotherland	Citizens' Advisory Committee
Jodi Stefforia	Oshtemo Township
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo
Mark Worden	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Clift	Van Buren County Road Commission
-------------	----------------------------------

Phil Doorlag	Wightman
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Linda Marble	City of Galesburg
Lisa McNees	City of Galesburg
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Hailey Savola	ROWE
Steve Stepek	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Ali Townsend	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

### **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 Heppler, ***“to approve the agenda of the April 11, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

### **MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 14, 2024 MEETING**

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Hoekstra, ***“to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

### **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Steppek reported on behalf of the Policy Committee who met at the end of March. The Technical Committee recommended Title VI plan and Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were approved. The Title VI plan will be posted on the katsmpo.org website soon. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Michigan Department of Transportation, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and Transit was approved. The MOU will be available on the katsmpo.org website once it is fully signed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

### **KALAMAZOO COMMUTER CHALLENGE AND LOVE TO RIDE PRESENTATION**

Referring to the flyer he passed out, Sotherland provided information on the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge program and app. The challenge will run from May 17, 2024 through May 30, 2024. All residents of Kalamazoo County are encouraged to participate using the free Love to Ride app available for download via the QR code on the flyer or the Love to Ride Kalamazoo County (lovetoride.net) website. The program encourages cycling to shop, dine, and commute to work. Any length of ride will be tracked via the app and contribute to an anonymized heatmap of rides over the entire county. Data can be shared with municipalities and be used to assist with future nonmotorized planning. Waring provided more detailed information on the Love to Ride app. There are currently 185 users on the platform. Anderson stated the app is funded for the first year from the City of Kalamazoo and some fundraising. Further public outreach will be available on social media. Attendees are encouraged to share the information to increase participation.

### **FY 2025 UNIFIELD PLANNING WORK PROGRAM DRAFT**

A link to the document was provided in the meeting materials. Stepek highlighted the \$100 thousand-dollar joint funding for Metro’s study of its microtransit program implementation. Please let Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Staff know of any comments you have.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE-** No updates to report.

**COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN-** Mickelson stated updated scoring methodology was sent out to the committee. Please submit all comments to Mickelson by Friday. A Complete Streets Implementation Plan draft is planned to be presented in May.

**TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION-** Stepek reported the Traffic Signal Coordination Subcommittee met last month. The next meeting will most likely be in August. Arif pointed out the challenge on eastbound West Q Avenue from Texas Township into the City of Portage. Long backups are the norm on West Q Avenue at the intersections of South 12<sup>th</sup> Street and US-131. The Michigan Department of Transportation, Kalamazoo County, and the City of Portage will meet to discuss improvements.

**PRIORITIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE-** Stepek stated Townsend is working on a new application through ESRI's ArcGIS Survey 123. The new prioritization process is anticipated to be adopted in late spring or early summer. The Call for Projects for fiscal years 2027 - 2029 is expected to be in August or September.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Schultz thanked attendees for the welcome back. Metro's new Microtransit program will be launched next week. Information will be posted on the kmetro.com website. This Metro Link service is an app-driven, on-demand rideshare service. After downloading the free app, riders will be able to choose their starting point and destination. The app will provide route details such as where to walk to pick up a ride. Minivan vehicles will be easily recognizable in red and white with clear Metro branding. Vehicles will not have bike racks. Relay any feedback on the program to Metro. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Van Buren County Transit provides rides to the VA Hospital in Battle Creek for any veteran that lives in Van Buren County.

## **STATUS REPORTS**

### **ROADS-**

Hoekstra reported the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) W Avenue project is moving along with concrete and paving the next couple weeks. The Squires Drive project is ongoing. After school gets out, the intersection for the roundabout will begin. The Douglas Avenue project is planned to start in a couple of weeks. The MN and Mercury Drive project was let last Friday and came in 11 percent under estimates. The Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) bid was accepted. Scheduling and local projects are being set up. RCKC is working on Safety Applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program through the federal government. 2025 projects are under design.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta is partnering with the Michigan Department of Transportation for two projects this summer. The Washington Street bridge project will require road closure and a detour. The M-96 project will extend from the Village of Augusta limits to the bridge to Ft. Custer.

Anttila reported the Van Buren County Road Commission has a project planned on County Road 388. Opening bids are planned for May. The project will utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Waring reported the City of Kalamazoo Whites and Westnedge projects are moving forward. Starting next week, the intersection at Whites Road and Duke Street will be closed for approximately two weeks for a water main project. No through traffic, but local traffic will remain open eastbound only. East and westbound traffic on Inkster will be affected by a water main project at the intersection of Inkster and Westnedge. The old Inkster Street bridge has been removed. The bridge reconstruction project is on schedule. Sidewalk and curb renewals have been completed on the east side of Riverview Drive. Work on the west side will begin next week and last through April. Mill and fill will follow. The Ransom Street project is on schedule. The Edwards intersection will be open soon. The Safe Streets for All is going to the City Commission with plans to develop a safety action plan for the city. Local paving is expected to begin in early May.

Bittner reported that a lane will be shut down in each direction eastbound and westbound M-43 on April 22, 2024 between Pinehurst and Arlington for a water main project in Kalamazoo Township.

Burdick reported the Michigan Department of Transportation US-131 and KL Avenue project will start on Monday but may be delayed. KL Avenue will be closed through 2025. US-131 will stay open. The Schoolcraft US-131 project will restart Monday. Southbound US-131 traffic will be detoured. The M-40 rebuilding project in Van Buren County resumes Monday. The M-43 Winding Project and 131 Business Spur projects scheduled for next year are under design. The westbound I-94 to northbound US-131 ramp widening project has been extended to include an auxiliary lane to Stadium Drive. The project has been pushed out to 2026. A public meeting will be held this summer. A southbound sound wall is proposed.

Hackenberg stated the M-40 project is resuming on Monday in Lawton.

Harmon reported the City of Portage Portage Road project started last week. One lane of traffic is open in each direction from Milham to I-94. The project is expected to be complete in August. The Shaver Road project from South City Limits to Vanderbilt Avenue mill and resurfacing is scheduled for mid-July.

Horner reported Oshtemo Township is working on design of a shared use path along H Avenue. On Tuesday, the board finalized the purchase of five acres behind a church on 9<sup>th</sup> Street north of the Meijer retention pond. The purchase was part of the master plan for a road to develop connectivity with the opportunity to add a housing development. Design is beginning with anticipated construction next year.

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

Bowden introduced Clayton Sigmann, the new Michigan Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Planner.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta comprehensive zoning plan is underway. A survey collected valuable information.

Stefforia stated Oshtemo Township is starting to meet with stakeholder groups for its Master Plan.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

As discussed at last month's meeting, Stefforia reiterated with her new position that the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair are from the same agency. Members did not raise any concerns, nor did anyone volunteer for either position.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No citizens' comments were made.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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

*Approved 5/9/24 (er)*