

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

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Mulnix called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg
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
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Jay Kilgo, Muskegon City Council
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Blake Wright, MDOT (Alternate)
Tom Ziemer, City of Whitehall
Chris McGuigan, Muskegon County (MATS)
Josh Brugger, Ottawa County
Dan Tavernier, City of Whitehall

Members Not Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
Luke Walters, MDOT
Wally Delameter, Village of Spring Lake
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Jenny Staroska, FHWA, Excused

Others Present

Marc Frederickson, MDOT
Jamie Sowa, Baker College
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 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 Carlson/Goodman*

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 4 – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented on Amendment 4 for the FY2026-2029 TIP. He explained that JN 214048 is a local funding budget increase; JN 214856 is a budget decrease; JN 226015 is intersection improvements at a railroad crossing on Lincoln Street; and finally, JN 226025 is a road rehabilitation by Lakewood Club on Kenwood Road. Discussion ensued. A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 3. Motion carried. *M/S Kelly/Brugger*

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Mr. Brian Mulnix explained that there is nothing currently to report. Modeling will begin in coordination with MDOT in February. A presentation may be given regarding this at February's Policy Committee meeting.

VII. WESTPLAN NEAR-MISS INITIATIVE

Mr. Jack Grice shared a presentation regarding the Near-MISS survey initiative in the MPO. This survey is designed to crowdsource information on locations of concern and witnessed near-miss incidents. He provided an overview of the survey and how it works, emphasizing that it is data to supplement ongoing planning efforts and to better understand the traffic safety network in the region. He is asking the committee to participate in a formal launch of the survey to inform the communities. Discussion ensued.

VIII. WESTPLAN MPO POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers will be held at the next Policy Committee meeting due to the absence of both Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Bob Lukens discuss 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. Mr. Lukens moved on to updating the committee on the Muskegon airport and mentioned renovations to a terminal into a maintenance center for other planes.

Mr. Scott Borg shared that the official groundbreaking of the new Harbor Transit facility will occur on March 2, 2026.

B. MDOT UPDATE – Mr. Marc Frederickson discussed the White Lake Drive overpass with the committee, stating that investigation into the condition of the overpass has been held up due to inclement weather, but will likely be reopened by May of 2026 with a temporary fix to fill the hole. The structure surrounding the fallen material, upon initial inspection, looks to be structurally sound and therefore, a temporary fix, including false decking, should be sufficient in maintaining the bridge until the approved deck replacement job takes place in 2028. There is possibility of beginning construction in 2027 with 2028 maintaining as the obligation date if it is deemed to be urgent. Discussion regarding this ensued. Additionally, Mr. Frederickson emphasized to the committee that the inclement weather limits what the county can do in maintaining roads as salt doesn't work at such low temperatures.

Mr. Blake Wright announced to the committee that the FY 2027 Federal Buyout Program will be no longer be accepting applications on Friday, January 23. He also informed the group that MDOT-Grand Region will be updating their 2017 Non-Motorized Plan and will be collaborating with the region's MPOs.

C. AIR QUALITY UPDATE – Ms. Lauryn Blake announced that the RFPs for advertising the Clean Air Action 2026 campaign have been sent out. The search for events has begun. Promotional items are being considered. The WMCAC Steering Committee will meet on Friday, February 23.

D. WESTPLAN UPDATES – Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick informed the committee that the Muskegon County Road Commission was awarded grant funding through the SS4A program to assist in their \$6 million round-about project on Airline and Sternberg. The MPO updated the safety plan, which allowed them to be eligible for this grant, but a few sections will need to be updated under the same grant. Grand Haven also received SS4A funding to assist in planning.

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 2:36 p.m.