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**MEETING NOTICE**

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There will be a Transportation Policy Committee meeting held on:

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** **This meeting will be held at the WMSRDC Office in the Terrace Plaza Building.**

If you are unable to attend, please email Brian Mulnix at [bmulnix@wmsrdc.org](mailto:bmulnix@wmsrdc.org)

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# WESTPLAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

March 20, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (FEBRUARY 21, 2024)  
**(ATTACHMENT I) (ACTION)**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT **(AGENDA ITEMS)**
- IV. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
  - A. FY2023-2026 TIP FY2024-2026 AMENDMENT 15 **(ATTACHMENT II)**  
**(ACTION)**
- V. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)
- VI. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE
  - A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION- **(INFORMATION)**
  - B. MDOT UPDATES
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**ATTACHMENT I**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 21, 2023

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Arter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**ATTENDANCE (Roll call)**

**A. Members Present**

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson  
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon  
Roger Belknap, Ottawa County  
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission  
Marcia Hovey-Wright, MATS  
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission  
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park  
Heather Bowden, MDOT  
Richard Carlson, Ferrysburg  
Ryan Kelly Ottawa County- Township Rep Commissioner  
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County  
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall  
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport  
Bob Hires, City of Montague

**B. Members Not Present**

Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores  
Arnie Erb, Whitehall Township  
Bonnie McGlothin, City of Muskegon Heights  
Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake (Non-Voting)  
Kevin McLaughlin, Harbor Transit  
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven  
Andrew Sibold, FHWA (Non-Voting)  
Rachel Gorman, City of Muskegon

**C. Others Present**

Steve Sanocki, Muskegon Community College  
Rebecca Hopp, City of Ferrysburg  
Marc Fredrickson, MDOT  
Bob Lukens, Muskegon County  
Blake Wright, MDOT  
Ian Martin, Whitehall citizen.

**D. Staff Present**

Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC  
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC  
Robert Johanson, WMSRDC

**I. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes were reviewed from the January 17, 2024 meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion approved.  
*M/S Salter/Kelly*

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. No members of the public spoke.

**III. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**FY2023-2026 TIP-** Mr. Brian Mulnix reviewed the proposed TIP Amendment. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment. Motion carried.  
*M/S Belknap/Hovey-Wright*

**IV. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN)**

**A. MTP Update** - Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick gave an update on the MTP process. Mr. Robert Johnson gave an update on air quality issues.

**V. TRANSIT MOU**

Mr. Brian Mulnix presented the transit MOU. Discussion ensued. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment. Motion carried. *M/S Salter/Hovey-Wright*

**VI. MPO ROUNDTABLE**

- *Public Transportation*
  - Mr. Bob Lukens gave an update on the transit numbers for MATS.
- *MDOT Updates*
  - Mr. Balek Wright and Mr. Marc Fredrickson gave updates on MDOT projects.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. Mr. Ian Martin, a citizen from Whitehall, spoke on the need for transit. Discussion ensued. Mr. Martins comments are attached.

**VIII. ADJOURN-** Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.



ALL PROJECT SEARCH - STANDARD REPORT

Fiscal Year(s) : 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Date: 01/24/2024

