

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

MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 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
Carim Calkin, City of Roosevelt Park
Susie Hughes, MATS
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Ken Johnson, City of Muskegon
Tom Lohman, City of Montague

B. Members Not Present

Elmer Hoyle, Ravenna Township
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven
Robert Monetza, Harbor Transit
Andy Pickard, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Leon Stille, Crockery Township, Vice Chairperson

C. Others Present

Tyler Kent, MDOT
Marc Fredrickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC
Dustin Yoak
Steve Biesiada, Fruitport Township
Tina Hawley, Pioneer Resources

D. Staff Present
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Amy Haack, WMSRDC
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (MAY 20, 2020)** –A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting as submitted. Motion approved. **m/s Fenske/Salter**
- 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 9:** Mr. Mulnix presented Amendment 9 for the FY 2020-2023 TIP, including the local HIP projects. Mr. Tyler Kent reviewed the MDOT projects.

FY2020-2023 WestPlan TIP Amendment (9)
2021

- Project #: **205362-** City of Muskegon Heights- Hackley from Park to Fifth, Add HIP funding to federal portion making project an 80/20 split- Total cost \$324,000 Federal \$259,200 Local \$ 64,800
- Project #: **127479-** MDOT- M-104 from Kruger to 148th - ADD ROW Phase- \$8,000
- Project #: **205349-** City of Montague- Hancock from Sheridan to Old Channel Trail- Add HIP funding to federal share, increase total project cost from \$329,315 to \$404,000. Total cost \$404,000 Federal \$319,176 Local \$ 84,824
- Project #: **200664-** MDOT- M-104 from Spring Lake Channel east to Lake Ave. – GPA Cost Change- Total Cost \$747,000 State Cost \$135,581

2022

- Project #: **127478-** MDOT- US-31 @ Pierce, Winans, 158th Ave. Indirect Left Turns- Moving project from 2020 to 2022- Total Cost \$865,000 State \$156,997

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

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson *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*
Carim Calkin, City of Roosevelt Park *Yes*

Susie Hughes, MATS *Yes*
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon *Yes*
Ken Johnson, City of Muskegon *Yes*
Tom Lohman, City of Montague *Yes*

V. WESTPLAN 2045 LONG RANGE PLAN

- No update at this time.

VI. MDOT UPDATE- US-31 CORRIDOR STUDY

- Mr. Tyler Kent gave a PowerPoint presentation on the potential US 31 Corridor Study.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **Public Transportation** – Mr. Brian Mulnix gave an update on the SDNT application. The MPO was successful in receiving the funding and is just waiting on a contract before beginning work.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO Round Table

- Ms. Amy Haack gave an update on the Air Quality program.
- Mr. Bill Mogren asked the question the construction timing on Laketon Avenue exit. Mr. Marc Fredrickson responded.
- Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick gave an update on the approval of the UWP and the Asset Management program.
- Mr. Steve Salter asked a question regarding high water between Whitehall and Montague. Mr. Marc Fredrickson responded.
- Mr. Tyler Kent gave an update on the State Long Range Transportation Plan.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No members of the public identified themselves as being present at the meeting or spoke during the Public Comment agenda item.
- Chairperson Arter let the committee know of a comment received from Mr. Jim Thompson. Those comments are shared below.

From: jim thompson [<mailto:jhtclub@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Mulnix, Brian
Subject: Traffic Safety

Mr. Mulnix;

A little over a year ago, I read in the Muskegon Chronicle that the area of M-120 and US-31 (and River Road) was one of Muskegon County's hot spots for accidents. I have personally seen many accidents in that area. We have lived on East River Road since 1965 and have seen the addition of hundreds of new homes and more being built daily and the traffic is scary.

One would think that the west bound traffic on East River Road would safely enter M-120 traffic via Old Orchard Lane at the traffic signal but, that is not always the case. I am not a traffic engineer but, I do have a

couple of ideas. If you are not familiar with this area, take some time and park your car near there most any time of the day and count the close calls.

Please Consider:

#1) Blocking west bound traffic from River Road onto M-120. Traffic would still be open to: the bank, the gas station, the beauty shop and Rigler Road but, blocked from turning west onto M-120. This would direct west bound traffic to use Old Orchard Lane with the safety of a traffic signal.

#2) East bound traffic from M-120 onto River Road would remain the same. Remove the "stop" sign at Old Orchard Lane and make east bound traffic on River Road a thru lane. The left turn from East River onto Old Orchard Lane would remain the same as a stop. East bound traffic from Old Orchard Lane would become a "stop".

Sincerely,

Jim Thompson

2775 East River Road

Twin Lake, MI 49457

231-744-5546

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