

**KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2016 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

The March 2, 2016 meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Citizen Advisory Committee was called to order at Kalamazoo Metro Transit at 4:00 p.m. by KATS Senior Planner, Steve Stepek.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kay Chase, Linda MacDonald, Marc Irwin, Paul Sotherland, Mike Mallos, Michele McGowen, Jun-Seok Oh

MEMBERS ABSENT

There were no members absent.

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathy Schultz, Steve Stepek, Megan Arndt

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Sotherland, SECOND by Chase, *“to approve the agenda for the March 2, 2016 Citizen Advisory Committee.”* MOTION APPROVED.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION by Chase, SECOND by Irwin, *“to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Citizen Advisory Committee.”* MOTION APPROVED.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Schultz from Kalamazoo Metro Transit reported on two upcoming public meetings that are being held at Metro Transit to provide information on the proposals for route and schedule changes. The meetings will be held on March 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to discuss fixed route changes coming September 6 of this year.

Schultz reported that starting on September 6, 2016 there will be Sunday service and late night service. Late night service will extend to 10:15 p.m., 11:15 p.m., and 12:15 a.m. depending on the route. The Westnedge, Edlestein, and Gull Road routes will each be getting an additional bus. Fixed route service to Pavilion Estates will be eliminated.

Sotherland mentioned that some precincts in Oshtemo opted in while others opted out of the transit mileage based on the vote in Oshtemo. Those precincts that opted out do not get funding for fixed route services. Sotherland asked about what happens now to the Meijer, Walmart, and other

businesses in Oshtemo that are no longer part of a fixed route system. Schultz explained that since there is no agreement between Metro Transit and the businesses mentioned, service will be terminated and a route change will occur.

Chase questioned whether the businesses owners in Oshtemo were aware of the change in service and wondered how the businesses felt about the change. Schultz assured the committee that the businesses have been made aware of the changes. However, Schultz was unsure how the businesses felt about the change and suggested the committee contact Executive Director McBride who would know more on the issue. If business owners and employees would like an agreement for service, they need to talk to the township about getting an agreement.

Sotherland mentioned KVCC tapping into other routes to continue service and inquired how they were able to acquire transit service since they are in one of the opted out precincts. MacDonald stated that KVCC is in a cost sharing agreement with the parties involved to pay for services.

2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Steppek reported that the draft plan of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is up on the website for public comment. It was noted that the purpose of the CAC was to provide public input for the development of MTP. Steppek asked all members to review the draft chapters, in particular the Environmental Justice, Future Transportation, and Unfunded Needs chapters to see if the information is complete and accurate. All comments can go to Steppek or Arndt as well as posting the comments online.

Steppek reminded the CAC of the public meeting regarding the draft of the MTP on March 7, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit. All CAC members were invited to attend. Adoption of the MTP will be next month (April) as it goes through the committee approval process.

2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Steppek explained that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is part of the MTP. KATS staff went through the scoring process to prioritize projects, and the prioritization is currently being reviewed by the TIP subcommittee. Adoption of the TIP will be in May and has firm deadline to be completed and sent to MDOT. If the TIP doesn't get completed and approved in time, projects will not get funded.

Sotherland inquired if the TIP was on the KATS website and asked about the order that the projects appear. Steppek stated that the TIP is available on the KATS website. Functionally, there are around 60 projects that were looked at and ranked but only 12 of those projects will receive funding. Therefore, not all of the projects are listed.

Sotherland mentioned the different plans on the KATS website, specifically referencing the Non-Motorized element that appears separate from the MTP. Steppek noted that the Non-Motorized element is separate due to concerns and differing planning priorities voiced by member agencies during the process of the documents adoption. Sotherland commented that the Non-Motorized element showed forward thinking and multi-use of the transportation system. Sotherland has shown the document to township boards and it is guiding those townships into this forward thinking about transportation.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR ELECTION

MOTION by Chase, SUPPORT by Macdonald, ***“to nominate Paul Sotherland for Vice-Chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee.”*** MOTION APPROVED.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Stepek suggested the CAC meet bi-monthly on Wednesday afternoons. Following discussion, the next meeting of the KATS Citizen Advisory Committee was set for Wednesday, May 4, at 4:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo Metro Transit.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Schultz reported that postcards will be sent out to Kalamazoo County residents regarding the mileage election for Metro County Connect and Community Service Van Program. This proposed mileage is a reduction in the current mileage rate. The mileage election is on May 3. Schultz reported the new Sunday service has attracted 250 riders (half about what ridership is on Saturday's). Beginning in September, Metro County Connect will operate the same hours as Metro Transit fixed route lines. Kalamazoo Metro Transit is working with various organizations and businesses to encourage new riders at reduced rates.

MEMBER COMMENTS

McGowen requested that KATS keep the CAC informed on future public input meetings in Kalamazoo County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the March, 2, 2016 meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Citizen Advisory Committee was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.