

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

MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kim Arter called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg
Bob Hires, City of Montague
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Paul Black, Muskegon County Rural Township
Heather Bowden, MDOT
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Tom Ziemer, City of Whitehall
Josh Gruber, Ottawa County

Members Not Present

Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
Luke Walters, MDOT
Chris McGuigan, Muskegon County (MATS)
Wally Delameter, Village of Spring Lake
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Jenny Staroska, FHWA, Excused

Others Present

Blake Wright, MDOT
Marc Frederickson, MDOT
Steven Sinoki, MCC
Bob Lukens, MATS

Staff Present

Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Jack Grice, WMSRDC

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed from the November 19, 2025, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting with corrections made to the attendance list. Motion approved. *M/S Hazekamp/Hires*

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. FY2026-2029 TIP AMENDMENT 3 – Mr. Brian Mulnix and Mr. Marc Frederickson discussed the details of the amendment with the committee. Job Numbers 220535 and 220537 are budget increase and year changes for the bridge replacement over Norris Creek. Job Numbers 221352, 224888, 225096, 225097 are all jobs pertaining to different portions, phases, and years of US-31 projects. Job Number 225769 is a Safe Routes to School project in Montague. Job Number 214102 is a year change for a non-infrastructure job for a new Harbor Transit facility. A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 3. Motion carried. *M/S Kelly/Gruber*

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

The commission will begin preliminary work on the MTP in February 2026 where review of the population, employment rates, and other variables will occur. This will be completed in the spring of 2027.

VII. FY2026 MDOT SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Mr. Brian Mulnix summarized the FY2026 MDOT Safety Performance Targets and their purpose, as well as suggested that we continue to use MDOT's target recommendations. *M/S Hires/Monetza*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE (INFORMATION)

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Bob Lukens discussed the MATS transit numbers on behalf of MATS. He elaborated on the numbers that were distributed to the committee regarding the minor decrease in transit usage, but a significant increase in micro transit numbers. Currently, there is an RFP out for micro transit services – their current 5-year contract with Via is ending in 2026. Mr. Lukens moved on to updating the committee on the Muskegon airport, stating that November had 7 total cancellations, and some occurred in December. There will be a new flight schedule introduced during the work week. He added that conversations with Denver Air Connection regarding a potential future DET connection has begun.

Mr. Scott Borg added an update for Harbor Transit, stating that their environmental review process for their new facility has concluded and they expect to be breaking ground in the spring.

B. MDOT UPDATE – Ms. Heather Bowden announced that the FY 2027 Federal Aid

Buyout CFP is out now and that there is now \$50 million available instead of the \$45 million that was initially expected. Ms. Bowden explained the benefits of applying for this program and proceeded to recommend getting applications in sooner rather than later as it is a first-come first-served program. Acceptance into this program starts January 6, 2026 and closes January 23, 2026.

C. AIR QUALITY UPDATE – Ms. Lauryn Blake mentioned that the WMCAC is meeting on Friday, December 19, to discuss budget and joint purchases, as well as to discuss the upcoming Clean Air Action season preparations.

D. WESTPLAN NON-MOTORIZED PLAN – Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick restated that the first quarterly meeting with the WestPlan non-motorized committee occurred in November. Currently activities include looking into local funding to create more conceptual visuals for the STAG plan. There is potential for up to \$20,000 from MDOT.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

X. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:22p.m.