

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2026

Members Present: Brett Laughlin, OCRC, Chairperson
Ben VanHoeven, City of Roosevelt Park, Vice Chair
Paul Bouman, MCRC
Luke Walters, MDOT
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Wes Sanford, MATS
Jim Murphy, City of Norton Shores
Jake Kurtzhal, City of North Muskegon
Craig Bessinger City of Ferrysburg
Derek Lempke, City of Grand Haven
Amy Haack, Village of Fruitport
Jeff Marcinkowski, Rural Township Rep
Todd Myers, City of Muskegon
Scott Beishuizen, City of Montagu
Don Bond, City of Whitehall

Members Absent: Jenny Staroska, FHWA (Non-Voting)
Steve Biesiada, Muskegon Urban Township Rep
Wade Vandebosch, Muskegon County DPW
Dale Lee, Fruitport Township
Khi Guy, City of Muskegon Heights
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake

Others Present: Marc Frederickson, MDOT Muskegon TSC
Blake Wright, MDOT Grand Region
Tyler Kent, MDOT Grand Region

Staff Present: Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC
Jack Grice, WMSRDC
Lauryn Blake, 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 Murphy/Buizheizen

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 7

Mr. Brian Mulnix explained that there is only one job on the Amendment. The City of Norton Shores is adding local non-participating costs to an existing approved job on McCracken Street. The city will be performing water main and lead service work along with the reconstruction of McCracken St from Norton Avenue to Boneville Drive. A motion to approve the amendment was made. Motion Approved. *M/S Buizheizen/Myers*

V. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Mr. Brian Mulnix shared that the MPO will be coordinating with local agencies in the summer to begin reviewing, editing, and updating the socioeconomic data that will aid in the development of the new transportation demand model.

VI. WESTPLAN MPO 2020 NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that MDOT reviewed the proposed NFC changes made last year. Of the proposed changes, there were three that did not receive support for MDOT. Reasoning for no support was provided to the committee. Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that committee action was needed to approve the list of proposed changes approved by MDOT. A motion was made to approve the list. Motion Approved. *M/S Vanhoeven/Buizheizen*

VII. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPDATE (INFORMATION)

Mr. Scott Borg shared that Harbor Transit held their ceremonial groundbreaking event last week. Actual construction of the new Harbor Transit facility will begin once final permitting is approved by Grand Haven Charter Township. He also shared

that bus costs have increased and is asking the committee to be aware of any potential funding that becomes available to help aid in bus purchases.

Mr. Wes Sanford explained that the position to fill Mr. Jim Koens as the Director of the Muskegon Area Transit System is scheduled to close in a week. He will keep the committee updated as to any potential hires being made to fill the position.

VIII. MPO ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Marc Frederickson shared that MDOT hosted a public meeting to discuss the M-46 project beginning shortly. He also explained that signage has been put in place ahead of the US-31/I-96 Interchange project that is expected to begin very soon. Lane closures and ramp closures are expected to complete the work and reduce traffic safety concerns. He also shared that the Crockery Creek bridge project could begin early, pending approval. MDOT needs to ensure that detour routes are in place before final approval to begin construction. Lastly, he shared that MDOT crews were onsite at the Whitehall Drive bridge over US-31 to begin addressing surface conditions. The plan is to open one lane through next Spring which would be controlled by a temporary traffic control system. Next Spring, scheduled work to replace the full bridge deck will begin.

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick shared that the MPO will begin road rating of Muskegon County in April. He also shared that the 2026 SS4A notice of funding opportunity is live and that all agencies of the MPO are eligible for funding due to the MPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. He also shared that MPO staff will be attending the USDOT SS4A Safety Plan Workshop in Chicago on April 7.

Mr. Brian Mulnix reminded the committee that traffic counts will begin on April 13th and to direct any questions to Mr. Jack Grice who is overseeing the project.

Mr. Blake Wright shared that MDOT has signed with a consultant to begin the development of the Grand Region Active Transportation Plan. He is requesting local agencies assist in this process by sharing data related to existing and proposed trails.

Mr. Todd Myers shared that the first phase of the M-46 project will be from Muskegon Avenue to Sanford St. He also shared that the City of Muskegon will begin phase one of the Lakeshore Drive project.

Mr. Paul Bouman shared that the Muskegon County Road Commission is working to coordinate with the City of Muskegon on a project that will be brought to the committee at a future date.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.