

**WEST MICHIGAN METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM  
(WESTPLAN) POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

August 21, 2019

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Roger Bergman called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Mr. Mulnix took attendance and it was determined that there was a quorum.

**ATTENDANCE**

**A. Members Present**

Roger Bergman, Ottawa County  
Kim Arter, Laketon Township  
Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores  
Betty Gajewski, Ottawa County Road Commission  
Elmer Hoyle, Ravenna Township  
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission  
Melissa Klos, City of Roosevelt Park  
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights  
Patrick Twa, Ferrysburg  
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake  
Byron Turnquist, City of Muskegon  
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven  
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall  
Tom Lohman, City of Montague

**B. Members Not Present**

Bob Scolnick, MATS  
Andrea Dewey, FHWA (Non-Voting)  
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon  
Robert Monetza, Harbor Transit (excused)  
Leon Stille, Crockery Township  
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport  
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner

**C. Others Present**

Laird Schaefer, Citizen  
Tyler Kent, MDOT  
Darma Cantor, Citizen  
Brian Dian, Citizen  
Ryan Gladding, MDOT

**D. Staff Present**

Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC  
Amy Haack, WMSRDC  
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (JUNE 19, 2019)** –A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2019 meeting as submitted. Motion approved. **m/s Klos/Salter**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT-** No members of the public spoke during the Public Comment agenda item.

**IV. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM –**

• **FY2017-2020 TIP-**

Mr. Mulnix presented the FY2017-2020 TIP Amendment R. Which is presented on the following page. A motion was made to approve. Motion carried. **m/s Kennedy/Klos**

• **FY2020-FY2023 TIP –**

Mr. Mulnix informed the committee that the new TIP has been forwarded on to FHWA.

**VI. MDOT STATEWIDE LONG RANGE PLAN AND TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL UPDATE**

Mr. Ryan Gladding from MDOT presented the Future SE data for the Long Range Transportation Plan. A motion was made to approve. Motion carried. **m/s Salter/Lohman**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS –** No old business was discussed.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS/ROUNDTABLE–** Agencies around the table discussed current events and activities around the community.

- Mr. Salter asked about the road diet plan which was completed for the City of Whitehall.
- Dennis Scott inquired about work on the boulevard through Grand Haven.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT –** Darma Canter spoke and asked the committee to make transit a priority. Her written comments are included below.

*I am asking you as county leaders and transportation committee members to articulate the value of public transportation in futures planning. I hope you will add a vision statement, publish a 'white paper' or a statement of purpose describing the community benefit of expanding public bus services in metropolitan centers and as region-wide system connecting urban and suburban municipalities. I spent some time reading plans of this committee and I came away thinking there is no connection of in the material to the people served; what motivates the government and this organization? If you're going to plan the transportation for Muskegon's future, is the plan based on the needs of residents and growing opportunities for community improvement? Because what is there now suggests taxpayers build /maintain a road for the sake of the road itself; or maybe plan just for the grant objective unrelated to the impact on citizens.*

*We can and should do better. The legislation or policy that guides your planning is a minimum and not intended to drive the region's decision-making process. While the grants and contracts require the entities receiving MDOT dollars must comply with federal civil rights laws prohibiting disparity and assuring equal participation, the Title VI policies that I've read suggests there aren't any minority communities with transportation related issues. I'd like to challenge that practice. I'm here because of the County of Muskegon's proposal to eliminate some fixed bus routes that serve seniors, the disabled and low-income families. This cannot fit in anyone's vision of a better community. I'm here to ask you as elected representatives or delegates to reimagine your role in building democratic communities that lead to more economic and environmental justice.*

**X. ADJOURNMENT –**Meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.



Amendment R