

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee

April 21, 2008
 10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

2. MINUTES OF January 28, 2008:

- Motion by Scherwitz, seconded by Panozzo, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Policy meeting. Motion approved.

3. STAFF REPORT:

• **Asset Management Workshop/Conference**

Getman-Dissette and Musson attended the asset management conference on April 3, 2008 in Lansing. The focus of the conference was to show how other agencies are using asset management to their benefit. It is an important conference that explained many of the prevalent issues affecting us today. The next time that the conference comes

around SWMPC will inform the committee of its location and time. Musson attended the asset management workshop on April 2, 2008 in Lansing. The workshop was very informative and explained the reasoning behind asset management. The workshop was great because it brought together planners, engineers and elected officials to get their individual take on asset management. Musson highly recommends that the committee members attend the next time it is offered.

- **Traffic Counting Begins**

Traffic counting season has begun, and SWMPC has new traffic counting staff. David and Patricia Bly, along with Mark Gallagher, will be out taking counts in 2008. Committee members with requests should go to the SWMPC website to submit them. Getman-Dissette and Musson will meet John Egelhaaf to discuss whether or not requests from last year have to be resubmitted.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Letter to Fred Upton**

Musson completed a draft letter to Congressman Fred Upton regarding TwinCATS support of the Congressman's opposition to the new EPA rulings on ozone attainment standards. The draft letter has been and sent to Upton's staff for comments. Committee members offered suggestions for minor edits. *A motion by was made by Scherwitz, supported by Bennett, to approve the submittal of the letter of support to Congressman Fred Upton, after comments from Upton's office and committee members have been addressed. Motion approved.*

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **M-139 TIP amendment**

The M-139 at Nickerson CMAQ project has doubled in cost, and Darrell Harden requested that the TIP be amended to reflect the change. *Motion by Heritz, seconded by Scherwitz, to approve the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to increase the federal portion of the cost of the M-139 at Nickerson CMAQ project (FY 2008, JN 102537) from \$85,000 to \$178,571.97. Motion approved.*

- **Future Year SE data**

Musson explained that the future year socioeconomic data for each agency is located on the SWMPC website. Because SWMPC is still receiving community input, the data is not yet ready for approval. Musson requested that committee members take one last look at the data tables and maps and offer comments. He explained that some agencies have made comments on the maps and sent it in, while others have simply sent an email. It is important that all of the affected agencies comment on the data projections. The deadline for input is May 9, 2008.

- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting**

A subcommittee has formed to review the goals and objectives for the long range plan update. Gary Soper, Larry Merritt, Dick Stauffer, Bob Judd, and Ray Lenze have agreed to serve on the committee. The first meeting is April 29, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the SWMPC office.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

7. **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Griffin expressed concern over the management of emergencies on I-94. Griffin felt that the use of fire trucks and firefighters to control traffic may not be the best use of resources. Griffin expressed that St. Joseph Township would be interested participating in a pilot project to install semi monitoring devices and gates in particular sections of I-94 that would block and reroute traffic in emergency situations. Discussion over emergency management on I-94 ensued, and members suggested that Mike Bradley of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department be invited to give a presentation to TwinCATS regarding this issue.
- Lenze distributed State transportation maps.
- Heritz asked about local governments paying their share of the match dollars for FHWA planning funds.

8. **ADJOURNMENT: 11:37 a.m.**

- Next meeting is May 19, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.