

## Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

June 14, 2010

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  
Others Present: Sue Fluri, Betty Lujan-Roberts, Arthur Roberts, Dale Hein, Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Ecklund, Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Linda Teeter

Members Absent: Jan VanStratt<sup>i</sup>, David Worthams

A quorum was present.

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, supported and approved.

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 24, 2010 Minutes as presented was made, supported and approved.

4. APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Chairperson Teeter stated this agenda item was significant to KCTA to take a bold step toward an integrated County-wide transportation system; she gave a brief history and overview of the Roadmap as outlined in the final report from TSI.

Phase 1: Secure future leadership for the County-wide system and build Board capacity

Phase 2: secure millages (2012 for the City; 2013 for the County); build relationships in the community

Phase 3: continue toward an integrated County-wide transportation system.

The Roadmap would be going before various stakeholders in the near future (a schedule of the meetings will be kept on file with the minutes).

Mr. Hein read the resolution into the record (a copy will be on file with the minutes).

*A motion to approve the "Resolution Adopting the Kalamazoo County Transportation Plan ('Roadmap')"* was made by Mr. Mekemson and supported by Ms. Kempen.

Vice-Chair Rosine noted that the adoption of the resolution would require a deeper commitment from the Board members. It was more than adopting the Plan and walking away; it was the start of something, with many more opportunities for involvement to follow.

*The roll call vote was as follows:*

*Ayes: All Present*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: Worthams, VanStratt*

*The motion carried.*

5. PROCESS FOR SECURING EXTERNAL ACCOUNTING SUPPORT

Chairperson Teeter commented that this item fell in line with the transition. Mr. Hein reported that the County no longer would provide accounting and payroll services to KCTA after the end of the current fiscal year. These functions were carried by the County Finance Department as a temporary arrangement. Requests for Quotations would be sent out; it was not expected that the cost would be more than \$20,000. Mr. Hein went over the timeline as outlined in the “Process for Transitioning from County Finance by 9/30/10” (a copy will be on file with the minutes). Mr. Rosine added that the cost was not expected to be more than what was currently paid to the County for these services.

6. COA UPDATE: PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

Chairperson Teeter recalled Comprehensive Operational Analysis Recommendations as brought before the Board by Mr. Schomisch. Mr. Hein stated that a recent public input meeting in Portage helped KCTA realize that a process needed to be in place for establishing additional input sessions for citizens and riders to comment on the COA Recommendations and on the Roadmap. He then summarized the “Public Input Process for the Roadmap and COA” document (which will be on file with the minutes). Public Input sessions would be held in areas that received line-haul services. Areas that received just demand/response services would be held as requested.

Vice-Chair Rosine clarified that since the COA Recommendations would not ‘go-live’ until January 2011, there was time to hear and consider public comment. Discussion ensued on whether the sessions would be official public hearings or less formal listening/informational session.

In response to a question from Mr. Mekemson, Mr. Rosine offered that, in addition to addressing the Short-Term recommendations, the listening sessions could begin the dialogue on the Long-Term recommendations. He added that it would be important to get information from Metro on the fiscal impact of the potential Long-Term changes. Mr. Mekemson was concerned that opening dialogue on the financially restrictive long-term recommendations would increase the risk of confusing these with the no-cost short-term recommendations.

Chairperson Teeter asked Mr. Hein to clarify if official hearings could be held at various city and township halls with the full KCTA Board in attendance, and how citizen feedback would be turned into recommendations prior the approval of the service agreement with Metro (within the COA timeframe as proposed by Mr. Schomisch). Chairperson Teeter also asked Mr. Hein to draft letters to Metro and the City of Kalamazoo on KCTA’s intent to hold these sessions.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hein stated Project Connect had sent a heartfelt Thank You letter for KCTA’s support at the event on May 12<sup>th</sup> that was signed by a host of people.

8. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch was not present that evening to present his report (a copy will be filed with the minutes).

9. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein reported on the following (a copy of his report will be on file with the minutes):

- He was involved in new video produced by FOT on how to ride the bus. It would be posted to the KCTA website when completed.

- KATS policy council discussed the Transportation Improvement Plan
- The Public Input session at the Portage Community Center allowed for a lively discussion regarding the COA Short-Term Recommendations.

He also drew their attention to the meeting schedules that were placed at their seats (a copy of the documents will be on file with the minutes), saying that they may be needed to present at the meetings.

#### 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive – Chairperson Teeter reported that the Executive Committee would be meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm. The next Board meeting would be June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget Review – The next Budget Review Committee meeting would be June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, to continue the 2011 budget process.
- Public Transit/Human Services – The next meeting would be July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm at Metro to review the PTHs Coordinated plan.
- Legislative – There was nothing to report.

#### 11. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

#### 12. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

#### 13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Teeter reiterated that the next Board meeting would be June 28<sup>th</sup>. She thanked the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, County Administrator for their work in developing Roadmap.

#### 14. CITIZENS' TIME

Betty Lujan-Roberts of Portage (employee of the Center for the Blind) was happy that the county-wide system would materialize; she asked about the timeline. Expansion, reliability and consistency were the key factors for success. Mr. Hein had mentioned to her that KCTA would be the governing board, and she was curious as to what that meant in regards to Mr. Schomisch's position. Chairperson Teeter said KCTA would be happy to talk face-to-face in more detail about the phases of the plan. The process for seeking an Executive Director for KCTA was at the beginning stages, and the question of Mr. Schomisch's position would be answered as the steps proceeded.

Arthur Roberts of Portage asked what the intent was for holding the meetings with the City Commission and the Portage City Council. Chairperson Teeter stated that KCTA thought it was important to meet with transit partners to let them know what was happening in the phases of the plan.

#### 15. MEMBERS' TIME

-Ms. Sumney stated there was a very fine meeting held at Prairie Ronde, where the '09 Annual Report was presented.

-Ms. Kempen stated for the audience that the documents could be made available in various formats as needed.

-Mr. Mekemson commended Ms. Teeter and Mr. Rosine on the large amount of time and effort that went into the creation of the Roadmap.

-Vice Chair Rosine regretted that Mr. Schomisch was not at the meeting but was pleased with the increase of information in the report. The third bullet, however, troubled him regarding the fact that some dialysis patients were forced to use a private taxi service due to the Metro's subscription service fare increase. He noted that KCTA had expanded the hours specifically to address the needs of dialysis patients and continue to fund Metro County Connect. (Ms. Teeter hoped that a meeting could be arranged with Mr. Schomisch to consider a negotiation.)

-Chairperson Teeter noted that Mr. Schomisch reported that there were minor changes to the COA Recommendations--she hoped that information could be made available as soon as possible to enable the public input sessions to offer the most up-to-date information. She directed attention to the document "2010 Roadmap for the Future of Public Transportation in Kalamazoo County" (a copy will be on file with the minutes), stating that it would be good to use as talking points in the community. Formation of a Search Committee for the Executive Director position would be on the next agenda.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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KCTA Chairperson

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KCTA Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> \*Jan VanStratt had contacted KCTA's office after 5pm this evening. She was excused for this absence at the June 28, 2010 meeting.