

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

## MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. ATTENDANCE

#### **Members Present**

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson  
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg, Vice Chairperson  
Bob Hires, City of Montague  
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission  
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park  
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners  
Paul Black, Muskegon County Rural Township  
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights  
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport  
Jay Kilgo, City of Muskegon  
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit  
Luke Walters, MDOT (Alternate)  
Tom Ziemer, City of Whitehall  
Chris McGuigan, Muskegon County (MATS)  
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission  
John Teeples, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners  
Wally Delameter, Village of Spring Lake  
Dan Tavernier, City of Whitehall

#### **Members Not Present**

Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven  
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon  
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township  
Kevin McLaughlin, Harbor Transit  
Jenny Staroska, FHWA  
Elizabeth Fox, City of Norton Shores

#### **Others Present**

Marc Frederickson, MDOT  
Blake Wright, MDOT  
Steve Sinoki, MCC  
Aaron Maike, Baker College  
Bob Lukens, MATS

#### **Staff Present**

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

### III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed from the December 17, 2025, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting with corrections made to the attendance list. Motion approved. *M/S Hazekamp/Kilgo*

### 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 5 – Mr. Brian Mulnix and Mr. Marc Frederickson presented on Amendment 5 for the FY2026-2029 TIP. Mr. Frederickson discussed the first four list items, stating these are three MDOT projects. The first two line items are different phases for JN 214169, which are the Right-Of-Way and Construction phases for US-31 road rehabilitation. He continued to mention that JN 226296 is a minor infrastructure job based in Northern Ottawa County and that JN 226302 is a small portion of a job that is mostly in Mecosta County but contains an intersection near White Lake.

Mr. Mulnix discussed that there are two jobs that have been abandoned to update the funding for a roundabout project on Airline Rd at Sternberg (JN 2230534 and JN 225643) from federal funding to SS4A grant funding. The federal funding that was for that job previously was redistributed to JN 223031 and the CMAQ funding will be allocated to signal interconnectivity upgrades on Whitehall Rd.

A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 5. Motion carried. *M/S Hazekamp/Kilgo*

### VI. WMSRDC REGIONAL GIS INITIATIVE

Ms. Erin Kuhn discussed upcoming efforts to study the feasibility of establishing a regionwide GIS that allows for improved coordination between the region, local agencies, and the state. This will begin with a survey that will identify current GIS practices and local need for a regional GIS. The overall goal of this system is to inventory infrastructure assets like water lines, sewage, capital improvement plans, etc. which will allow for better coordination across asset owners and the region.

### VII. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

#### A. TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

This presentation has been tabled until the next Policy Committee meeting.

## VIII. WESTPLAN MPO POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Kim Arter opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the MPO Policy Committee.

A motion was made and supported to maintain Ms. Kim Arter as chairperson. Motion carried *M/S McGuigan/Hazekamp*

A motion was made and supported to elect Mr. Richard Carlson as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried. *M/S Reichardt/Goodman*

## IX. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE (INFORMATION)

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Scott Borg announced that Harbor Transit has board approval to break ground on their new facility on March 2nd. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on March 25th.

Mr. Bob Lukens informed the committee that fixed routes are down 18% in ridership, but Go2 was up significantly. He also mentioned that a new vendor for Go2 will be selected soon. Discussion regarding Muskegon Heights access to Go2 and additional fixed routes.

Mr. Lukens moved on to discuss the Muskegon Airport, stating that ridership was tough in January, but it was better than the year prior. He added that a restaurant will be opening May 1, as well as Enterprise.

B. MDOT UPDATE – Mr. Marc Frederickson updated the committee on the status of the White Lake bridge and stated they are still reviewing the needs and best course of action. They are hoping to have the ramp re-opened by the end of March, but they are expecting the total closure to be the end of May.

C. AIR QUALITY UPDATE – Ms. Lauryn Blake announced that the WMCAC have selected WZZM, WXMI, WoodTV 8, Townsquare streaming, Spotify, and WGHN for advertisement for the Clean air Action educational campaign for FY2026. Discussion ensued regarding radio. Events are being sought after and stakeholders should expect email communication regarding the informational display rotation shortly.

D. WESTPLAN UPDATES – Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick informed the committee that the Pre-UWP meeting for FY2026 will occur in March.

## X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.