

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee

April 16, 2007
 10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township 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 Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Louise Price, Benton Charter Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman 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 Dwight Pete Mitchell, City of Benton Harbor Burt Pearson II, Village of Shoreham Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Paul South, MDOT – Coloma TSC Steve Tilly, Royalton Township Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Charles Yarbrough, TCATA Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kelly Getman-Dissette Rachael Tupica
OTHERS PRESENT:	John Chaddock, SW Michigan Regional Airport

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

2. MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2007:

- Motion by Burkholz, seconded by Heritz to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2007 Policy meeting. Motion approved.

3. STAFF REPORT:

- Due to eye surgery, Tupica will be away from work for 2-3 weeks beginning April 18th, 2007. Any transportation-related inquiries should go to Getman-Dissette during that time.
- SE data meetings have begun. Tupica and Getman-Dissette met with St. Joe Charter Township during the week of April 3rd to review demographic and employment information. The meeting went well, and all TwinCATS municipalities should expect to be contacted for similar meetings.

- Tupica attended the Highway Program Financing workshop on April 10 and 11. The session covered many aspects of transportation financing, and Tupica felt the information was very valuable.
- Getman-Dissette attended the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Conference and Workshop on April 11 and 12. The conference had a variety of interesting speakers, and the workshop offered information about developing local asset management plans. Both were worthwhile and provided useful information.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Environmental Mitigation/Consultation Plan** – The draft Environmental mitigation and Consultation Plan was distributed. Due to deaths in the family of Tupica and Jerry Chase (who prepared the maps), the plan is not ready for approval. Committee members asked questions about the plan, whether SMWPC was collaborating with Berrien County for data, and about other map features. Getman-Dissette explained that this plan will help to identify environmental issues early, and will provide information about projects that might need additional environmental analysis. It is essential that committee members review the text and maps, double check feature locations, and provide comments to Getman-Dissette during the next two weeks so that the plan can be approved at the May meeting.
- **Attendance and dues** – A spreadsheet showing FY 2007 meeting attendance was distributed. The page also indicated which local units of government paid their local match in 2006 and 2007. SWMPC staff will follow up with local units that have not paid and whose representatives have not regularly attended meetings.
- **ITS Stakeholder workshop #2** - MDOT, with the assistance of URS Corporation, is developing an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture and Deployment Plan for the Southwest Region. Committee members received an invitation to attend the kick-off meeting in February. A second workshop has been scheduled for May 1, 2007 from 9am – 3pm at WMU’s Fetzer Center. The session will provide information on regional ITS architecture and will include break-out sessions for different interest groups. Committee members are welcome to attend, but must RSVP to Marc Start at mdot-architecture-study@urscorp.com by April 20th.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Griffin mentioned that an RFP for the St. Joseph/Royalton Township corridor plan for the Hollywood/Maiden Lane area has been sent to engineering firms.
- Stauffer reported that Meijer is working out details with Fishbeck and the Road Commission. Plans are in the works for a porous pavement parking lot and rain gardens.
- Judd will be out of town next month, so Heritz will serve as Chairman for the May meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 am

- Next meeting is May 21, 2007

Compiled by: Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planner, 04/19/07