

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

September 15, 2008  
 10:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bill Purvis, TCATA Bob Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township 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 Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Boyd, Royalton Township 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) Richard Marsh, City of Benton Harbor Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Burt Pearson II, Village of Shoreham Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Rich Vavra-Musser, Michigan Association RR Passenger

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
  - Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m.
2. **MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2008:**
  - *Motion by Griffin, seconded by Panozzo, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2008 Policy meeting. Motion approved.*
3. **STAFF REPORT:**
  - **November 13 Trail Workshop** – SWMPC is organizing a half day trails workshop, to be held on November 13, 2008 from 1-4:00 PM at the Thornapple Township Emergency Services Building. Workshop topics include state/local funding sources, urban/rural trail development, promotion of trails, water trail development, trail maintenance and trail vision and planning.

- **MARP/MWHSRA (rail) meeting** – Musson attended the August 16, 2008 Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP) meeting, where guest speaker Rich Harnish, Midwest High Speed Rail Association, presented on high speed rail in the Midwest. Harnish used the high speed rail system in Europe as an example of what Berrien County’s rail system could be. Harnish discussed barriers and opportunities to make high speed rail a reality in the TwinCATS area. Rich Vavra-Musser from MARP expanded on what he feels TwinCATS could do to help the cause:
  - Include the coastal route (through St. Joseph) in the long range transportation plan. Currently a route through St. Joseph is not in the State plan.
  - Advocate for a second train through St. Joseph to build frequency.
  - Determine how the council can work with Rep. Upton to help secure funding and actions to improve the high speed corridor between Chicago and Porter, IN.
  - Improve the St. Joseph station, and consider the resulting needs if the number of trains is increased.
- **Vice-Chairman Nomination-** Lee Scherwitz has agreed, if nominated, to fulfill the remainder of Walt Heritz’s term as Vice-Chairman. *A motion was made by Judd, seconded by Burkholz, to nominate Lee Scherwitz to fulfill the remainder of Walt Heritz’s term as Vice-Chairman. Motion approved.*

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Hollywood Corridor Study announcement-** St. Joseph Township will present the results of the Hollywood Corridor Study at the October meeting. A public presentation of the study results will be given on September 25, 2008 at the St. Joseph/ Royalton Senior Center at 7:30 PM.
- **Network Deficiencies** – Getman-Dissette explained that a subcommittee met to review deficiencies (congested areas) that resulted from the travel demand model. Subcommittee members determined whether or not they agreed with the deficiency, what was the likely cause of the deficiency, and what, if anything, should be done to resolve the issue. In addition, members discussed whether or not there were deficient areas that were missed by the model. Findings of the subcommittee were distributed. Lenze explained that the deficiencies represent 24 hour traffic volume averages and they do not take into account peak hour congestion, which is something that we will likely do for the next model. In addition, the model does not consider problematic intersections. Intersections of interest should be identified and studied separately. Committee members reviewed and discussed the deficiencies, which will be included in the LRP. Stauffer expressed interest in working with Sharlow to utilize the travel demand model for potential development at the old Snowflake Hotel site. Getman-Dissette will contact Sharlow to determine what information is needed.
- **Non-motorized facilities for LRP-** Getman-Dissette distributed the local non-motorized information contained in the 2004 LRP as well as a non-motorized facility update survey. Committee members were asked to begin working on the survey. During the next month, SWMPC staff will follow up with each road agency/local unit of government to obtain updated information for the 2009 LRP. Anyone who would like to meet in person should contact Getman-Dissette.
- **2009 Meeting Dates** – The Policy Committee typically meets the third Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. Due to holidays, January and February meetings will be moved to the fourth Monday. *A motion was made by Woolcock, supported by Price, to approve the remaining calendar year 2008 and calendar year 2009 meeting dates. Motion approved.*
- **TIP Amendment-** As requested by MDOT, the TIP was amended to include a project on Britain Ave over I-94. *A motion was made by Burkholz, supported by Woolcock, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the MDOT Britain Ave project (over I-94, JN 104002) to FY 2010. Each phase of the project shall be listed separately, as follows:*
  - *PE phase: federal cost of \$289,686, state M cost of \$32,187, and total cost of \$321,873;*
  - *Sub phase: federal cost of \$187,444, state M cost of \$20,827, and total cost of \$208,271; and*
  - *Construction phase: federal cost of \$4,990,109, state M cost of \$1,106,541, and total cost of \$6,096,650.**The total project cost is \$6,626,794 with a federal share of \$5,467,239 and a state share of \$1,159,555. Motion approved.*
- **MDOT Financial Presentation** – Most Policy members heard the Lenze presentation regarding the federal and state transportation funding shortfalls at the TAC meeting. Therefore, the presentation was given after the Policy meeting for anyone who missed it earlier.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

**7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Woolcock announced that Paul South has been deployed to Indianapolis until the end of February 2009.
- Purvis announced that TCATA will be increasing fares. Ridership has increased, but state funding for the year will be cut approximately \$30,000. The first public hearing regarding the fare increases will be held September 15 at 12:00 PM at the TCATA offices. The second hearing will be September 29 at 12:00 PM at the TCATA offices.

**8. ADJOURNMENT: 12:15 p.m.**

- Next meeting is October 20, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 9/16/08