

KALAMAZOO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES APRIL 13, 2023 - 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The April 13, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at Kalamazoo Metro, by Chair 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
Chris Bessert	Kalamazoo County
Mickey Bittner	Village of Paw Paw (Wightman & Associates)
Heather Bowden	Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning
Kerry DenBraber	Michigan Department of Transportation, TSC
Eric Feldt	City of Portage
Jamie Harmon	City of Portage
Robert Henderson	Van Buren Public Transit
Jeff Heppler	Village of Augusta
Jim Hoekstra	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Joel Hoort	Van Buren County Road Commission
Anna Horner	Oshtemo Township
Lisa Imus	Village of Lawton
Anthony Ladd	City of Kalamazoo
John Lovely	Texas Township
Ryan Minkus	Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Dennis Randolph	City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Russell	Village of Schoolcraft
Kathy Schultz	Central County Transportation Authority
Paul Sotherland	KATS Citizens Advisory Committee
Nancy Stoddard	City of Parchment
Greg Vlietstra	Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority
George Waring	City of Kalamazoo

OTHERS PRESENT

Philip Doorlag	Wightman
Megan Mickelson	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Fred Nagler	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Juan Ruelas	Rathco
Elizabeth Rumick	Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

Pratik Sharma
Steve Stepek, AICP
Ali Townsend

City of Portage
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

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 Horner, ***“to approve the agenda of the April 13, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting.”*** MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2023 MEETING

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

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Stepek reported the Policy Committee met March 29, 2023. An increase in the Fiscal Year 2025 Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Contributed Service was approved. Randolph from the City of Kalamazoo presented an update on the Kalamazoo downtown street redesign project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were made.

FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments are included in the meeting packet. Stepek explained there are a large number of amendments. The majority of the amendments are from the Michigan Department of Transportation shifting projects around. There are a couple of additions, a couple of deletions, but the majority are new projects. Stepek highlighted the RAISE grant for the City of Kalamazoo was programmed.

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

DRAFT FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Stepek reported this document has been out for comments for a month. Other than minor typos, only one comment was received from the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Economic Development. As a result, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) verbiage was added to the work program. KATS Staff recommend approval of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and submission to the KATS Policy Committee.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

NON-MOTORIZED SUBCOMMITTEE- Mickelson reported the Non-Motorized Subcommittee met yesterday. A new version of the interactive map is available on the katsmpo.org website. Updates include improved legends, more distinct colors, and pop-ups with increased information on facilities. Minkus recommended review of the new interactive map which is a useful tool for planning.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE- Mickelson reported the Citizens' Advisory Committee met earlier this week. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Staff reported the pedestrian counter trials are underway. Data collection will continue throughout the summer.

COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- Mickelson reported the Complete Streets Implementation Plan meeting will be next week.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION- Stepek reported the Traffic Signal Coordination Subcommittee will hold a short meeting immediately following today's Technical Committee meeting.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

With the construction season underway, Schultz reminded attendees to alert Metro staff for projects that will impact bus routes. Temporary bus stops will be put in place, additional signage and maps will guide riders. Beginning May 8, 2023, additional service time will be added to three bus routes. Ridership is approximately 60 percent of pre-COVID numbers. Metro hired additional drivers recently. Additional bus route service changes are planned for August 28, 2023. Starting April 17, 2023, Metro will access the Crossroads mall from the east, via Crossroads Drive as opposed to using Martin Luther King Drive on the west side of the mall. Arif questioned specifics including the number of people using the mall.

STATUS REPORTS

ROADS-

Hoekstra provided the update for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC). The Almena Drive and North 2nd Street, and the Parkview Avenue and 11th Street/12th Street projects are underway. Lake Street is torn up west of the Business Loop for sewer and water work. Work is scheduled to begin this coming week on 12th Street. 24th Street removals and grading are ongoing. Traffic will be moved to the other side of Sprinkle Road this coming week to allow for work to begin on the east side of Sprinkle Road. Full closure of Sprinkle will occur in May for railroad track repair. A small sewer project is planned on 26th Street. Many local projects and chip seals are planned for the summer. Refer to the RCKC website for more information. West W Avenue and Douglas Avenue will be sent in for obligation soon.

DenBraber of Michigan Department of Transportation, reported the I-94 Portage Road project is ongoing. Westbound I-94 ramps from Portage Road will open the first week in May. Concrete paving on westbound I-94 is underway.

Heppler reported the Village of Augusta is preparing for the summer water project which will also impact village roads. The 2024 bridge project is being planned.

Ladd reported the City of Kalamazoo West Michigan Avenue resurfacing and minor reconstruction project started last week and is expected to be completed by early July. Major traffic impacts will occur because traffic is reduced to a single lane in each direction. The final phase of last year's Stadium Drive project will wrap up in the next month. It includes planting trees in the grass median and restoration work on the shoulders. Expect lane closures for substantial patching that will begin on Michigan Avenue next week. This project should be wrapped up at the end of May. A traffic signal optimization project on Stadium Drive should be completed in another month. The Patterson Street bridge remains closed. The Whites Road project will be out for bid next month. The Westnedge Avenue project will be out for bid in summer. Both projects may begin in late 2023 with the majority of the work planned for 2024.

Harmon stated the City of Portage Shaver Road project will be split between 2023 and 2024. Work will begin on May 1, 2023 south of the city limits to Oakland Drive. The Portage Road project from Centre Avenue to Romence Road Parkway will begin June 19, 2023. The South Westnedge Avenue project from Melody Avenue to Centre Avenue for safety, sidewalk, and trail improvements will be in

the May bid letting. Construction is expected in 2023. In May, a temporary traffic signal will be put in place on Osterhout Avenue for lift station work. The Cooley Drive reconstruction project will be out to bid soon. Design is underway for a Portage Road project scheduled for 2024. Mill and fill is currently out to bid.

Randolph reported the City of Kalamazoo has tracked a 10 percent decrease in crashes and a three to five mile-per-hour reduction in speeds where Park Street and Westnedge Avenue split after eliminating lanes and decreasing the lane width.

LAND USE/PLANNING AND ZONING-

Bessert reported Kalamazoo County is seeking to fill a three-year grant supported position for a Climate Sustainability Coordinator. The County continues work to fully implement the new enterprise ArcGIS environment. Work to digitize the household hazardous waste system is underway. The County was able to share address information with the Kalamazoo Public Library to better determine who is eligible for a library card.

Anderson reported the City of Kalamazoo Commercial Focus Zoning Code updates have been out for three weeks. Public meetings will be held across the city starting next week. Public meetings for the Kalamazoo Avenue project from Harrison to Stewart will be held in late May and early June.

NEW BUSINESS

Steppek stated Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) received draft allocations for funding based on the new census numbers. There is a 4 percent or \$200 thousand dollar decrease from this year to next year. Once the numbers are finalized, the Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee will meet to address the change.

Steppek reminded agencies to begin applications for any Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects since they can't be programmed in JobNet until there is conditional approval of the grant application. We are allowed to spend TAP funding carryover balance. There is about \$500 thousand dollars to allocate to projects in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Minkus added Regional Task Force meeting was held for the Kalamazoo Region. Kalamazoo did not have any changes to projects. The meeting minutes are posted on the South Central Michigan Planning Council website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sotherland echoed Minkus' comments on how impressive the new non-motorized interactive map is.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.