

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

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

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bob Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Fred Featherly, MDOT Multi-Modal Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville John Gast, Lake Charter Township Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Richard Marsh, City of Benton Harbor Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Louise Price, Benton Charter Township 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
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

**2. MINUTES:**

- *A motion was made by Burkholz, seconded by Panozzo, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 Policy meeting. Motion approved.*

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **Berrien County Transit Forum-** SWMPC coordinated a Berrien County transit forum on December 3, 2008. The forum was a success with over 65 people from Human service and transit agencies in Berrien County attending. Attendees went over transit scenarios and attempted to connect riders to their destinations.

- **NCST visit-** The NCST grant was awarded to SWMPC for transit coordination technology. NCST visitors came to the SW region to visit various transit agencies using the transit coordination technology.

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TIP amendments** – General Program Accounts (GPA) projects and Stevensville park and ride lot repaving
  - FY 2009 Local Bridge GPA with state funding at \$551,000;
  - FY 2009 Local Highway Safety GPA with federal cost at \$297,680, local cost at \$74,420, and total cost of \$372,100;
  - FY 2009 Local Railroad Crossing GPA with federal cost at \$154,000, state cost at \$66,000, and total project cost \$220,000; and
  - FY 2010 Stevensville park and ride lot repaving (JN 103292) with federal cost at \$64,662, state cost at \$14,338, and total project cost at \$79,000.

*A motion was made by Fenderbosch, supported by Panozzo, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add three GPA projects to FY 2009 and to add the Stevensville park and ride lot repaving to FY 2010. Motion approved.*

- **Officer Nominating Committee**

*Stauffer made a motion to Nominate Robert Judd as Chairman and Lee Scherwitz as Vice Chairman for a second term. Motion Approved.*

- **LRP Discussion**

- Community transportation issues- The previous LRP identified several community issues related to transportation that need to be considered whether each of them are still relevant enough to be listed in the new LRP and whether there are any other issues that should be discussed. Getman-Dissette went through each community issue in the previous LRP plan looking for committee comment. New issues identified were Harbor Shores and high speed rail.

Scherwitz mentioned that he has been in communication with Upton on the US 31 project. Scherwitz explained that the project needed to be pulled off of the back shelf to make it accessible to funding. Lenze recommended that we get the Kalamazoo region involved. They would need to move the project on their list if it is even going to be considered. Lenze Recommended that we write a letter and meet with Bobbi Welke of the southwest region. Judd said that he would meet with Welke and bring Wendy Chesser from Cornerstone alliance. Fenderbosch said that he would like to attend as well.

*A motion was made by Scherwitz, seconded by Panozzo to generate a resolution of support for the US 31 project. Motion Approved.*

- Projects to consider for air quality analysis- Getman-Dissette explained that we recently had a inter agency work group meeting (IAWG) to discuss projects that would need air quality analysis. Two projects in particular came up, I-94 BL and US-31. It was also mentioned at the IAWG meeting that Harbor Shores may have a few projects to consider for air quality analysis. Cook stated that Harbor Shores plans to extend Klock road from North Shore to Paw Paw with a ½ mile long two lane road. Also to extend Graham Ave. to the west to connect to Riverview. Both projects would be funded locally in 2010. Cook will gather more information on these projects and submit them to SWMPC for the TIP and air quality analysis. Getman-Dissette explained that we will have to keep an eye on St. Joseph Ave and the possible construction of a center turn lane from Red Arrow to the railroad tracks because of the new Meijer that may be constructed in the area.

- **TF2 Report**

The Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) was created in response to Public Act 221 of 2007. The purpose of the Task Force is to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan, review strategies for maximizing return on transportation investment, and evaluate the

potential of alternative strategies to replace or supplement transportation taxes and fees. A report containing the recommendations of the Task Force was submitted to the legislature in November and is available online:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623\\_31969-202856--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_31969-202856--,00.html)

Musson handed out Surface Transportation Funding Alternatives and went over a few of them for committee discussion. Lenze suggested that any committee member that felt strongly about any of these alternatives should contact their legislator.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

**7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Fenderbosch mentioned that there were a lot of accidents off of exit 27 coming down the hill.
- Kelly announced that she has accepted a job with the city of Niles and that her last day will be January 7, 2009.

**8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:50 a.m.**

- Next meeting is January 26, 2009 at 11:45 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planners, 12/19/08