

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 26, 2023 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The April 26, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 9: 02 a.m. at Metro in Kalamazoo, by Chairperson Thompson.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all present.

ROLL CALL

Meeting attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Rob Britigan	City of Parchment
Jeff Franklin	Michigan Department of Transportation, Planning
Libby Heiny-Cogswell	Oshtemo Township
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Carl Keller	Village of Vicksburg
Greg Kinney	Van Buren County Road Commission
Judy Lemon	City of Galesburg
Tracey Locey	Brady Township
Pat McGinnis	City of Portage
Sherine Miller	Kalamazoo Township
Pete Pfeiffer	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Jeff Sorensen	Cooper Township
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens' Advisory Committee
Randy Thompson, Chair	Comstock Township
Jerry VanderRoest	Charleston Township
Don Ulsh	Schoolcraft Township

MEMBERS ABSENT

Curtis Aardema	Central County Transportation Authority
Marsha Drouin	Richland Township
John Gisler	Kalamazoo County
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Joanna Johnson	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Chris Praedel	City of Kalamazoo
Aditya Rama	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Megan Mickelson
Ryan Minkus
Elizabeth Rumick
Steve Stepek
Ali Townsend

Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or additional to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Sorensen moved, and it was duly seconded by Locey, **“to approve the agenda of the April 26, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting.”** MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public 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 MARCH 29, 2023 MEETING

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

FY 2023 – 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Stepek explained the amendments are included in the meeting packet. The majority of the amendments represent new projects, primarily Michigan Department of Transportation’s upcoming safety and preservation programs. Another large project is the programming of the RAISE grant the City of Kalamazoo received for planning and design of the downtown street network. In response to Miller’s inquiry of the location of the addition of pedestrian crosswalk improvements on West Main and M-343, Stepek responded they will be installed on West Main between Sage and Solon and between Texel and Colgrove on Gull Road.

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

DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program has been out for comment for over a month. Some spelling corrections were made. Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Economic Development Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) verbiage was added. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Staff and the Technical Committee recommend adoption of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Britigan asked for clarification on the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) Software and Fare Study. Stepek responded, Metro CCTA purchases the Software annually. Metro approached KATS for their Bus Fare Study. The cost of both of these is split 80/20 with 20 percent as local match of the KATS program from Metro.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Miller, **“to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.”** MOTION CARRIED.

SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN PLANNING COUNCIL AGREEMENT

This agreement continues the contracted work arrangement between Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) and the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) in place for over a decade. This agreement is for an additional three years, FY24-26. It aligns with each organization’s master agreement with Michigan Department of Transportation. The only change in the agreement is to allow SMPC to opt out of the contract if they have significant leadership structure changes. Both organizations appreciate the agreement and work well together.

Heppler moved, and it was duly seconded by Britigan, **“to approve the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council Agreement.”** MOTION CARRIED.

VICE CHAIRPERSON NOMINATION

With the forthcoming retirement of Libby Heiny-Cogswell, KATS needs a new Policy Committee Vice Chairperson. KATS has appreciated Libby’s participation and leadership over the last fifteen years. Curtis Aardema volunteered to serve as Vice Chairperson.

McGinnis moved, and it was duly seconded by Sorensen, **“to approve the nomination of Curt Aardema to serve as Vice-Chair.”** MOTION CARRIED.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICE UPDATE

Steppek explained with the fiscal year half over, a summary of the fiscal year-to-date contributed services for the fiscal year-to-date March 31, 2023 is included in the packet for your review.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Steppek shared the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) / Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) updates provided by Aardema who could not attend the meeting. Aditya Rama is replacing Martin Janssen as the KCTA representative for Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Policy Committee. Implementation of the new board governance structure for the CCTA and KCTA continues. The first full board meeting under this new structure was conducted last month, and it went smoothly. The Comprehensive Operational Analysis is being reviewed by both staff and board members. As a result of the analysis, changes to the bus system will be implemented this year. The board has approved the purchase of a new in-ground bus lift for Metro's maintenance facility to replace one that has reached the end of its functional life. The board voted to levy the 2023 KCTA millage at a rate of 0.3110 mills, the same rate as 2022. The board voted to levy the 2023 CCTA millage at a rate of 0.8978 mills, the same rate as 2022. Bus route service post-COVID will continue growing with another group of services being restored in early May.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Steppek stated KATS staff will be out collecting sidewalk inventory and testing new pedestrian counters. Steppek thanked the City of Portage for assistance in pedestrian counter training. Kalamazoo

