

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

MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

WestPlan MPO staff consulted with MDOT and FHWA staff to address concerns with recent COVID-19 restrictions pertaining to public meetings and gatherings. Governor Whitmer released Executive Directive 2020-2 on March 13, 2020, which gave agencies alternative options to public meetings to allow important time sensitive issues to move forward. WestPlan provided materials to all members and opened opportunities for discussion and comment by phone or email. These same materials were available to the public as well. The meeting was held via Zoom. Access information was sent out to the transportation stakeholder list.

Chairperson Arter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

A. Members Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores
Matt Fenske, Ottawa County
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Don Mayle, MDOT
Betty Gajewski, Ottawa County Road Commission
Scott Blease, Ferrysburg
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven

B. Members Not Present

Elmer Hoyle, Ravenna Township
Robert Monetza, Harbor Transit
Melissa Klos, City of Roosevelt Park
Tom Lohman, City of Montague
Susie Hughes, MATS
Aaron Dawson, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Leon Stille, Crockery Township, Vice Chairperson
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Ken Johnson, City of Muskegon

C. Others Present

Tyler Kent, MDOT
Brian Eatmon, Planning/Engineering Intern – MDOT Grand Region
Marc Fredrickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC
Allison Revell, ARC Muskegon

D. Staff Present

Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Amy Haack, WMSRDC
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC
Erin Kuhn, WMSRDC Executive Director

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APRIL 15, 2020)** –A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2020 meeting as submitted. Motion approved. **m/s Kennedy/McGlothlin**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT-** No members of the public identified themselves as being present at the meeting or spoke during the Public Comment agenda item.
- IV. FY2020-FY2023 TIP – Amendment 8:** Mr. Mulnix presented Amendment 8 for the FY 2020-2023 TIP.

FY2020-2023 WestPlan TIP Amendment (8)

Project # 200107 (Bridge- Big Bridge Program), MDOT, US-31 N over Grand River, Bridge Rehabilitation- full paint, steel repairs, grid deck replacement. Total Cost: \$19,942,089, Federal: \$16,322,600, State: \$3,619,489. Original total cost was approximately \$12,000,000, increasing to \$19,942,089.

A motion was made to approve the amendment and related GPA adjustments. A roll call vote was held. Motion approved. **m/s Beecham/Kennedy**

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, *Yes*
Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores *Yes*
Matt Fenske, Ottawa County *Yes*
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission *Yes*
Don Mayle, MDOT *Yes*
Betty Gajewski, Ottawa County Road Commission *Yes*
Scott Blease, Ferrysburg *Yes*
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall *Yes*
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake *Yes*
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport *Yes*
Bonnie McGlothlin, City of Muskegon Heights *Yes*
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner *Yes*
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven *Yes*

- V. WESTPLAN 2045 LONG RANGE PLAN-**Mr. Brian Mulnix gave an update on this agenda item. The 2045 WestPlan Long Range Transportation Plan was approved by the Tech and Policy committees last month. The plan has been submitted to MDOT for review.
- VI. FY2021 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP) -** Mr. Brian Mulnix presented this agenda item. The UWP is a required document at WestPlan MPO that shows the projects the MPO staff will be working on over the next fiscal year. A motion was made to approve the FY 2021 UWP. A roll call vote was held. Motion approved. **m/s Wilkins/Blease**

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, *Yes*
Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores *Yes*
Matt Fenske, Ottawa County *Yes*

Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission *Yes*
Don Mayle, MDOT *Yes*
Betty Gajewski, Ottawa County Road Commission *Yes*
Scott Blease, Ferrysburg *Yes*
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall *Yes*
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake *Yes*
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport *Yes*
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights *Yes*
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner *Yes*
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven *Yes*

VI. CITY OF MUSKEGON NFC CHANGES - Mr. Brian Mulnix presented the proposed changes to the City of Muskegon's NFC network. The City of Muskegon is requesting that the following revisions approved for their federal aid road network:

1. 4th Street

Limits: Between Western and Shoreline
Current classification: NFC 5 – Major Collector
Proposed classification: NFC 7 – Local

2. 3rd Street

Limits: From Morris to Shoreline
Current classification: NFC 7 – Local
Proposed classification: NFC 5 – Major Collector

3. Western Ave

Limits: Western Ave (current NFC 4 Minor Arterial segment) to Franklin
Current classification: NFC 7 – Local
Proposed classification: NFC 4 – Minor Arterial

4. Michigan Ave

Limits: From Hudson to Franklin
Current classification: NFC 4 – Minor Arterial
Proposed classification: NFC 7 – Local

5. Franklin St.

Limits: Between Michigan Ave and Western Ave
Current classification: NFC 7 – Local
Proposed classification: NFC 4 – Minor Arterial

MPO staff worked closely with the City of Muskegon and MDOT to address this change, and recommends approval by the MPO committees. A motion was made to approve the changes. A roll call vote was held. Motion carried with one no vote from Delamater. *M/S Kennedy/McGlothin*

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, *Yes*
Kay Beecham, City of Norton Shores *Yes*
Matt Fenske, Ottawa County *Yes*
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission *Yes*
Don Mayle, MDOT *Yes*
Betty Gajewski, Ottawa County Road Commission *Yes*

Scott Blease, Ferrysburg **Yes**
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall **Yes**
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport **Yes**
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights **Yes**
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner **Yes**
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven **Yes**
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake **No**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **Public Transportation** – Mr. Brian Mulnix gave an update on the SDNT application.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO Round Table

- Mr. Tyler Kent introduced MDOT's summer engineering intern,
- Mr. Don Mayle informed the committee about MDOT employee layoffs.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No members of the public identified themselves as being present at the meeting or spoke during the Public Comment agenda item.
- Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick informed the committee about a comment from Darma Canter regarding whether someone was going to respond to her previous comments. Staff sent her an email notifying her that the comments were received, shared with the committees, and included in the public comment section of the Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick also let the committee know of a comment received from Delphine Hogston of North Muskegon. Those comments are shared below.

My apologies for this late email - I just found about today's meeting.

I don't feel competent to comment at this time, but wanted the following items considered.

Encourage Muskegon Area Transit System to acquire smaller buses (electric would be awesome) so they could more easily serve public needs. There are still many people who need the buses in downtown, but probably not the amount of space that is currently available in the large buses. I don't know how successful the longer range route between downtown Muskegon and Whitehall has been, but smaller vehicles here would also be useful.

Looking further into the future - I would hope that officials are contemplating light rail or some other sort of environmentally friendly mass transit that would operate between Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Holland, perhaps on already existing street/highway right of ways. If fast, reliable mass transit was available between these communities we could boost employment and eliminate some of the air pollution/gasoline consumption of those who drive between these relatively major cities here in West Michigan for their employment.

Thanks for your consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,

*Delphine Hogston
2827 Celery Lane
North Muskegon, MI 49445*

- The following comment was received in Zoom chat after the meeting had already been adjourned.

Hello. This is Allison Revell from The Arc Muskegon. I am commenting on behalf of my Consumer Voice program participants. Consumer Voice is a group of self-advocates with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. We want to stress the importance of remembering people with disabilities, especially those with IDD in these transportation plans. Public Transportation is important. Thank you :)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.