

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

METROPOLITAN

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are responsible for a transportation planning process that is cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing (the 3 “C”s) and encompasses all modes of transportation. The SWMPC coordinates the two MPO areas shown at right in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and member municipalities.

In 2010, TwinCATS and NATS completed the following planning documents, which can be viewed at http://swmpc.org/twincats_docs.asp (TwinCATS) and http://swmpc.org/nats_docs.asp (NATS).

- **Unified Work Program** of planning tasks for fiscal year 2011
- **Annual Reports** of planning activities completed in 2009
- **Public Participation Plan** of policies and recommended practices for involving stakeholders and the general public in the transportation planning process (updated every four years and reviewed annually)
- **Transportation Improvement Program** of road and transit projects in the urbanized areas for fiscal years 2011-2014. The Transportation Improvement Program for 2008-2011 was continually amended and modified throughout the year.

Walk & Roll TwinCATS

Walk & Roll is an initiative of representatives of local governments and the public to determine the needs for pedestrian and bicycle transportation in the Twin Cities area. Stakeholder meetings and public outreach were conducted. More information is available at <http://swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp>.

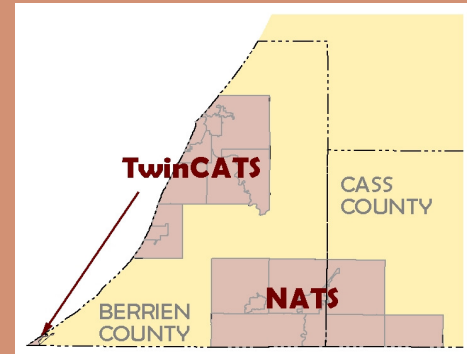
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS)

Cities: Bridgman, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph

Townships: Benton, Lake, Lincoln, Royalton, Sodus, St. Joseph

Villages: Shoreham, Stevensville, Grand Beach, Michiana

(Satellites, part of Michigan City Urbanized Area)



Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS)

(Michigan portion of the South Bend Urbanized Area)

Cities: Buchanan, Niles

Townships: Buchanan, Howard, Milton, Niles, Ontwa, Bertrand

Village: Edwardsburg



RAIL

TwinCATS continued to advocate for high speed rail in the Twin Cities. Government representatives and the public participated in a Pere Marquette forum hosted by SWMPC in February and a Michigan By Rail forum hosted by the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers and Michigan Environmental Council in September in St. Joseph.

Pictured left, Amtrak Depot in St. Joseph, MI

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REGIONAL

Transportation Funding 101 Workshop

SWMPC hosted Transportation Funding 101 at Andrews University in November 2010. The workshop included a presentation by a Michigan House fiscal analyst on the state of Michigan transportation budget. A panel (*pictured right*) consisting of state representatives and policy experts answered questions from local governments and the public about potential solutions for funding transportation in Michigan.



Congestion Mitigation

SWMPC continued to facilitate the countywide selection of projects for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds for Berrien County, including SWMPC's Go Rideshare program (www.gorideshare.org).

Asset Management

SWMPC coordinated pavement system evaluation rating (PASER) for 50 percent of federal aid eligible roads in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. The annual reports for each county, including trends in pavement conditions, are available at http://swmpc.org/asset_mgmt.asp.

Traffic Counts

SWMPC conducted 183 traffic counts in 2010 upon request from local agencies. The count data is available at http://swmpc.org/traffic_counts.asp. SWMPC also gathered and processed data for MDOT for the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).

TRANSIT

Public Transit

In a partnership with Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA), SWMPC obtained a \$217,000 grant from FTA and MDOT to implement a new fixed transit route (the Red Route) to allow workers to reach jobs, including areas in St. Joseph and Lincoln townships, formerly without transit service. An additional \$172,000 was used to operate the Red and Blue routes' extended hours on weeknights and Saturdays.

See www.gorideshare.org for more information.

A \$184,000 statewide planning and research grant was also awarded by MDOT and the Consortium for Community Development, to conduct a Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study, which will be completed by September 2013.

Mobility Management

With a \$75,000 grant obtained from FTA in a partnership with TCATA, two mobility managers were contracted to facilitate discussions between transit agencies and human service providers on the Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition. They conducted outreach and provided travel training, with the goal of improving mobility for those who are transportation-disadvantaged.

NON-MOTORIZED

Nine-County Non-motorized Transportation Plan

SWMPC conducted public input sessions in each of the nine counties, as well as a final regional input session held in Kalamazoo in July. The project was conducted with a statewide planning and research grant from MDOT.

Bike Safety Programs



Pictured above: Rick Smiedendorf conducting a "bike rodeo" with young cyclists)

SWMPC conducted seven bicycle safety trainings for children and adults at public libraries. The DALMAC fund grant assisted with the purchase of safety supplies to distribute to participants.

SWMPC hosted a Training Wheels workshop, with funding assistance from MDOT, St. Joseph Today, and the Southwest Michigan Tourism Council. The event included national experts who discussed best practices for designing bicycle facilities and a bicycle tour. (*pictured right*)