Page: 1 of 2

Classification: Public

Fiscal Year	Job Type	Job #	MPO	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary Work Type	Project Description	AC/ACC	ACC Year(s)	Phase	Phase Status	S/TIP Cycle	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Local Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Fund Source	Total Job Cost Incl Non LAP	Action Type	Action Approval Date	Local Fed Approval Date	FHWA Approval Date	FTA Approval Date	Schedule Obligation Date	Actual Obligation Date	Schedule Let Date	Actual Let Date	Federal Amendment Type	S/TIP Exempt	Comments	S/TIP Status	
<b>S/TIP Line Items</b>																																			
2026	Local	214048	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Ottawa	Ottawa County	Lincoln St	Intersection of Lincoln and 144th Street	0.001	Traffic Safety	Construct roundabout			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$143,166	\$0	\$47,167	\$190,333	STUL	\$1,537,500.00	Admin Modification	01/23/2024				N/A	10/10/2025	12/05/2025			Phase Budget equal or over 24%		Pending	
2026	Local	214048	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Ottawa	Ottawa County	Lincoln St	Intersection of Lincoln and 144th Street	0.001	Traffic Safety	Construct roundabout			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$497,167	\$0	\$612,500	\$1,109,667	CM	\$1,637,000.00	Admin Modification	01/23/2024				N/A	10/10/2025	12/05/2025			Phase Budget equal or over 24%		Pending	
2025	Local	215735	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Muskegon	Roosevelt Park	Maple Grove Rd	South of Broadway Ave centerline to 68' north of Norton Ave centerline	0.722	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$76,059	\$0	\$19,016	\$95,074	ST	\$603,500.00	Admin Modification	01/11/2024				N/A	10/11/2024	12/06/2024			Phase Budget equal or over 24%	Approved by MPO committees at their January 2022 meetings.	Pending	
2025	Local	215735	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Muskegon	Roosevelt Park	Maple Grove Rd	South of Broadway Ave centerline to 89' north of Norton Ave centerline	0.722	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$232,000	\$0	\$203,626	\$435,626	STUL	\$603,500.00	Admin Modification	01/11/2024				N/A	10/11/2024	12/06/2024			Phase Budget equal or over 24%	Approved by MPO committees at their January 2022 meetings.	Pending	
2025	Local	215738	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Ottawa	Ottawa County	Lincoln St	US-31 to 144th Avenue	2.851	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$860,059	\$0	\$639,041	\$1,500,000	STUL	\$1,752,350.00						N/A	10/11/2024	12/06/2024			Phase Budget equal or over 24%	Approved by MPO committees at their January 2022 meetings.	Pending	
2026	Trunkline	220426	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Muskegon	MDOT	US-31 N	WESTPLAN section	68.832	Traffic Safety	Freeway Signing Upgrade			PE	Programmed	23-26	\$975,000	\$0	\$0	\$975,000	NHG	\$13,288,363.00					01/17/2024	01/24/2024	N/A	10/01/2025	01/07/2026			Phase Added		Pending
2024	Local	220734	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Muskegon	Roosevelt Park	Broadway Ave	Henry Street to 25 feet west of Maple Grove	0.250	Road Rehabilitation	Resurface			CON	Programmed	23-26	\$96,791	\$0	\$53,209	\$150,000	STUL	\$187,500.00						N/A	04/12/2024	06/07/2024			Phase Added		Pending	
<b>GPA Type Subtotals:</b>																<b>\$2,580,242</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,676,768</b>	<b>\$4,166,000</b>																
<b>Grand Total:</b>																<b>\$2,580,242</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,676,768</b>	<b>\$4,166,000</b>																

Total Job Phases Reported: 5

Job Phase(s) highlighted in yellow are delayed to future S/TIP cycle

Preferences: Report Format: Standard

FISCAL Year(s): 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

MPO/Non-MPO: West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (Muskegon)

County: ALL

Hi Everyone, my name's Ian Martin and I'm a resident of Whitehall, Michigan.

I'm going to read some posts that I found in a Muskegon Helping Muskegon Facebook group. Here's the first quote:

*So I'm desperately looking for a weekly ride. I work first shift (6:45am until 2:45pm) at Howmet Aerospace at Plant #4 on Benston Rd in Whitehall. I live in Roosevelt Park @ The Shores of Roosevelt Park Apartments. Is there anyone that lives close that works first shift there where I work or at any other Howmet Aerospace plant that could bring me to work and home from work? I'll pay gas money of \$50 a week if I'm given a ride to and home from work. 3/28/22*

Here's another quote:

*Hey looking for a ride to work m-f 6am I have a ride back willing to pay gas money I'm going to metal arc in Fruitport if any body can help me out would be appreciated lmk - 10/5/22*

And here's a final quote:

*Hello! I was wondering if someone would be willing to give my boyfriend a ride to his hand apt on Monday the 23rd @2:45pm. We live up in Whitehall near Michigan adventure! The doctors office is located in Fruitport across the way from meijer. My bf has been out of work due to a fracture in his hand and we are hoping he gets cleared the same day so he can get back to work. Please let me know if you're able to give a ride, funds have been hard so we can provide \$10 gas for your troubles. Thank you! 1/19/23*

I read these quotes to illustrate that there's need for public transportation in Muskegon County outside of the areas currently covered by MATS.

As I mentioned, I live in Whitehall and there's no public transit there. If I didn't own a car, I would have two semi-reliable ways to get anywhere during winter: by foot or by taxi.

According to the Taxigator website, The price for a taxi in Muskegon riding on **fairly cheap STANDARD Class** would be **12 \$ for a 5 mile trip, 20 \$ for a 10 mile trip, 34 \$ for a 20 mile trip, and 79 \$ for a 50 mile trip.**

If I don't own a car, it's likely because I can't afford one and those prices for taxi fares aren't affordable either. Which leaves me with walking to do everything: to get to work, to go to the doctor, to go grocery shopping, to take my kids to and from school...everything.

That is a severe limitation that puts people with the least resources at an incredible disadvantage.

The lack of public transit where I live has always bothered me but, in some ways, I used to understand it. After all, running a bus regularly throughout the week between Whitehall and Muskegon, likely wouldn't get a whole lot of bang for the county's buck. Not just because there's a smaller population in Whitehall than Muskegon but, perhaps more importantly, Whitehall is spread out. It can be a long walk just to get to the bus stop and from there your drop off points are likely going to be very limited.

