

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee

February 25, 2008
 10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	R.J. Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Louise Price, Benton Charter Township Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Bill Purvis, TCATA Jason Latham, MDOT – Regional Planning Paul South, MDOT – Coloma TSC Michele Bennett – Sodus Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville John Gast, Lake Charter Township Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT Multi-Modal Steward McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration Dwight Pete Mitchell, City of Benton Harbor Burt Pearson II, Village of Shoreham Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Walter Heritz, Berrien Co. Planning Commission Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Nickolas Musson, SWMPC
OTHERS PRESENT:	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. MINUTES OF January 28, 2008:

- *Motion by Stauffer, seconded by Burkholz to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 Policy meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **2008 PASER Training**

PASER training is required for any person who plans to participate in the TAMC federal aid PASER data collection process and expects to be reimbursed for their time during the rating activity. There is no cost for this training for participants from public road agencies. Travel and training time will be reimbursed by your county's planning organization. Meeting Dates and locations are located at the back of the handout. A link to the 2008 PASER training hand out is located at the SWMPC website. (http://www.swmpc.org/twincats_fy08.asp)

Musson suggested that if you are involved with PASER data collection or would like to use it for an Asset Management Plan to attend the PASER training session.

- **SE Data Status**

Musson is in the process of projecting the base data to the year 2035. Projections are based on REMI State TAZ data. Projection results will consist of a number that will be distributed through out the local TAZs. Musson will contact local municipalities and agencies to get information that will help in the distribution of the projected numbers. Musson is planning on creating maps of the local TAZ to send via email and mailed paper copies to the local agencies for their input.

- **TIP Status**

The TIP has conditional approval and is still waiting for final approval from Federal Highway. The CMAQ amendments were made and sent to Federal Highway and waits for approval.

- **Hollywood Road Amendment**

Berndt wanted to move the Hollywood Road Project from 08 to 09 and reallocate the funds to different projects that could use the funds in 08. The federal funds for the Hollywood project consist of \$385,000. The projects in consideration were: St. Joseph's State Street at \$102,000, Bridgman's Church Street at \$309,000 and Benton Harbor's Arts District at \$492,000. The committees decided to payoff the entire St. Joseph project at \$102,000 and prorate the remainder to Bridgman at \$109,000 and Benton Harbor at \$174,000.

Motion by South, seconded by Price, to approve the Hollywood Project amendment to move the Hollywood project to 09 and reallocate the federal funds to the St. Joseph's State Street project at \$102,000, the Bridgman's Church Street project at \$109,000 and Benton Harbor's Art District project at \$174,000. Motion approved.

- **Asset Management Training Session Reminder**

Investment Reporting Tool Training Session

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is hosting an investment reporting tool training session on Tuesday March 4 in Lawrence at 9:30 am to 12:00 p.m.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Safety Projects**

Berndt submitted a safety project consisting of construction of a center left turn lane on John Beers Road between Cleveland Avenue and Washington Avenue.

- *Motion by Panozzo, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the support of the safety project to construct a center left turn lane on John Beers Road between Cleveland Avenue and Washington Avenue. Motion approved.*

Discussion

Herald Palladium's crash data request and whether or not we can use that information.

South stated that you need actual crash data to pursue a project.

Discussion

Wind farms and whether on not SWMPC had anything to do with them.

- **Letter of Support**

TwinCATS committee members suggested that SWMPC write a letter to Congressmen Fred Upton with support on objecting to the EPA regulations for maintenance areas. The letter should be signed by Robert Judd the chair of the TwinCATS Policy committee.

Motion by Burkholz, seconded by Purvis, to approve the draft of a letter by SWMPC to Congressmen Fred Upton with support on objecting to the EPA regulations on maintenance areas. Motion approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:08 a.m.

- Next meeting is March 17, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson, Transportation Planner, 2/27/08