

**I. Michigan State Transportation Commission**  
**Public Meeting**  
**November 9, 2023**  
**Lansing, MI**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Michael D. Hayes, STC Vice Chair  
Rita Brown, STC Commissioner  
Richard W. Turner, STC Commissioner  
Heath E. Salisbury, STC Commissioner  
Suzanne Schulz, STC Commissioner  
Rhonda Welburn, STC Commissioner

**Also Present:** Director Brad Wieferich, Michigan Department of Transportation  
Kathleen Gleeson, Assistant Attorney General, Transportation Division  
Jeff Cranson, Office of Communications, MDOT  
Troy Hagon, Commission Advisor  
Patrick McCarthy, Director, MDOT Bureau of Finance  
Dee Parker, Director, Bureau of Development  
Greg Brunner, COO  
Jack Cotter, Commission Auditor, Office of Commission Audits  
Ashleigh Houska, Department Analyst, Office of Commission Audits  
About 10 to 15 people were in the audience.

**I. Welcome**

Vice Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Vice Chair Hayes welcomed everyone to the STC meeting, extending a special welcome to Commissioner Suzanne Schulz for her first meeting. Commissioner Schulz introduced herself and shared her experience with transportation in both the private and public sector.

**Director's Report**

Director Wieferich presented his Director's Report on November 9th to the State Transportation Commission (STC).

Director Wieferich offered an overview of all the different services that MDOT offers, along with highlighting future projects and funding. He brought up the people that work for MDOT, including those that work at the various decentralized Transportation Service Centers across the state. He discussed that MDOT's mission statement has been updated. Director Wieferich also shared some statistics and charts regarding the number of roads, bridges, and multi-modal transportation managed by MDOT. He highlighted MDOT maintenance, including filling potholes, maintaining road signs, and plowing roads. MDOT has 31 maintenance garages while contracting with municipal

and county agencies to maintain the rest of the roads. He addressed the different non-motorized transportation system such as sidewalks and bicycle lanes. Regarding Transit & Intercity Passenger Transportation, MDOT does not operate any on their own but contracts with private companies and offers oversight. Aviation in Michigan includes 234 Public Use airports, 18 Commercial Service and 4 state owned airports. He brought up that MDOT paying attention to the issues with drones and PFAS chemicals related to aviation. Finally, Director Wieferich brought up where MDOT received its transportation funding.

Vice Chair Hayes asked about traffic safety records and how MDOT is feeling about the numbers. Director Wieferich said that traffic safety is a top priority and that for many years the numbers were coming down but recently started creeping up. Over 1000 fatalities in the last few years alone. MDOT reports bi-weekly and this year the traffic fatalities trend has started to go down again but zero deaths is the ultimate goal of MDOT.

Commissioner Schulz had a question on staffing and if MDOT has issues with retention. Director Wieferich said that MDOT has struggled just like many departments right now. MDOT has a variety of different programs such as youth development or engineer development program to entice people that are still learning. However, the truth is that there are issues with the numbers of people training for these positions in the first place. MDOT works with the TRACK program to try and get younger kids interested in engineering and STEM programs. There is a lot of effort, but it is an issue for MDOT.

Commissioner Schulz asked about economic development, and how MDOT works with MEDC in different communities. Director Wieferich said they work closely with MEDC. When you look at the state highways that run through the communities, they must weigh the pros and cons and deal closely with the community it affects.

Vice Chair Hayes said that we need to convey more information about MDOT's hard work to the public. Director Wieferich said that MDOT may be too humble at times but they are trying to increase awareness.

For more: [Full STC hearing video](#).

## I. Commission Business

- **Minutes of August 3, 2023, Commission Meeting (motion required)**

Vice Chair Hayes requested a motion regarding approval of the minutes for the August 3, 2023 Commission meeting. There were no comments. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Welburn supported. Vice

Chair Hayes led a voice vote; Commissioner Schulz abstained; all other members present voted in favor; **motion to approve carried.**

- **2024 Proposed STC Meeting Schedule - Troy Hagon (motion required)**  
Troy Hagon presented the 2024 STC Meeting Schedule. There were no comments. Commissioner Schulz made a motion for approval and Commissioner Brown supported. Vice Chair Hayes led a voice vote; all members present voted in favor; **motion to approve carried.**
- **TAMC Appointment Nomination – Troy Hagon (motion required)**  
Troy Hagon presented one nomination, Ryan Buck, to the Transportation Asset Management Council. Commissioner Salisbury made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Welburn supported. Vice Chair Hayes led a voice vote; all members present voted in favor; **motion to approve carried.**
- **Amendment to the 2020 Rebuilding Michigan Bond Resolutions – Patrick McCarthy (motion required)**  
Patrick McCarthy presented an amendment to the 2020 Rebuilding Michigan Bond Resolution. MDOT is asking for an extension of the resolution to issue the remainder of the money but not until the end of next fall. There is an updated schedule in the amendment. It is the same list of projects, but the budgets are updated with current estimates. Vice Chair Hayes brings up that when this was agreed in 2020 the decision was not taken lightly by the commission. Commissioner Salisbury made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Welburn supported. Troy Hagon conducted a roll call vote. All members present voted in favor; **motion to approve carried.**
- **2024-2028 Draft Five-Year Program – Michael Case (motion required)**
- Mr. Case presented the 2024-2028 Draft Five Year Plan to the State Transportation Commission for approval to submit the document to the state legislature. There were several attempts for public comments which included their website, social media, and the MTPP Interactive Map. They gathered 265 Comments, with 150k people educated on the topic and 6k people sharing the information links. Most of the comments were regarding safety or design of projects. Mr. Case is requested STC approval to post the Final FY 2024-2028 Five Year Transportation Program online. He also requests to submit it to the Legislature, State Budget Director, and House and Senate fiscal agencies by March 1, 2024. Commissioner Salisbury made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Vice Chair Hayes led a voice vote; all members present voted in favor; **motion to approve carried.**
- **Office of Commission Audits (OCA) Update – Jack Cotter**  
Mr. Cotter spoke to the State Transportation Commission about the nature of OCA's office structure, External and Internal Audit and what they both offer MDOT and the STC. **No motion required.**