Sadly, I didn't have much hope for public transit options. But then I read an AP News article about microtransit systems in the small city of Wilson, North Carolina and, when I did, I thought there might be a potential solution. Here's the quote that perked my ears:

*Long wait times made the bus route almost unusable for David Bunn, even when his car broke down and he couldn't afford to replace it. Instead, Bunn, who has two broken discs in his back, would take a 5-mile (8-kilometer) roundtrip walk to pick up groceries. Then he spotted one of the public vans and dialed the phone number posted in a rear window.*

*"I don't have to walk everywhere I want to go now," said Bunn, 64. "They come pick me up, they're respectful, and they're very professional. It's a great asset to Wilson and a great service to me."*

*"The city of less than 50,000 people is frequently cited as a model for how less-populated areas can capitalize on transit in the same way as bustling metropolises.*

*Wilson landed federal and state infrastructure grants to support the shared, public rides residents summon — usually within 15 minutes — through a service operating like Uber and Lyft, but at a fraction of the cost to riders. Trips are now \$2.50, a dollar more than they were at launch."*

After reading this, I got excited about the new model of microtransit. I reached out to VIA, the company that helped the city of Wilson set up their microtransit system. Via let me know that Muskegon already has a microtransit system through them that's called Go2. And Via said the best bet for Whitehall to have a similar model would be for Muskegon to expand their service, which primarily covers parts of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, and Norton Shores.

Go2 has been very successful for Muskegon. According to VIA, a year after launching, Go2 provided nearly 40,000 on-demand rides to more than 2,700 riders around Muskegon. The service's ridership has grown steadily since inception. A rider survey found that 25% of riders use the service every day, and another 25% use it at least 1-2 times per week. Many of the most popular destinations include essential destinations, such as grocery stores, care facilities, and schools.

So, I reached out to Via's contact in Muskegon, Jim Koens. Jim let me know the following. And this is a quote from his email to me:

*While the microtransit model of transportation does offer a new tool in our service delivery options, we are not presently discussing an expansion of that program beyond its current geographic area. We will continue to consider this option. **If you become aware of current local support from the municipal governing bodies, please invite them to contact me formally for further evaluation.***

My ask for everyone today would be to please reach out to Jim Koens and request that an evaluation be done into expanding Go2's microtransit model to all of Muskegon County...so that **every** resident has access to affordable public transportation.

Thank you for your time.



## ATTACHMENT II

### WESTPLAN FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 15

The following projects have been submitted to be added or modified in the FY2023-2026 TIP. Please review these projects and prepare for discussion and action at the meeting. The WestPlan MPO Technical Committee met on March 7, 2024, at which time the committee recommended this amendment for approval by the MPO Policy Committee. We will provide this table in a larger format at the meeting.

Fiscal Year	Job no.	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Primary work Type	Federal Budget	Federal Fund Source	State Budget	Local Budget	Total Phase Cost	Amendment Type
2026	220915	Muskegon	MCRC	Evanston Ave	Evanston Avenue Str #14578 over Black	Bridge Replacement	\$1,016,320	BRT	\$190,560	\$63,520	\$1,270,400	PHASADD
2023	213948	Muskegon	Muskegon	Ottawa St	Ottawa Street over Muskegon River South	Bridge Removal	\$424,236	HIC	\$0	\$0	\$424,236	PHASSUSP
2026	220535	Muskegon	MCRC	Farr Rd	Farr Road, Str #13474, over Norris Creek,	Bridge Replacement	\$466,400	BO	\$46,640	\$69,960	\$583,000	PHASADD
2026	220537	Muskegon	MCRC	Ryerson Rd	Ryerson Road, Str #7651, over Cedar	Bridge Replacement	\$1,312,308	BRT	\$246,058	\$82,019	\$1,640,385	PHASADD
2026	217025	Ottawa	Ferrysburg	W Spring Lake Rd	West Spring Lake Road over Smith Bayou	Superstructure Replacement	\$0	LBBI	\$14,070,426	\$0	\$14,070,426	PHASBDGT, FEDBGTOST
2024	220908	Ottawa	Harbor Transit Multi-Model Transportation	Transit Capital	Areawide	SP1101-<30 foot replacement bus with or	\$343,607	5307	\$85,902	\$0	\$429,509.00	PHASADD
2024	220911	Ottawa	Harbor Transit Multi-Model Transportation	Transit Capital	Areawide	SP1408-maintenance equipment (hoists, tools,	\$28,071	5307	\$7,018	\$0	\$35,089.00	PHASADD
2024	220913	Ottawa	Harbor Transit Multi-Model Transportation	Transit Capital	Areawide	SP1407-security equipment - vehicles	\$7,232	5307	\$1,808	\$0	\$9,040.00	PHASADD
2024	220914	Ottawa	Harbor Transit Multi-Model Transportation	Transit Capital	Areawide	SP1408-maintenance equipment (hoists, tools,	\$22,400	5307	\$5,600	\$0	\$28,000.00	PHASADD