

**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

A. Public Transportation

- Mr. Bob Lukens gave an update on the transit numbers for MATS.

B. 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	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	PHWA 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										
S/TIP Line Items																																											
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	\$1,109,957	CM	\$1,637,000.00	Admin Modification	01/23/2024			N/A	10/10/2025		12/06/2025		Phase Budget equal or over 24%		Pending											
2025	Local	215735	West Michigan Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program (WESTPLAN)	Muskegon	Roosevelt Park	Maple Grove Rd	40' South of Broadway Ave centerline to 89' 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	40' 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	\$435,926	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			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	\$675,000	\$0	\$0	\$675,000	NHG	\$13,288,363.00			01/17/2024	01/24/2024	N/A	10/01/2025		01/07/2028		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											
QPA Type Subtotals:															S/TIP Line Items																			\$2,580,242	\$0	\$1,676,768	\$4,166,000						
Grand Total:																																		\$2,580,242	\$0	\$1,676,768	\$4,166,000						

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 Imk - 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.