

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

January 4, 2024

<b>Members Present:</b>	Brett Laughlin, Ottawa County Road Commission Wally Delamater, Village of Spring Lake Jeff Marcinkowski, Rural Township Rep Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights Wade Vandenbosch, Muskegon County DPW Paul Bouman, MCRC James Koens, MATS Jim Murphy, City of Norton Shores Brian Armstrong, City of Whitehall Scott Borg, Harbor Transit Scott Beishuizen, City of Montague Craig Bessinger, City of Ferrysburg Amy Haack, Village of Fruitport Ben VanHoeven, City of Roosevelt Park Luke Walters, MDOT Lansing Todd Myers, City of Muskegon
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Andrew Sibold, FHWA (Non-Voting) Derek Gajdos, City of Grand Haven Steve Biesiada, Muskegon Urban Township Rep Mark Disselkoen, City of North Muskegon
<b>Others Present:</b>	Tyler Kent, MDOT Grand Region Blake Wright, MDOT Dana Appel, Harbor Transit
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:31. A quorum was present. Attendance was taken via roll call.

**II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Corrections were noted for the minutes from December 7, 2023 meeting. Mr. Craig Bessinger was present from the City of Ferrysburg not Matt Schindlbeck, Jim Koens was present, and the MCRC project is in Holton Township not Dalton. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes revised minutes. Motion approved. **M/S Delamater/Bessinger**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

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**

Mr. Brian Mulnix presented the proposed amendment to the FY2023-2026 TIP. Amendment is as follows:

**MATS Projects:**

Job# (if known)	FY	Funding Source	Requested Action	Project	Federal	State	Local	Total
217826	2024	Section 5339	Separate “Capital Cost of Contracting” portion of Job into two listings – 2021 piece and 2022fwd piece – no change to total project. Retain support equipment portion of Job as is	Capital Cost of Contracting (2021)  Capital Cost of Contracting (2022fwd)  Support Equipment	\$73,389  \$166,611  \$40,000	\$18,347  \$41,653  \$10,000	\$0  \$0  \$0	\$91,736  \$208,264  \$50,000
217951	2024	5310	This project as listed is duplicative of Job 217827. Change Fiscal Year of Job 217951 to FY2025.	Mobility Management Activities and Marketing	\$140,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$175,000
219834	2024	CRSM	Change Scope Code to list correct bus size and Increase project funding to utilize increased 2024 CRSM funding estimate to MPO	Bus Replacement	\$361,779	\$90,445	\$0	\$452,224
	2025	5339	Add Project	Capital Cost of Contracting	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$375,000
	2025	5307	Add Project	Operating Assistance	\$2,596,944	\$1,713,983	\$882,961	\$5,193,888
	2025	5307	Add Project	Preventive Maintenance	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$500,000
	2026	5310	Add Project	Mobility Management Activities and Marketing	\$140,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$175,000
	2026	5307	Add Project	Operating Assistance	\$2,251,830	\$1,486,208	\$756,622	\$4,494,660
	2026	5307	Add Project	Preventive Maintenance	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$500,000
214301	2026	CMAQ	Abandon	Bus Replacement	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$500,000

**MDOT Projects:**

FY2024 Job#: 220426- PE Phase US-31 N- Traffic Safety (Freeway Signing Upgrade) Fed: \$675,000 State: \$0 Total: \$675,000 (Phase Add)

FY2026 Job# 220465- EPE Phase- US-31 BR Over the White River (Bridge Replacement) Fed: \$327,400 State: \$72,600 Total: \$400,000 (Phase Add)

**MCRC:**

FY2024- Holton Duck Lake Road- Resurface- North of Cedar Creek Bridge to South of Michigan Shore Railroad- Fed: \$125,000 State: \$0 Local: \$31,250 Total: \$156,250 (STUL Fund balance)  
(To be added to TAP Job#220212)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. *M/S Murphy/Walters*

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

- Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick gave an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

**VII. MPO ROUNDTABLE**

- Mr. Jim Koenens mentioned that MATS was having the MOU go through the approval process at the County Board.
- Mr. Ben VanHoeven asked whether or not there was funding still available for FY2024. Discussion ensued.

**VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick presented an email from Darma Canter regarding transit service. The email is attached to these minutes.

**IX. ADJOURN- Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.**

**Joel Fitzpatrick**

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**From:** canter2000@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6:41 PM  
**To:** Amy Haack; Joel Fitzpatrick  
**Subject:** When they take away your keys, your freedom quickly collapses.

**WMSRDC Transportation**

Millions of taxpayer dollars spend for "public" transportation and yet our people are abandoned, degraded and denied publicly funded bus services. Please share this text with any county or state official you know. This shames all Muskegon residents.

Read this recent MATS experience.

"Thank you Go2/Via AGAIN I'm missing a doctor's appointment because you have no cars available. I've been trying to get a ride for TWO HOURS! I'm so sick of this shit. Yes, I could have booked ParaTransit through MATS. I didn't. I could have taken a bus, but it won't get me there in time since I was on the phone trying to book a ride with Go2/Via. Frigging fed up with not getting medical care because of Go2.

Just venting here. I'm not looking for solutions. I have them and didn't book 3 days ahead. My insurance company won't help with rides since there are NO services in Muskegon that work with them. I've called every service. Insurance stiffed the ride services by cutting their payout and they're fed up with it. This leaves people like me in power chairs having to pay out of pocket which insurance does not reimburse. And I can't afford the \$50-\$60 they charge each way. Power chairs are great to keep independence as long as you don't go outside of their range."

Share widely.

A couple years ago MATS changed its transportation program. 1. After 20 years of providing bus service to every corner of Muskegon County for residents with disabilities and seniors, the bus service became a para-transit only. Meaning the disabled rider service would only be eligible for residents living within one-half mile of the actual bus route, and limited to the southwest quarter of the county. 2. They closed the Muskegon Heights terminal.

I filed an a MDOT / DOJ complaint because the change in service impacted minority communities who had no alternative transportation services and were the most dependent on publicly subsidized, local transportation. The complaint was substantiated and the WM/DOJ decided to hand the complaint back to the county to implement a plan of correction. At no time during this process did the DOJ or the county call me, the complainant. As MATS started formalizing their plan, I called to comment or ask questions, but I was never invited to participate in any open discussion about minority or low-income resident services. I send this to the WMSRDC Transportation because the people who are literally bound to their homes are seniors and the disabled in all the rural areas of Muskegon County. I hope you will share this with the two committees and invite a representative group to discuss their current and future transportation needs.

Darma Canter 1898 Orshal Rd Muskegon MI 49445