

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

March 5, 2026

**Members Present:** Robert Biesiada, City of Roosevelt Park  
Paul Bouman, MCRC  
Luke Walters, MDOT  
James Koens, MATS  
Craig Bessinger City of Ferrysburg  
Derek Lemke, City of Grand Haven  
Amy Haack, Village of Fruitport  
Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights  
Jeff Marcinkowski, Rural Township Rep  
Todd Myers, City of Muskegon  
Don Bond, City of Whitehall  
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW

**Members Absent:** Brett Laughlin, OCRC, Chairperson  
Jenny Staroska, FHWA (Non-Voting)  
Steve Biesiada, Muskegon Urban Township Rep  
Scott Beishuizen, City of Montague  
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW  
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit  
Jim Murphy, City of Norton Shores  
Mark Disselkoen, City of North Muskegon  
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake  
Dale Lee, Fruitport Township

**Others Present:** Marc Frederickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC  
Tyler Kent, MDOT Grand Region  
Wes Sanford, MATS

**Staff Present:** Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC  
Jack Grice, WMSRDC  
Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Joel Fitzpatrick 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 Pouman/Bond*

**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 6**

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick explained that the City of Roosevelt Park has a job on Summit Avenue that saw a change in work type (JN223027).

Mr. Tyler Kent explained that the MDOT jobs represent the PE and CON phases to apply permanent pavement markings on various trunklines throughout the MPO (JN 226396).

Mr. Paul Bouman explained that funding from the Safe Routes to School program was received to construct sidewalks on Roberts and Giles Roads near the campus of Reeths-Puffer (JN226334). He also explained that the state has taken over the local bridge inspections for the next five years. A new job has been created to perform this work at various locations throughout the MPO (JN226414).

*M/S Myers/Bessinger*

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

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that the MPO is working with the statewide modeling team to develop an interactive map that will allow the committee to review and leave comments on the modeling data to ensure accuracy.

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

Mr. Jim Koens introduced Mr. Wes Sanford. He explained that he will be leaving employment with the county on March 12, 2026, to begin a new role with the MDOT OPT. He further explained that until his position is filled on the committee, Mr. Wes Sanford will be attending the meetings to represent MATS. Mr. Jim Koens expressed his gratitude for being involved with the committee for nearly 30 years and for the

committees continued support of transit operations and planning. The committee expressed their gratitude to Mr. Jim Koens for his years of dedicated service.

## **VII. MPO ROUNDTABLE**

Mr. Khi Guy shared that phase 3 of the Broadway Avenue project in Muskegon Heights has begun. He explained that several detours are in effect through Muskegon Heights as this work continues.

Mr. Tyler Kent shared that a public meeting will be held in West Michigan soon regarding a road usage charge pilot project.

Mr. Marc Frederickson provided many updates on several projects:

- Apple Avenue – A public meeting will be held in early April with the project expecting to start soon after. The work is expected to last until November.
- 96-31 Interchange – This work has the same timeframe as the Apple Avenue project. All loop ramps will be resurfaced and requires temporary closures throughout the project. Several detours will be put into effect.
- Crockery Creek Bridge – A full replacement will occur from April-November. Full detours will be in effect while this work is carried out.
- Whitelake Drive – The northbound lane of US31 is open again. False decking has been installed on the full structure so no further impacts to US31 is expected. Work on reviewing the topside structure is ongoing. Current plans are to repair half of the structure and maintaining traffic via a temporary signal. The previously approved job to work on this bridge has been moved from FY2028 to FY2027.

Mr. Luke Walters explained that call for projects have been released for the Bridge and Safety programs. These calls are due by early April and early May. He informed the committee that he can share more information to anyone who is interested.

## **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 1:57 PM.