

Minutes

Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Policy Committee

October 16, 2006

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township
R.J. Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission
Darrell Harden, MDOT – Regional Planning
Walter Heritz, Berrien Co. Planning Commission
Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph
Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio)
Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning
Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission
Louise Price, Benton Charter Township

POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman
Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township
Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville
John Gast, Lake Charter Township
Elaine Luo, 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
Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
Paul South, MDOT – Coloma TSC
Steve Tilly, Royalton Township
Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC
Charles Yarbrough, TCATA
Representative, Cornerstone Alliance

STAFF PRESENT: Rachael Tupica, SWMC

OTHERS PRESENT: John Chaddock, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
Chair Bob Judd called the meeting to order at 10:38 A.M.
2. **POLICY MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2006:**
Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Mickey Bennett: “TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2006 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING.” Motion carried.
3. **STAFF REPORT:**
 - New Transportation Planner was hired and started October 2nd. Her name is Kelly Getman-Dissette and will be at the November meeting where we will do introductions.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- 4 Training opportunities were announced: RoadSoft Training on October 24th; Context Sensitive Solutions for MPOS on November 9th; Designing Healthy Livable Communities Conference on November 13th; and Pavement Management Class on November 15th and 16th.
- Rachael suggested a change in the TwinCATS meeting date that could possibly start in January and was suggested to better align the monthly meeting with the Southwestern Michigan Commission's quarterly meeting. This will help reduce the problem of getting items resolved/edited at monthly meetings and receiving final review/approval by the SWMC. This will become increasingly important when we work through our Long Range Plan update process. TAC recommended exploring dates throughout the next month and possibly deciding at the next meeting.
- I-94BL Scoping Project was not reviewed but comments are welcome at the October 23, 2006 public input meeting.
- No FY07 UWP revision was needed, so no amendment was done.
- Local Jobs Today loan program was discussed. In this program, federal money for these projects are being loaned to agencies which have to repay with interest. For loans that are to be repaid with FY09 federal funds, agencies are taking a risk as there is no guarantee that there will be funding this year due to the 2009 rescissions. Agencies should realize that they are taking a gamble by advance constructing projects with repayment scheduled for FY09 as they may be stuck with the bill of the project. Motion by Walt Heritz, seconded by Darrell Harden: TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD THE STATE STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$102,000 IN FY09 AND MOVE SHIP STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 TO REPAY IN FY08. Motion approved.
- Motion by R.J. Burkholz, seconded by Walt Heritz: TO APPROVE MOVING THE 8TH STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$327,400 IN FY09 AND MOVING THE TERRITORIAL ROAD TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$161,280 IN FY08. Motion approved.
- The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the network that will be used for the Long Range Plan update and made an approval of the corrected network.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Sarah Koepke announced that a federal appropriations bill has not been passed. There is a continuing resolution that is 48/365ths of last year's budget and lasts until November 17th, 2006.
- Update on Harbor Shores – Park Mitigation Plan will be reviewed and voted on by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board on Wednesday October 18th. If plan is approved, construction on golf course could begin in FY07.
- MDOT is currently reviewing the vision that was developed through the I-94 BL project charrette/visioning for Benton Harbor and will have more of an update next month.

7. ADJOURNMENT: 11:39 AM

Next meeting is November 20, 2006 at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport at 10:30 AM

Compiled by
Rachael Tupica, Associate Planner
10/15/06