

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee

March 16, 2009
 10:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Bob Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT Multi-Modal Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township 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 Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Nickolas Musson
OTHERS PRESENT:	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Panozzo, seconded by Bennett, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Policy meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Transportation Planner Update**

- Musson explained that SWMPC is interviewing candidates and expects that we will have a new transportation planner in June.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- **US 31 update –**

Musson explained to the committee that a letter was written to Lt. Governor Cherry asking for a meeting to discuss the completion of US-31 in southwest Michigan. The letter pointed out that US-31 was completely designed and engineered and only waits funding, the completion is critical to the north/south link and will provide several essential elements lacking from this region. Also that the designed I-94/US-31 interchange at Benton Harbor and South Bend will be a major economic development engine and that this project belongs at the top of the Governor's discretionary ARRA funding list.

SWMPC plans to get the completion of US-31 a priority for City of Promise and to influence other political figures with direct influence to the governor.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP amendments**

- Amend in FY 2009, I-94 BL (Main St) at I-94 BL and Broad Street traffic operation's project description from modernize signal, and left turn phase to only add left turn phase. In addition to the project description change the federal cost will be reduced.
- Amend in FY 2009, M-139 at M-139 and Fairplain traffic operation's project description from modernize signal, and left turn phase to only add left turn phase. In addition to the project description change the federal cost will be reduced.

A motion was made by Panozzo, supported by Lenze, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to change the project description to only include left turn phase and reduce the federal funding for the 2009 MDOT CMAQ projects I-94 BL and M-139.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Adding in FY 2009 for TACTA, two buses for a line haul route with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for a total cost of \$140,000.

A motion was made by Panozzo, supported by Scherwitz, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add to FY 2009 two buses for a line haul route for American Recovery act.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **ARRA Discussion –** Musson announced that stimulus funding estimates came in \$100,000 lower than expected. BCRC would like to replace Lincoln Avenue with micro surfacing projects in Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Townships.
 - Delete in FY 2009, Lincoln Avenue from John Beers to Maiden Lane with federal cost at \$455,340 because the project can't fully be funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.
 - Adding in FY 2009, adding micro surfacing projects in Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Township for a total cost of \$455,340. In Sodus Township Pipestone Road from Townline to East Nickerson Avenue, Nickerson Avenue from Pipestone Road to

West 2,114 feet, Sodus Parkway from Pipestone Road to Naomi Road. In Lincoln Township Red Arrow Highway from Village of Stevensville to Linco Road, and in Lake Township Red Arrow Highway from Linco Road to Bridgman.

A motion was made by Burkholz, supported by Bennett, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to delete the Lincoln Avenue project and add the Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Townships micro surfacing project.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Safety Project Support** – Musson explained to the committee the BCRC would like support on a safety project they are submitting. The project consists of adding a center turn lane on John Beers Road from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue. Musson explained that there have been pedestrian injuries because of the proximity of Lakeshore High School and Lakeshore Middle School, numerous crossing trips, and multiple parent drop offs and pick ups. The center turn lane would reduce much of the confusion in the area and give waiting motorist a storage and refuge area while waiting to enter school property.

A motion was made by Stauffer, supported by Panozzo, to support BCRC's Safety Project to add a center turn lane on John Beers Road from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **LRP Approval** – Musson announced that he had received comments from Federal Highway on February 25, 2009 and made some changes to the LRP. The recommended changes included reconstructing the Financial Analysis Section and adding more detail to the Environmental Mitigation Section and the Consultation Section. Musson handed out the updated sections to the committee. Musson asked if anyone from the public had a comment and then asked the committee if they had any additional comments. No one from the public and or committee added any more comments. Musson then explained that he is asking the committee to approve two resolutions, one for the entire LRP and the other for air conformity.

A motion was made by Scherwitz, supported by Burkholz to approve the resolutions to approve the entire LRP document.

MOTION APPROVED.

A motion was made by Panozzo, supported by Bennett to approve the resolutions to approve the air conformity analysis.

MOTION APPROVED.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- None

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:12 a.m.

- Next meeting is April 20, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planner, 3/28/09