- **Six-Month Financial Audit Follow-up Report – Jack Cotter**  
There was nothing to report for the Six-Month Financial Audit Follow-up Report.  
**No motion required.**

## II. Oversight and Other Informational Reports

- **Quarterly Bid Letting Summary – Patrick McCarthy**  
Mr. McCarthy presented the following documents to the STC for review: Quarterly Bid Letting Summary, which consisted of 114 projects during the months of July, August, and September. Mr. McCarthy presented the Bid Letting Trends for FY 21-23, which documents the trends in the bid letting process. Mr. McCarthy finally presented the Procurement Card Report for FY2023. There were no questions.  
**No motion required.**
- **Quarterly Bid Justification Summary – Dee Parker**  
Mr. Parker presented the Quarterly Bid Justification Summary for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter to the State Transportation Commission, while noting justifications were reviewed by OCA. The packet also includes a justification rejection report summary. **No motion required.**
- **Real Estate Services Section Disposal of Real Property Interests – Dee Parker**  
Mr. Parker presented the Real Estate Services Section Disposal of Real Property Interests to the STC. There were no questions. **No motion required.**
- **Final Construction Contracts – Extras and Overruns – Jason Gutting**
  - MDOT Projects for July, August, and September 2023
    - 50 projects totaling approximately \$163 million were finalized.
    - 2 projects were more than 10 percent over the original contract amount.
    - 33 projects came in under original contract amount.
  - Final monthly contract costs were respectively 1.07, 1.87, and 2.74 percent under the original contract amount.
  - Fiscal year 2023 is averaging 0.50 over original contract amount.
  - Local Agency Projects for July, August, and September 2023
    - 63 projects totaling approximately \$129 million were finalized.
    - 4 projects were more than 10 percent over the original contract amount.
    - 36 projects came in under original contract amount.
  - 5 MDOT projects and 3 local agency projects are being presented.

**No motion required.**

### III. Presentation

- **Tribal Affairs Program Annual Report and Complete Streets Policy Update – Amy Matisoff, Strategic Alignment, Outreach & Tribal Liaison**

Ms. Matisoff presented the Tribal Affairs Program Annual Report Update to the State Transportation Commission. Vice Chair Hayes thanked Ms. Matisoff and all the staff for handling the complexity of diplomacy across twelve different nations and the government of Michigan.

Ms. Matisoff also presented the Complete Streets Policy Update to the State Transportation Commission. FHWA wants to adopt a default Complete Streets design model, including quality to everyone that uses the streets. The policy is people-focused and emphasizes the need of those who have experienced systemic underinvestment, or those whose needs have not been met through traditional transportation.

Complete Streets is a process and approach to non-freeway, road design. The program requires partnership and deeper community engagement. This will update the existing policy from 2012, and create new guidance documents, update educational documentation, and create additional outreach documentation for external partners. They hope to have a draft policy available in January 2024 and finalized in April 2024.

Commissioner Schulz brought up the percent of vulnerable road users, people who are too young, too old, or cannot afford a car. It is important to consider those people. She asked what other states Ms. Matisoff was looking at when structuring this plan. Ms. Matisoff said they are looking at Minnesota, Washington, and California. Commissioner Schulz encouraged her to include Florida, Vermont (for their winter roads), Virginia (for their bridge plans), and Connecticut (for their procedures and administrative policies).

Vice Chair Hayes said that it is important MDOT consider people that don't have access to traditional modes of transportation, such as cars. There were no further questions.

### IV. Public Comments

There was one public comment from Jack Hoffman, Attorney and Board Member of the Urban Transit Partnership in Grand Rapids. First, he congratulated Commissioner Schulz on her appointment. Then Mr. Hoffman brought up that Michigan constitution states the STC can establish the policy of MDOT under the guidance of the Director. According to department data, meeting the expense of keeping the highways in good repair costs about 9.2 Billion per year. 99% of this expense is caused by commercial trucks, but they only paid 600 million in fuel and registration tax, which is less than 7% of the costs they generate. He requested that the STC use this constitutional protection to create user fees on commercial trucks, similar to one in

Illinois. Proposes that the commission request the Director draft a report on recommendations on adoption of user fee policy. Vice Hayes thanked Mr. Hoffman for his comment.

**v. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 12:51 pm

**vi. Next Meeting**

The next full meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Location is to be determined.

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Troy Hagon  
Commission Advisor