

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

MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ATTENDANCE

A. Members Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Roger Belknap, Ottawa County
Heather Bowden, MDOT
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Bob Hires, City of Montague
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Kevin McLaughlin, Harbor Transit
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park

B. Members Not Present

Arnie Erb, Whitehall Township
Wally Delameter, Village of Spring Lake
Rachel Gorman, City of Muskegon
Marcia Hovey-Wright, Muskegon County (MATS)
Jenny Staroska, FHWA

C. Others Present

Willie German Jr., Muskegon Community College
Bob Lukens, Muskegon County
Blake Wright, MDOT – Grand Region
Marc Frederickson, MDOT

D. Staff Present

Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (NOVEMBER 20, 2024)

The minutes were reviewed from the November 20, 2024, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting. Motion approved. *M/S Salter/Morgenstern*

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

V. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- A. FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 21 – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented on the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 21. The amendment was presented to the Technical Committee and was recommended for approval by the Policy Committee. Mr. Mulnix clarified that the first job is an MDOT job in the PE phase that had an increase in budget of over 24%. Mr. Marc Frederickson clarified that rather than a simple budget increase, two MDOT jobs were combined into one. Mr. Mulnix proceeded to explain that the second job on the amendment list is a rural job, which has been approved by the Rural Task Force, but due to it being located in Muskegon County, it required approval from the MPO Technical and Policy Committees. The rural job is an existing job with a change in limit. A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 20. Motion carried. *M/S Monetza/Belknap*
- B. FY2026-2029 TIP DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented on the upcoming FY2026-2029 TIP Development. He informed the committee that a work session was held on December 5th, 2024, prior to the Technical Committee meeting. Every community that submitted a project received at least one project throughout 2027-2029. Each year there was a rough estimate of \$3.1 million allocated in STGB funds and about \$1 million in CMAQ funding. He announced that staff have been programming jobs and will finalize funding amounts and submit in time for the following Technical Committee meeting in January of 2025. Mr. Mulnix proceeded to inform the group that White Hall and Montague have trail projects being funded through Carbon Reduction, as well as some signal work in Muskegon County. The Air Quality program and transit bus replacements will be funded through the CMAQ program.

Ms. Heather Bowden announced that MDOT jobs have been programmed and shared with the MPO, and that bridge jobs will be programmed in either January or February.

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

There are no updates on the 2050 MTP.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE

- A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Bob Lukens gave a report on MATS transit. Mr. Lukens reported that numbers month-by-month for fixed routes are down by 10%, but ADA paratransit is up by 12% from last year. There is hope for the fixed

routes to increase with a decrease in temperatures. GO2 Microtransit numbers are also down by 10% month-by-month and 6% year-by-year. This may be due to driver staff difficulties. Hopefully, the numbers and staffing will recover in 2025.

Mr. Bob Lukens also reported on Muskegon airport, informing the committee that terminal renovations are nearly complete, with glass and carpet soon to come and additional restrooms behind security being added. He also disclosed that Denver Air Connection has yet to cancel a flight this season. There have been some delays due to bad weather, but no cancellations. Ms. Dana Goodman added that parking and baggage are free.

- B. MDOT UPDATES – Mr. Marc Frederickson reported to the committee that signal work on M-46 is nearly complete. Some utility issues had caused a delay. He also informed the committee that the Grand Haven bridge has closed to water traffic for the winter season. Any water traffic necessary must call 24-hours in advance to allow for a worker to be placed. Mr. Frederickson announced that there will be an upcoming meeting at the Muskegon TSC to go over project issues for projects submitted for LAP.

Ms. Heather Bowden informed the committee that once projects for WestPlan are approved, they will be sent to the Feds for approval, which will occur by next summer. There will also be a software update for Air Quality implementing the MOVE update. Training will be made available once reviewed and released in a year. Ms. Bowden added that an additional software update will be implemented in April of 2025 regarding construction job submission – this update will require the usage of AASHTOware. Training will be made available for that update as well.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENT II

WESTPLAN FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 21

The following projects have been submitted to be added to the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 21. Please review the projects and prepare for discussion and action at the meeting. The WestPlan MPO Technical Committee reviewed and acted at their December 5, 2024, meeting to recommended approval of this amendment.

Fiscal Year	Job Type	Job#	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Fund Source	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Local Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Phase Participating Amount	Phase Non Participating Amount	Total Job Cost	Federal Amendment Type
2026	Trunkline	211173	Muskegon	MDOT	I-96	from US-31 east to Apple Drive	Road Rehabilitat	Milling and Two (IM		\$553,500	\$61,500	\$0	615,000.00	\$615,000	\$0	\$23,186,000.00	Phase Budget equal or over 24%, Scope Construction Length Change
2025	Local	214367	Muskegon	MCRC	Michillinda / Scenic Dr	Zellar to South Shore	Asphalt Overlay	One course asphalt overlay	STP	\$783,000	\$0	\$195,750	978,750.00	\$978,750	\$40,000	\$1,018,750.00	Scope & Limit change