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

MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Arter called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. ATTENDENCE (ROLL CALL)

A. Members Present

Kim Arter, Laketon Township, Chairperson
Heather Bowden, MDOT
Richard Carlson, Mayor of Ferrysburg
Arnie Erb, Whitehall Township
Diane Goodman, City of Roosevelt Park
Rachel Gorman, City of Muskegon
Michelle Hazekamp, Muskegon County Board of Commissioners
Jack Kennedy, Muskegon County Road Commission
Kevin Mclaughlin, Harbor Transit
Bill Mogren, City of North Muskegon
Robert Monetza, City of Grand Haven
Roger Vanderstelt, Village of Fruitport
Blake Wright, MDOT – Grand Region

B. Members Not Present

Roger Belknap, Ottawa County
Wally Delameter, Village Spring Lake
Marcia Hovey-Wright, Muskegon County (MATS)
Bob Hires, City of Montague
Ron Jenkins, City of Muskegon Heights
Ryan Kelly, Crockery Township
Roger Morgenstern, City of Norton Shores
Field Reichardt, Ottawa County Road Commission
Steven Salter, City of Whitehall
Andrew Sibold, FHWA
Christina Nicolaides, FHWA

C. Others Present

Dana Appel, Harbor Transit
Ruth Grennel, City of Whitehall
Steve Sinocki, Department of Student Success

Leeann Alexander, City of Whitehall

D. Staff Present
Lauryn Blake, WMSRDC
Joel Fitzpatrick, WMSRDC
Brian Mulnix, WMSRDC

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (AUGUST 21, 2024)

The minutes were reviewed from the August 21, 2024, meeting. A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024, meeting. Motion approved. *M/S Kennedy/Mogren*

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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. FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 18 – Mr. Brian Mulnix presented on the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment. He informed the committee that the MDOT project to modernize the traffic signals at M-104 and Fruitport received a budget increase of more than 24%. A motion was made and supported to approve the amendment. Motion approved. *M/S: Monetza/Kennedy*

B. FY2026-2029 TIP DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Brian Mulnix announced that the TIP development process is underway. An official call for projects was released to the technical committee at the September 5, 2024, Technical Committee meeting. This call for projects will be active through the end of September. Transit will need to submit support resolutions.

VI. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Mr. Brian Mulnix informed the committee that there are no new updates as of now, but we will continue to monitor projects and watch for triggered amendments. Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned a potential future amendment for the new Harbor Transit facility.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/MPO ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned that there may need to be an amendment to the UWP for FY2025 due to MDOT provided more funding to the MPO's Asset Management program.

A. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Mr. Brian Mulnix presented information for Mr. Bob Lukens at MATS regarding ridership. Ridership numbers for fixed routes are up 4% from last year.
- Mr. Joel Fitzpatrick and Mr. Brian Mulnix informed the committee that Muskegon Township has opted out of being a part of the transit authority. Muskegon Heights is set to vote the following week. Articles of incorporation are in progress.
- Ms. Dana Appel reported on Harbor Transit numbers to the committee. She stated that the overall numbers are down, possibly due to the reinstatement of the bus fare. Ms. Dana Appel also informed the group that data collection at a stop in Mona Park had an error and data wasn't collected for a month or so, but it's back up and collecting. She also discussed the $16.2 million grant they received for their new facility.

B. MDOT UPDATES

- Mr. Blake Wright discussed closures on I-96 between Hile Road and Airline Road due to culvert replacements taking place. West-bound closures will take place October 17th through the 21st, and East-bound closures will take place October 23rd though the 27th. A meeting going into detail will occur in early October.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Ruth Grennel spoke to the committee about a need and intense interest in Public Transit north of Russell Road. Anyone under the age of retirement have no options for transit, despite a lack of ability for some, and man-made barriers for others. A dial-a-ride would be something of consideration for them. Ms. Leeann Alexander accompanied Ruth and expressed equal concern to that of Ms. Grennel regarding public transportation in the Whitehall area.
- Mr. Steve Sinocki works with the Department of Student Successes and expressed concern for public transit near community colleges and other college institutions in the area. A severe lack in transit affects the lives of many students; students of all ages seek assistance in transportation regularly. Their programs in effect are slowly becoming ineffective.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

WESTPLAN FY2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 18

The following project has been submitted as the FY2023-2026 TIP Amendment 18. Please review the project and prepare for discussion and action at the meeting. The WestPlan MPO Technical Committee reviewed and took action at their September 5, 2024 meeting and recommended approval of this amendment.

Fiscal Year	Job Type	Job#	Region	Responsible Agency	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Project Description	Phase	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Local Estimated Amount	Total Estimated Amount	Fund Source	Federal Amendment Type
2024	Trunkline	214189	Grand	MDOT	Regionwide	M-104 at Fruitport	Traffic Safety	Modernize signalized intersections	PE	$51,494	$0	$0	$51,494	STG	Phase Budget equal or over 24%