

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

MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Kim Arter called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. ATTENDENCE (ROLL CALL)

A. Members Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Heather Bowden, MDOT
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg
Arnie Erb, Whitehall Township
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Bob Hires, City of Montague
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
James Koens, for MATS
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
William Montgomery, for the City of Ferrysburg
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Blake Wright, MDOT – Grand Region

B. Members Not Present

Roger Belknap, Ottawa County
Wally Delameter, Village Spring Lake
Rachel Gorman, City of Muskegon
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores
Christina Nicolaides, FHWA

C. Others Present

Dana Appel, Harbor Transit
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Marc Frederickson, MDOT

D. Staff Present

Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC

Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (SEPTEMBER 18, 2024)

The minutes were reviewed from the September 18, 2024, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting. Motion approved. *M/S Mogren/Mclaughlin*

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

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 19 – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented on the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 19. The amendment was presented to the Technical Committee and was recommended for approval by Policy committee members. Mr. Mulnix elaborated on the phases being added and abandoned. A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 19. Motion approved. *M/S: Reichardt/Salter*

B. FY2026-2029 TIP DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Brian Mulnix informed the committee that the Call for Projects (CFP) for the new TIP went out in early September and was due to WestPlan by September 30th. Mr. Mulnix confirmed that staff will be compiling state, local, and trunkline jobs into a spreadsheet for project organization. Work sessions will be held in November where a prioritized project list will be made and presented to the committee in December. Approval of this project list will occur in January and programming these projects will occur y February 1, 2025. WestPlan will be requiring a resolution from submitting agencies.

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Mr. Brian Mulnix informed the committee that the 2050 MTP has previously been approved, but there are no present updates. The monitoring of the plan will resume.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- a. Mr. Scott Borg with Harbor Transit discussed their ridership numbers disclosed on their Total Ridership Through August and September 2024 report distributed to the committee. Total ridership from when they stopped collecting fares in 2019 to present is down

46%. Total ridership for On-Demand rides is at 117,651 for 2024 so far.

- b. Mr. Jim Koens presented for MATS to the committee. Mr. Koens informed the committee that ridership on fixed routes is up for September from last year by 6%, but down for Go2. The demand for Go2 is higher than ride availability. Their busiest routes are route 1, which covers Apple Avenue corridor, and route 2 which covers the Henry Street corridor. Mr. Koens also discussed the status of the transit authority upon request. The work group is working on the articles of incorporation. Muskegon Heights and the city of Muskegon have approved the articles thus far; Roosevelt Park and Norton Shores will be meeting within the next two weeks for approval.

B. MDOT UPDATES

- a. Mr. Marc Frederickson announced to the committee that a press release regarding the culvert replacement project along I-96 was sent out. Closures for westbound I-96 will begin Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m., where additional pavement fixes will occur until Monday, October 21 around 2–3 p.m. Eastbound closures of I-96 will begin Thursday at 7 p.m., where addition pavement resurfacing will occur until Sunday at noon. The release stated the detour will be along M-104 to US-31 for westbound closures and US-31 to M-104 for eastbound closures.
- b. Ms. Heather Bowden disclosed that the end of FY2024 and the beginning of FY2025 have taken priority. An update on JobNet for improved Air Quality documentation has been released and training for that has occurred. She is currently helping people with their TIP processes and the STIP.

C. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE – No changes to the schedule handout were made.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. Mr. Field Reichardt discussed the new air service coming to Muskegon airport starting November 1, 2024. He praised the airline for it's 99% flight completion rate and for it being #2 in the country for on-time flight completion. Flights will occur in the early morning and late evening, ideal for business travel, as well as hold flights mid-afternoon. The airport will have free parking as well as free baggage. Mr. Reichardt requests the committee to share the news of this to encourage the continued cooperation of Denver Air Connection. Ms. Michelle Hazekamp praised the efforts that went into the process of bringing the airline to Muskegon.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

WESTPLAN FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 19

The following project has been submitted as the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 19. Please review the project and prepare for discussion and action at the meeting. The WestPlan MPO Technical Committee reviewed and took action at their October 3, 2024 meeting and recommended approval of this amendment.

Fiscal Year	Job no.	Phase	County	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Length	Primary work Type	Project Description	Federal Budget	Federal Fund Source	Local Budget	Total Phase Cost	Amendment Type
2024	213745	CON	Muskegon	Norton Shores	Harvey St	Harvey Street at Pontoluna Road and at Sternberg Rd, city of Norton Shores	0.298	Traffic Safety	Signal Backplates	\$9,000	HSIP	\$1,000	\$10,000	PHASABND
2026	220426	PE	Muskegon, Mason, Ottawa, Oceana	MDOT	US-31	All within WESTPLAN area	67.368	Traffic Safety	Freeway Ground-Mounted Sign Replacement	\$881,750	NHG	\$0	\$881,750	T, CNSTRLGTH
2026	221934	CON	Muskegon	Muskegon County	Countywide	Various Locations - Muskegon County	0.206	Traffic Safety	Horizontal curve signing	\$211,154	HSIP	\$23,462	\$234,616	PHASADD
2026	221965	CON	Muskegon	Muskegon County	Countywide	Various Locations - Muskegon County	0.2	Traffic Safety	Intersection signing	\$132,119	HSIP	\$14,680	\$146,799	PHASADD
2024	214665	CON	Muskegon	Norton Shores	Lincoln St	Lincoln St west of Leon St, city of Norton Shores	0.129	Traffic Safety	High Friction Surface Treatment	\$55,280	HSIP	\$13,820	\$69,100	PHASABND