

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2026

- Members Present:** Brett Laughlin, OCRC, Chairperson
Paul Bouman, MCRC
Luke Walters, MDOT
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Ben VanHoeven, City of Roosevelt Park
Don Bond, City of Whitehall
James Koens, MATS
Jim Murphy, City of Norton Shores
Mark Disselkoen, City of North Muskegon
Matthew Schindlbeck, City of Ferrysburg
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake
Logan Cuddington, City of Grand Haven
Amy Haack, Village of Fruitport
Scott Beishuizen, City of Montague
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW
Dale Lee, Fruitport Township
Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights
- Members Absent:** Jenny Staroska, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Steve Biesiada, Muskegon Urban Township Rep
Jeff Marcinowski, Rural Township Rep
Todd Myers, City of Muskegon
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW
- Others Present:** Marc Frederickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC
Blake Wright, MDOT Grand Region
Tina Hawley, MDOT-OPT
- Staff Present:** Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC
Jack Grice, WMSRDC

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brett Laughlin at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present. Attendance was recorded via sign-in sheet.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes was made. Motion approved.
M/S Beishuizen/VanHoeven

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

IV. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 4

Mr. Brian Mulnix shared that there are four jobs on the amendment list. Ottawa county has two jobs with budget alterations, the Village of Lakewood club has a new small urban job, and Michigan Shore Rail has a new railroad job. The new small urban job is a road rehabilitation of Kenwood Rd.

Mr. Brett Laughlin explained that the budget alterations for the Ottawa County jobs are a change in local match only. Federal and state dollars are not being changed.

Mr. Paul Bouman asked about a different rail crossing job on River Road. Mr. Brian Mulnix explained that it will be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Jim Koens shared that the size of vehicle being purchased by MATS is being adjusted, but it did not trigger an action for amendment.
M/S Beishuizen/VanHoeven

V. 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.

VI. 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 regarding the survey ensued.

VII. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE (INFORMATION)

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

Mr. Jim Koens shared that MATS is currently out to bid for a 5-year contract to manage the Go2 Micro Transit service. Implementation will begin in April. He also shared that MATS took possession of three new heavy-duty busses and are being outfitted with branding.

VIII. MPO ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Luke Walters shared that applications for the Federal Buyout Program are being received and a draft list of recipients will be published in February.

Mr. Marc Frederickson addressed the recent White Lake Road bridge closure due to repairs being made to the bridge deck and verification that further repairs are not needed. The right lane and exit lane beneath the bridge are closed until repairs are finished. There is no conversation yet regarding moving the scheduled FY2028 bridge deck job to address the issues currently being faced.

Mr. Blake Wright shared that MDOT is currently reviewing proposals to update the Grand Region Nonmotorized Plan.

Ms. Amy Haack shared that the Village of Fruitport received \$400,000 from the DNR Trust Fund for a trail project. This project is also included in the federal appropriations bill. If approved, it will provide an additional \$460,000.

Mr. Paul Bouman shared that MCRC was awarded Safe Streets for All grant funding to implement a roundabout at the intersection of Airline Road and Sternberg Road.

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick also shared that the City of Grand Haven received Safe Streets for All grant funding for preliminary planning of an Action Plan.

IX. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Mr. Brian Mulnix explained that the current Chair is Mr. Brett Laughlin, and the current Vice Chair is Mr. Derek Gadjos. However, it was time to elect officers for the Technical Committee. He sought nominations three times from the committee. Mr. Scott Beishuizen nominated Mr. Brett Laughlin for Chair and Mr. Ben VanHoeven for Vice-Chair. *M/S Koens/Haack*

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.