Area Transportation Study (KATS) is still waiting for our final allocation. Michigan is non-compliant with Federal Highway Administration repeat drunk driving sentencing minimums. Therefore, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) must use 2.5 percent of the state's Service Transportation Program (STP) and National Highway funds to allocate to safety. This will change the Metropolitan Planning Organization allocations. KATS anticipates an approximate \$200 thousand dollar cut in funding for next fiscal year. Once funding is determined, KATS Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee will meet to determine where to trim projects and to program through 2026. Miller asked what is involved with sidewalk inventory. Stepek responded, it is creating a Global Positioning System (GPS) location mapping of sidewalks. Stepek elaborated in response to Sotherland's inquiry, it does not include rating the quality of them.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were made.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Sotherland reminded attendees of the upcoming Kalamazoo Bike Week from May 13, 2023 to May 20, 2023.

VanderRoest of Charleston Township reported M-96 needs attention and has many potholes, one being 10 inches deep. Pfeiffer later explained M-96 construction from Burgess Drive to the Village of Augusta will begin next month. Bigger signage is needed at the intersection of M-343 and Sprinkle Road.

Pfeiffer provided the Michigan Department of Transportation update. Road and bridge construction projects have started. The two biggest projects are on US-131 south of Schoolcraft and on M-40 in Lawton. Let Pfeiffer know if you would like to be added to the email listserv for project progress and construction updates.

Franklin of Michigan Department of Transportation, mentioned Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Staff put together a quality Work Program and is happy to see it approved today.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta submitted permit requests through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) System for the water project starting this summer. The \$2 million dollar project will occur on the south side of the village in partnership with MDOT. The Village of Augusta will work with the county on chip seal projects over the summer. On behalf of Kalamazoo County, Heppler said a downtown Kalamazoo Event Center arena will be built next to the new courthouse.

McGinnis is pleased to hear the committee's emphasis on the importance of transportation safety. Especially with the news of last night's tragic accident at Milham and Sprinkle Road in the City of Portage with two fatalities, and a third person in critical condition. The City of Portage is putting together a grant application for funding for a complete, intense safety study.

Britigan reported there are three local road projects underway in the City of Parchment. Britigan wished Heiny-Cogswell the best and expressed pleasure in working together.

Sorensen announced Cooper Charter Township's May 2, 2023 ballot will include voting on a special assessment to support the fire department capital improvement and operations. Bids opened today on the remodel of the Cooper Township Hall project. The main entrance will be moved to the rear and recently acquired adjacent property will be turned into a much needed parking lot.

Heiny-Cogswell reported Oshtemo Township is using some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to manage non-motorized facility assets. Last night the board approved the \$12 million dollar Phase 1 of the Sewer Expansion project. Heiny-Cogswell thanked the group for their work. Stepek thanked Heiny-Cogswell for her 15 years of serving on the board and volunteering. Attendees echoed thanks and appreciation and wished Heiny-Cogswell well in retirement.

Miller reported Kalamazoo Township is doing drain work off Arlington Street. Kalamazoo Township is installing a lift station and connecting to city sewer on Winding Way. Stepek will follow up with the City of Kalamazoo to determine when the Patterson Street bridge will be complete.

Lemon reported the City of Galesburg is completing a sewer project on Washington Street.

Thompson reported a water project is ongoing on 33rd Street from G Avenue to M-96 in Comstock Township. A lift station is being installed at 35th Street. A sewer project is planned for South 26th Street for the new Road Commission of Kalamazoo County building. The new Comstock Township building should be ready to move into by late September. Midlink has expansion projects in Comstock Township.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Policy Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Approved 5/31/23 (er)