

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

MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2019

Members Present: Matt Farrar, Muskegon County (Chairperson)
Brett Laughlin, OCRC
Tyler Kent, MDOT Grand Region
Marcia Jeske, Rural Township Rep
Leo Evans, City of Muskegon
Craig Bessinger, City of Ferrysburg
James Koens, MATS
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake
Derek Gajdos, City of Grand Haven
Mark Disselkoen, City of North Muskegon
James Murphy, City of Norton Shores
John Nash, Spring Lake Township
Jay Bolt, Village of Fruitport
Doug Kadzban, City of Muskegon Heights
Ben VanHoeven, City of Roosevelt Park
Heidi Tice, Muskegon Urban Township Rep
Luke Walters, MDOT Lansing

Members Absent: Aaron Dawson, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Brian Armstrong, City of Whitehall
Paul Bouman, MCRC
Heather Bowden, MDOT- OPT
Scott Beishuizen, City of Montague
Steven Patrick, Harbor Transit

Others Present: Laird Schaefer, Citizen Grand Haven Township
Ryan Gladding, MDOT- Lansing
Susan Mulder, MDOT-Muskegon TSC
Don Mayle, MDOT Lansing

Staff Present: Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Amy Haack, WMSRDC
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Farrar called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Mr. Farrar asked all attending to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and supported to approve minutes as presented of the November 7, 2019 Technical Committee meeting. Motion approved. *M/S Laughlin/Nash*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. There were no comments from the public.

IV. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FY2020-2023 TIP - Mr. Mulnix reviewed Amendment 5 as listed below.

Muskegon County Road Commission, FY 2020, Job # 209583, Lakewood Road- Resurface-Funded with Rural Task Force (14) funding, Limits: Russell Road to Whitehall Road (2.293 Miles), Federal: \$581,670, State: \$0, Local: \$145,418, Total Cost: \$727,088

A motion was made to approve the amendment. Motion approved. *M/S Murphy/ Jeske*

V. LONG RANGE PLAN & TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL UPDATE

- **NEPA Travel Demand Model update** – Ms. Lynnette Firman gave a presentation on new NEPA documentation requirements. Mr. Eric Costa presented on new forms and the State’s DGRE system.
- **Long Range Plan Draft Chapter 7** - Mr. Mulnix began a discussion regarding the chapter, which was included in the agenda packet. A number of suggestions were discussed. A motion was made to approve the draft chapter with the suggested changes. Motion approved. *M/S Nash/Laughlin*
- **Travel Demand Model update** - Mr. Ryan Gladding, MDOT gave an update on the travel-demand model process. The base year deficiencies were presented. A motion was made to approve the base year deficiencies. Motion approved. *M/S Nash/Gajdos*
- **Safety Targets** - Mr. Brian Mulnix presented the proposed safety targets. The WestPlan MPO staff is recommending approval of the State’s targets. A motion was made to approve the safety targets. Motion approved. *M/S Delamater/Gajdos*

VI. MPO ROUNDTABLE

- Mr. Tyler Kent mentioned the MDOT Grand Region’s freeway ops.
- Mr. Don Mayle introduced Luke Walters as WestPlan’s new rep for the Tech Committee.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business to discuss.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business to discuss.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. No members of the public spoke. Vice Chairperson Brett Laughlin presented the letter from Mr. Laird Schafer to be added into the minutes and provided a copy of the letter to MDOT TSC to address the issues raised.

The content of the letter is included on the following page.

X. ADJOURN- Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Ref: Our telephone conversation Monday 25 November 2019 .

Brian:

Reading the October-November WMSRDC "newsletter" re: Westplans Policy and Technical Committee's May 2019 approval of the 2000-2003 TIP and after reviewing projects included in that TIP, from copies distributed at Policy Committee meetings, I do not understand MDOT's failure to coordinate with WMSRDC (Westplan) regarding MDOT's US 31 Access Plans as outlined in enclosed Grand Haven Townships "Weekly Report #46" from Bill Cargo

Perhaps the MDOT representative attending the December 2019 Technical and/or Policy Committee meetings could be asked to explain.

Thank you for your consideration,
David W. Schaefer
citizen, Grand Haven Township

RECEIVED

DEC 02 2019

WMSRDC

- ✓ The Authority Board decided to discontinue further discussions and negotiations with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) regarding the fines related to sewage release into the Grand River that occurred when the force main from the north bank communities developed a leak in February of 2017. In brief, EGLE offered a settlement of a \$30,000 fine, which the Sewer Authority Board accepted.
- ✓ Similar to the Nows supplemental billing, the Sewer Authority did not “sell” sufficient sewage treatment to the member units to cover operating costs. Pursuant to the contract, this shortfall is covered by the member units based upon their percent of capacity. The required reimbursements are as follows:

➤ City of Grand Haven	\$129,259.93
➤ Spring Lake Township	\$ 50,682.49
➤ Grand Haven Charter Township	\$ 22,645.90
➤ Spring Lake Village	\$ 18,759.54
➤ City of Ferrysburg	\$ 14,851.67

US-31 ACCESS PLANS:

MDOT met with Township staff and the Ottawa County Road Commission to discuss proposals for US-31 south of M-45 that would close several median access crossings and install new Indirect Turns (*i.e., Michigan-Lefts*).

One of the proposals would also eliminate the railroad crossing at Pierce Street and create a cul-de-sac at the current intersection. (*See attached diagram on page 4.*) It is important to note that any of the changes being discussed would not be constructed until the 2021 construction season – at the earliest.

Because these proposals are well-beyond the authority of staff to approve or provide comments ... staff has proposed the following:

1. Because this is a transportation planning matter, staff has requested that MDOT and the OCRC provide a presentation to the Planning Commission for review and comment.
2. Because these changes could have an impact on other Township intersections, staff requested that the review include US-31 from M-45 south to Fillmore Street.

The Community Development department will coordinate this discussion between MDOT, the OCRC and the Planning Commission.