

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*Policy Committee*

March 26, 2007  
 10:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman R.J. Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Walter Heritz, Berrien Co. Planning Commission Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Louise Price, Benton Charter Township Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville John Gast, Lake Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT – Regional Planning Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT Multi-Modal Andy Minyo, Federal Transit Administration Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Dwight Pete Mitchell, City of Benton Harbor Burt Pearson II, Village of Shoreham Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Paul South, MDOT – Coloma TSC Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Steve Tilly, Royalton Township Charles Yarbrough, TCATA Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kelly Getman-Dissette Rachael Tupica
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township

1. **CALL TO ORDER** –Chairman Bob Judd called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.
2. **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2006** – *Motion by Sarah Woolcock, seconded by Lee Scherwitz: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FO THE FEBRUARY 26, 2008 MEETING.” Motion approved.*
3. **STAFF REPORT**
  - Kelly and Rachael hosted Asset Management Training on the Internet Based Reporting Tool on March 12<sup>th</sup> and attended PASER road ratings training on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Both Kelly and Rachael will also be attending the 2007 Annual Conference on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg Center on MSU Campus in East Lansing.
  - Kelly attended the 2007 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit in East Lansing. The conference was good, but geared more toward Police than MPOs. An interesting presentation was on a study of distracted driving.
  - The SWMPC has hired a new Traffic Count Supervisor, since George Tabbert is retiring after many years of service. Roger is a retired Xerox employee, where he used to repair copy machines in southwest Michigan. Roger also attended the PASER training as he will be the representative doing road ratings for the SWMPC.

- The SWMPC has applied for an EDA grant to get money to create a traffic count database that would be available on our website. If we receive the grant, this new database would have to be in place by December 31, 2007, as that is when the grant ends. We would work with LIAA, who hosts our current website, to put these counts online.
- We are still working on the Environmental Mitigation Plan that we are required to due to become SAFETEA-LU compliant. This should be approved at the April Meeting if possible. Kelly and Rachael will be contacting members soon to review this plan. We are taking examples from SEMCOG, GVMC, and others.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- **FY07 CMAQ Project List** – A listing of the proposed CMAQ projects for FY07 was distributed. It was explained that FHWA has not approved the list yet, but it is expected soon. The Committee is asked to review and make an approval pending the FHWA approval, as this will expedite the process after they have made their approval. *Motion by Lee Scherwitz, seconded by Sarah Woolcock: “TO APPROVE THE FY07 CMAQ PROJECT LIST, PENDING FHWA APPROVAL, AND ALSO TO ALLOW THE SWMPC TO MAKE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS TO PROJECTS IF NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL PROCESS.” Motion approved.*
- **FY08-11 Proposed TIP Projects** – The proposed project list for the FY08-11 TIP was handed out in the new Uniform TIP/STIP format. The new format is being used by all MPOs in Michigan and MDOT is also using. The list of project was put together and prioritized by the Project Selection Sub-Committee in February. *Motion by Sarah Woolcock, seconded by Louise Price: “TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY08-11 TIP PROJECT LIST.” Motion approved.*
- **Church Street TIP Amendment** – A handout was dispersed with a proposed TIP amendment for the City of Bridgman’s Church Street. The resurfacing project is in the FY09 TIP and they would like to AC in the \$588,000 project FY07 with repayment \$308,708 in FY09 and \$20,479 FY10. The City intends to try to get Local Jobs Today funding to help cover some of the project costs. *Motion by Lee Scherwitz, seconded by Sarah Woolcock: “TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE FY07 TIP TO INCLUDE AC OF CHURCH STREET WITH ACC OF \$308,708 IN FY09 AND \$20,479 IN FY10.” Motion approved.*
- **Illustrative/Working Project List** – There was an announcement for projects to go in the illustrative/working list. This prioritized list is important to have in place in case the TwinCATS area comes upon more funding, the SWMPC can call the agencies on the list, in priority, to see if they are ready to go to be added into the TIP. This list will need to be prioritized for the final approval of the TIP document.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

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#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

#### 7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- Bob Judd began a discussion on the proposed raising of the gas tax in Michigan. A group, called Drive Michigan, is lobbying legislature to approve the sunset tax
- Kelly Getman-Dissette recommended everyone to attend, and encourage other local officials to attend, a Site Plan Review class as this was very informative and transportation was discussed a lot.
- Ron Griffin began a discussion on safety for emergency response crews responding to motor vehicle accidents along I-94 in Berrien County. Sarah Woolcock explained that there is a protocol in place for emergency dispatchers to call MDOT Coloma TSC and make them aware so that they can go out and put up Portable Changeable Message signs (PCM). This protocol isn’t always followed and MDOT doesn’t know about an accident unless notified.
- Ron Griffin inquired as to the impact of the Governor’s budget on transportation funds. It doesn’t appear that transportation funds will be impacted.
- Ron Griffin wanted to make the Committee aware that a letter has been sent from the St. Joseph Charter Township to the Berrien County Road Commission regarding a traffic study for a stop light at Napier and Fairplain Avenues. Traffic is bad on this road due to the school being south of the intersection and people are having difficulties making left turns.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:34 A.M.

- Next meeting is April 16, 2007