

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 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
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights
Rillastine Wilkins, Muskegon County Commissioner
Missi Klos, City of Roosevelt Park
Susie Hughes, MATS
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven
Ken Johnson, City of Muskegon
Tom Lohman, City of Montague
Robert Monetza, Harbor Transit

B. Members Not Present

Elmer Hoyle, Ravenna Township
Andy Pickard, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Leon Stille, Crockery Township, Vice Chairperson
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon

C. Others Present

Tyler Kent, MDOT
Marc Fredrickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC
Bob Lukens, Muskegon County

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

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (AUGUST 19, 2020)** –A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting as submitted. Motion approved. **m/s Hughes/Gajewski**
- 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 10:** Mr. Mulnix presented Amendment 10 for the FY 2020-2023 TIP, Mr. Tyler Kent reviewed the MDOT projects.

FY2020-2023 WestPlan TIP Amendment (10)
2021

- 201924 CON phase: I-96 freeway signing upgrade, various locations in WestPlan and GVMC MPOs, and Rural areas
 - Current programmed cost: \$865,000.00
 - Proposed cost: \$1,310,000.00
 - Increase Request: \$445,000.00
- 127479 CON phase: M-104 between Krueger and 148th Ave
 - Current programmed cost: \$560,000.00
 - Proposed cost: \$826,000.00
 - Increase Request: \$266,000.00
- 205371- City of Muskegon- Change limits of project from Peck- Apple to Strong- To: Peck from Apple to Merrill- Federal funding amounts remain as programmed, non-participating costs have been removed from total cost which reduces the total cost by \$200,000.
- 205373 Grand Haven- Fulton Avenue- Add additional HIP Funding to the federal portion of this project- Approximately \$14,327 added to the current programmed amount of \$482,772- This item was tabled in August, will need MPO Committee approval to move forward.

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

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*
Dennis Scott, City of Grand Haven *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*
Missi Klos, 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*
Robert Monetza, Harbor Transit *Yes*

V. WESTPLAN 2045 LONG RANGE PLAN

- No update at this time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- **Public Transportation** – Mr. Robert Lukens gave Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) update which included discussion on the results of their study and the new routes that were recently developed. Mr. Lukens also talked about the SDNT grant and the future study that WMSRDC will be coordinating with MATS and Harbor Transit.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO Round Table

- Ms. Amy Haack gave an update on the Air Quality program.
- Mr. Tyler Kent gave an MDOT update.

VIII. 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 the following comment received from Mrs. Darma Canter. It was also noted that MPO staff has responded to Mrs. Canter and provided direction for her to address her concerns.

From: canter2000@aol.com [<mailto:canter2000@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 2:59 PM

To: Haack, Amy; Fitzpatrick, Joel

Subject: Re: Public Involvement Opportunity at Transportation Planning Mtg

WARNING: This email originated outside of the Muskegon County email system!
DO NOT CLICK links if the sender is unknown.
NEVER provide your User ID or Password.

FYI the county approved a transformation plan for MATS. It harms seniors, the disabled, veterans, inner-city residents, and low-income families. Despite numerous regulations requiring public participation in the process, about 200 riders and county taxpayers were excluded from any meaningful participation over a two year period.

The input consisted of meetings where officials talked at us and ignored any of the concerns raised by the public. Their consultant included a list of public concerns but I find no evidence they influenced the outcome.

As I wait for WMRSDC to respond to my previous comments, I will make another attempt for 9/3/20.
Darma

-----Original Message-----

From: Haack, Amy <AHaack@wmsrdc.org>

To: Haack, Amy <AHaack@wmsrdc.org>

Sent: Thu, Aug 27, 2020 1:58 pm

Subject: Public Involvement Opportunity at Transportation Planning Mtg

Public Comment Sought at Transportation Committee Meeting on September 3, 2020

The Muskegon and Northern Ottawa County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is responsible for transportation planning in the area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process. The planning process includes the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Program of Projects (POP), and other agenda items.

The TIP is developed in a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local officials and serves as the final link in the transportation planning process. Its primary purpose is to identify transportation programs and projects to be funded with federal aid in accordance with federal law and regulations. This plan is an outline of the transportation needs of Muskegon County and Northern Ottawa County for the next four years. The LRTP is a look at the MPO's future transportation network and is to be used as a guideline for transportation investment. The FTA POP includes 5307 and 5308 funds for the Muskegon Area Transit System and Harbor Transit. Recommendations for new construction, safety improvements, congestion (traffic) management, air quality, non-motorized, transit, planning, etc. will be accepted.

A public comment period is scheduled at the Technical Committee Meeting on September 3, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting is being held virtually using a video and telephone call in format. As in an in person meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to make public comment during the established agenda items at the beginning and end of the meeting. If possible, please mute your phone and only unmute to make a public comment during the established times. Thank you. Information to join the meeting by video or telephone and meeting materials will be available on the event calendar at www.wmsrdc.org.

You are receiving this correspondence because you, your agency, and/or organization are considered important in the transportation planning process. For more information

or to view a hard copy of the meeting materials, contact Joel Fitzpatrick, Transportation Planning Director, WMSRDC, 316 Morris Avenue Suite 340, P.O. Box 387, Muskegon Michigan 49443-0387, (231) 722-7878 ext. 16, or by email at jfitzpatrick@wmsrdc.org. To garner additional outreach, please post this notice on public information boards if applicable.

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