

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 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
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Scott Borg, Harbor Transit
Blake Wright, MDOT (Alternate)
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Kyle Botbyl, Village of Spring Lake
Bob Lukens, Muskegon County (MATS)
Bob Hires, City of Montague
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Paul Black, Muskegon County Rural Township
Luke Walters, MDOT (Alternate)

Members Not Present

Elizabeth Fox, City of Norton Shores
Jay Kilgo, City of Muskegon
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg, Vice Chairperson
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Dan Tavernier, City of Whitehall
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
John Teeples, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Jenny Staroska, FHWA

Others Present

Emily Roberts, MCC

Staff Present

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (**AGENDA ITEMS**)

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 7

Mr. Brian Mulnix discussed Amendment 7 with the committee, stating that there was only one job change to a currently existing job. JN 215762, McCracken Street in Norton Shores, was given additional local funding for additional work, which equated to more than a 25% budget increase. A motion was made and supported to approve the FY2026-2029 TIP Amendment 7. Motion carried. *M/S Botbyl/Monetza*

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Mr. Brian Mulnix explained that there is nothing currently to report.

VII. WESTPLAN MPO NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Mr. Mulnix summarized the program to the committee, stating that the NFC is a federal program that determines the hierarchy of roads to receive funding. Mr. Mulnix clarified that WMSRDC staff began collaborating with the local agencies and road commissions on updating this information a year ago. The attachment in the agenda contains the details of these changes – Mr. Mulnix noted that some are highlight yellow and informed the committee that those changes were not supported by MDOT. Discussion ensued. A motion was made and supported to approve the Westplan National Functional Classification Review changed. Motion carried. *M/S Reichardt/Mogren*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE (**INFORMATION**)

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Scott Borg updated the committee on Harbor Transit's transit numbers, stating ridership has remained steady. Mr. Borg also informed the committee that the groundbreaking ceremony occurred in March, but delays in construction have been delayed due to flooding.

Mr. Bob Lukens informed the committee that Go2 Ridership is down in ridership numbers for this month, but up by 2% in year-to-date ridership numbers and up in passengers-per-hour. Their Go2 contract with VIA will begin April 26th. A summer beach line, which will be free to riders, will operate from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Mr. Lukens added that the airport ridership should increase for spring break season, Enterprise will be joining the airport soon, and a restaurant will be opening the first week of May.

B. MDOT UPDATE – Mr. Blake Wright informed the committee that work on M-46

has started on the west side of US-31 – there will be closures between Muskegon Street and Terrace Street. There is bridge work occurring on US-31 over I-96 focused on the north direction. Three of the four ramps remain closed and single lane closures on I-96 will begin April 17. Mr. Wright added that there is patchwork being done on the White Lake Bridge and maintenance on Lakewood in late May-June. Mr. Wright recommended referring to Mi-Drive for updates on dates and closures.

C. AIR QUALITY UPDATE – Ms. Lauryn Blake informed the committee that the WMCAC has been accepted to participate in the Muskegon Air Show in August and additionally plans to attend some public concerts at McGraft Park in July and August. The season will begin at the end of May, but there are some display hosts that may be taking the display early due to a full summer schedule. Ms. Blake also informed the committee that there will be a compliance survey going out this summer, sent out by GVMC, to determine knowledge of the Clean Air Action program in the region.

D. WESTPLAN UPDATES – Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned that Safety will be added to the agenda for future meetings, as updates to the current MPO safety plan will begin soon to meet requirements for SS4A funding applications. Mr. Fitzpatrick added that MIC extended the deadline for Technical assistance. He recommends reaching out to the Technical Committee representatives to apply.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

The WestPlan Public Participation Plan procedure was followed to achieve public participation for this meeting. Ms. Emily Roberts commented that she is grateful to the MPO and the committees for keeping up with Transit funding as the MCC utilizes the buses and provides passes to students, as well as purchasing Go2 passes.

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