

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

July 9, 2007  
 10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) 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 Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Paul South, MDOT – Coloma TSC Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	R.J. Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville John Gast, Lake Charter Township Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT Multi-Modal Linda Glover, Federal Transit Administration Jason Latham, MDOT – Regional Planning Dwight Pete Mitchell, City of Benton Harbor Burt Pearson II, Village of Shoreham Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Steve Tilly, Royalton Township Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kelly Getman-Dissette Rachael Tupica
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.

**2. MINUTES OF June 18, 2007:**

- Motion by Heritz, seconded by Stauffer to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2007 Policy meeting. Motion approved.

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **SAFETEA-LU Compliance Update** – Tupica explained that while our SAFETEA-LU compliance documents were forwarded to MDOT at the end of May, they have not yet been sent to FHWA. Therefore, TwinCATS is not yet SAFETEA-LU compliant. In addition, FHWA reps have indicated that a 30-day EPA review is necessary. Our materials will be forwarded to EPA as soon as they are received by FHWA, but this means that we should not expect to be designated as SAFETEA-LU compliant until late August.

Committee members asked questions about what this meant for us, and Lenze explained that FHWA would not be able to approve TIP amendments until we are deemed compliant. However, because there were no amendments brought to this meeting, this should not be too much of an issue. There will be no impacts to current projects.

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- **FY 2008-11 TIP** – Tupica led the committee through a review of the FY 2008-11 TIP document. The document has changed somewhat from previous years. The finance section now includes data from Act 51 reports, as well as a map showing project locations. The Air Quality Analysis now reflects that Berrien County is a maintenance area, instead of a non-attainment area. SMWPC is still awaiting modeling results from MDOT, and when these come back, they will be added to the table on page 18. The document also includes sections on public involvement, consultation, and amendment procedures. In addition, the Environmental Justice (EJ) section has been changed to reflect a new method used to identify EJ populations, and the TAC committee selected a new set of maps based on the population within the TwinCATS boundaries.

Additional notes about the TIP are as follows: Tupica will add the TIP Amendment application to the appendix; Lenze suggested that text be added to notify readers where hard copies of electronic information can be obtained.

*A motion was made by Scherwitz, supported by Anthony, to recommend approval of the FY 2008-11 TIP document to the Policy Committee and the SWMPC full commission, including the appropriate revisions and additions. Motion approved.*

- **FY 2008 UWP** – In practice, local units have been billed for FTA matching funds, but this was not reflected in the UWP. Therefore, the UWP, specifically page 8, has been revised to show the local FTA match. Getman-Dissette noted that the FTA dollars that SWMPC is eligible to receive has increased, so the local match has also increased. No committee action was required for this item.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Website Tutorial** – Getman-Dissette let the group through a “tour” of the SWMPC website, specifically the TwinCATS pages. She also demonstrated how to reach the website through a link provided in an e-mail as well as how to download documents from the website.
- **TCATA Administrative Amendment Report** – On May 29, 2007, Bill Purvis, Executive Director for the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) requested an administrative amendment to the TwinCATS FY 2007 Transportation Improvement Program that includes the following changes: the bus replacement (\$57,750 total cost, \$46,200 federal) shall be deleted, and operating assistance shall be in the amount of \$572,407 federal, \$933,523 state/local, and \$1,505,930 total. The amendment was approved by FHWA in June.
- **NIRPC Update** – Brown indicated that NIRPC received its SAFETEA-LU compliance designation on June 29. In addition, Brown reported that LaPorte County has been designated a maintenance area for ozone, and Lake and Porter counties are being considered for re-designation. The areas are still in non-attainment for PM 2.5.
- **Joint Meeting in August** – Joe Schulz, a consultant who has been working with Berrien County to study the possibility of developing a commuter rail line to Chicago, would like to present a summary of his work to the TwinCATS committees in August. Therefore, on August 20, the TAC meeting will begin at 9:30, both the TAC and the Policy Committee will convene at 10:00 for the presentation, and the Policy Committee will hold its regular meeting after the presentation.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

**7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- None

**8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:45 am**

- Next meeting is August 20, 2007

Compiled by: Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planner, 07/12/07