

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 5, 2026

- Members Present:** Brett Laughlin, OCRC, Chairperson  
Jared Olson, City of Roosevelt Park  
Paul Bouman, MCRC  
Luke Walters, MDOT  
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit  
James Koens, MATS  
Jim Murphy, City of Norton Shores  
Mark Disselkoen, City of North Muskegon  
Craig Bessinger City of Ferrysburg  
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake  
Brian Jarosz, City of Grand Haven  
Amy Haack, Village of Fruitport  
Dale Lee, Fruitport Township  
Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights  
Jeff Marcenowski, Rural Township Rep  
Todd Myers, City of Muskegon
- Members Absent:** Jenny Staroska, FHWA (Non-Voting)  
Steve Biesiada, Muskegon Urban Township Rep  
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW  
Don Bond, City of Whitehall  
Scott Beishuizen, City of Montague  
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW
- Others Present:** Marc Frederickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC  
Blake Wright, MDOT Grand Region  
Jamie Sowa, Baker College  
Ryan Gladding, MDOT Modeling  
Dana Appel, Harbor Transit
- Staff Present:** Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC  
Brian Mulnix, 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 Bodbyl/Murphy*

**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 5**

Mr. Marc Frederickson shared that the previously approved road rehabilitation job from the White River north to Stanton Boulevard now has a Road Diet designation to the ROW and CON phases. He also shared that a new job is being added to install a changeable sign at US-31 and Van Wagoner Road that will operate when needed. The last MDOT job is a new job to modernize signals along US-31BR near the White Lake Shopping Center.

Mr. Paul Bouman shared that MCRC received grant funding from the Safe Streets for All program. This funding will cover the costs of constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Airline Road and Sternberg Road. This was a previously approved job that utilized three funding sources (three jobs). These jobs will be abandoned in favor of the new funding source. MCRC wants to use existing STUL money no longer tied to the roundabout job to extend the limits of and advance construct a programmed job on Sherman Blvd in FY27. The STUL funding will also help cover a shortfall of funding for the project. MCRC also would like to use the existing CMAQ funds that are no longer tied to the roundabout project to support a signal interconnect project on Whitehall Road at the Giles and River intersections.

*M/S Bouman/Bessinger*

**V. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)**

**a. Travel Demand Model Development and Review**

Mr. Ryan Gladding provided an overview of the traffic demand model, where the data is sourced from and how it is used to develop an objective model to evaluate the federal aid road system. He is asking that local agencies review and approve the socioeconomic data, traffic analysis zones, and road network that will be used in the model by year end. The data to be reviewed will be shared with local

agencies in the next two months. The model results will be shared to the WestPlan MPO by summer of 2027.

## **VI. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE (INFORMATION)**

Mr. Jim Koens shared that MATS is preparing for their tri-annual review which ensures compliance with all federal requirements. He acknowledged that MATS has no jurisdiction over the local right-of-way and therefore has challenges being compliant with federal PROWAG requirements. He asked the committee to review current bylaws regarding using funding for right-of-way accessibility.

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

## **VII. MPO ROUNDTABLE**

Mr. Marc Frederickson provided an update regarding the Whitehall Road bridge closure. The right lane closure of US-31 NB continues as work to install false decking is progressing. MDOT has plans to work systematically to close the remaining lanes, one lane at a time, to install false decking on each structure. After the false decking is complete, they can work to repair the surface of the bridge. Mr. Frederickson is hopeful that the work will conclude by no later than end of May. He also shared that MDOT has a scheduled job to make repairs to the bridge in 2028 but expects that to be advanced to 2027.

Mr. Luke Walters shared that the 2029 Local Bridge and Local Roads program is currently accepting applications. All applications are due by April 1.

Mr. Jeff Marcenkowski shared that Fruitland Township received \$9 million from the federal appropriations bill to fund a trail along Scenic Drive.

Ms. Amy Haack shared that the Village of Fruitport received \$460,000 from the federal appropriations bill that will be paired with other grant dollars to fund a trail system in the Village.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.