

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 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
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Jay Kilgo, City of Muskegon
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Blake Wright, MDOT (Alternate)
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Josh Brugger, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake
Dan Tavernier, City of Whitehall
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Elizabeth Fox, City of Norton Shores
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven

Members Not Present

Bob Hires, City of Montague
Paul Black, Muskegon County Rural Township
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Jenny Staroska, FHWA
Chris McGuigan, Muskegon County (MATS)

Others Present

Heather Bowden, MDOT
Tyler Kent, MDOT
Ryan Gladding, MDOT
Alexis Springer, MCC
Aaron Maike, Baker College
Bob Lukens, MATS

Staff Present

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed from the February 18, 2026, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, meeting. Motion approved. *M/S Hazekamp/Botbyl*

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 6 – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented the projects included on Amendment 6. These projects include a work type change for an existing Roosevelt Park job (JN 223027), a new job to construct sidewalks that service Reeths-Puffer Schools that is being funded by a Safe Routes to School grant (JN 226334), a new job to apply trunkline pavement markings throughout the region (JN 226396), and a new job to fund local agency bridge load ratings throughout the region (JN 226414).

A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 6. Motion carried. *M/S Monetza/Kelly*

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

A. TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Mr. Ryan Gladding presented to the Committee. He explained the purpose of statewide modeling for use in the MTP. He discussed how Traffic Analysis Zones are utilized along with socioeconomic data to generate trip data throughout the region. This data is used to forecast network capacity in 2055 which is fundamental in developing the MTP for 2055. He also outlined the process for local agency review of model data over the course of the year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION –

Mr. Bob Lukens provided an update regarding MATS. He shared that February presented a challenging month for fixed route ridership. However, the Go2 micro transit services are up year-to-date. There are also several items being brought forward to the County Board meeting on April 2nd. These items include the FY27 Federal Application, a Bus Stop Assessment to determine priority locations for improvements to match new federal guidelines, and micro-transit contract approval. They also will be seeking approval at the City of Muskegon City Council meeting on March 24th for a beach route in the City of Muskegon. He also shared that Mr. Jim Koens has officially stepped away

from his role with MATS to work with MDOT OPT on rural and special services grants and compliance. His position has been posted publicly. MATS continues to operate normally until his position is filled.

Mr. Bob Lukens provided an update regarding the county airport. He shared that there have been minimal cancellations, and these are due to weather or operational delays at the larger Chicago hub. There are ongoing issues with TSA but currently no TSA agents operating at the airport are being asked to assist at larger regional hubs.

Mr. Scott Borg shared that ridership was down 3% in February due to weather. He also shared that the City of Grand Haven is the largest destination and origin for on-demand services.

B. MDOT UPDATE –

Ms. Heather Bowden shared that the State is beginning to develop the Michigan Mobility 2050 plan and two webinars regarding this project will occur on the 26th and 27th of March. She also asked local agencies to review the federal buy-out project list to ensure consistency for programming.

Mr. Blake Wright shared that the US-31 over I-96 project and the M-46 project both will be starting on April 6th. He noted that messaging for these projects should be released soon. He also shared that work on the White Lake Drive bridge continues and is weather dependent. The region office is in discussions to move construction on the bridge up one fiscal year to FY27.

C. AIR QUALITY UPDATE –

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that all contracts have been signed and executed. Event scheduling is underway and a call for hosting the Air Quality materials has been sent.

D. WESTPLAN UPDATES –

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that the pre-UWP meeting will be held on March 19th to discuss FY2027 budget and projects.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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