

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee

April 20, 2009
 10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bob Burkholz, Berrien County Road Commission Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Commission
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Sarah Koepke, FHWA (ex officio) 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 Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport 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:	John Chaddock, SW Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Panozzo, seconded by Fenderbosch, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 Policy meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Asset Management for Elected Officials Workshop**
 - Musson announced that SWMPC hosted an Asset Management for Elected Officials workshop on Monday, March 30, 2009 at 1:00 to 4:00pm in Berrien Springs, Michigan

at the Berrien RESA Administration Center. We had a disappointing turnout with 11 no shows. The power point and handouts from the workshop will be on the SWMPC website for anyone who is interested.

- **Facilitator Workshop**

- Musson announced that he attended a facilitator workshop in Hastings Michigan on March 24-26. The workshop provided technical techniques and tips to become a better facilitator. Musson intends to incorporate what he learned at the workshop into the committee meetings to make them more interesting and exciting.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- **US 31 update**

- Musson explained to the committee that we have not received a response from Lt. Governor Cherry at this time. Egelhaaf has been working to get the project on Benton Harbor's city of promise agenda. The problem lies in the funding amount. Projects that the cities of promise are considering are around \$30,000 and they don't expect those to get funded because they are so high.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP amendments**

The City of Bridgman would like to amend the following FY 09 ARRA project.

- Amend in FY 2009, Lake Street's (JN 106004) project limits, length and description. Project limits changed from Red Arrow Highway to Pine Street to Red Arrow Highway to Church Street. Project length changed from .29 miles to .59 miles. Adding to project description the following: from Pine Street to Church Street the roadway would be milled 1.5 inches and resurface with 1.5 inches of HMA.

A motion was made by Burkholz, supported by Stauffer, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to change the project limits from Red Arrow Highway to Pine Street to Red Arrow Highway to Church Street, the project length from .29 miles to .59 miles, and add to the project description the following: from Pine Street to Church Street the roadway would be milled 1.5 inches and resurface with 1.5 inches of HMA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TCATA would like to add the following nine FY 09 Transit ARRA projects.

- Adding in FY 2009, additional bus funding for a total cost of \$50,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, to purchase four buses for replacement for a total cost of \$280,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, to purchase two buses for expansion of service for a total cost of \$140,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, to purchase a service vehicle for \$25,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, to purchase shop equipment for \$45,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, for associated capital for a total cost of \$100,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, for facility improvement (expansion of parking lot) for a total cost of \$70,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, to purchase exclusive bicycle equipment (bike racks) for the buses for a total cost of \$30,000.
- Adding in FY 2009, for bus shelters for a total cost of \$40,000.

A motion was made by Panozzo, supported by Burkholz, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the previously mentioned TCATA Transit ARRA projects.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MDOT would like to add the following ARRA project.

- Adding in FY 2009, I-94 from Federal Aid Urban Boundary (FAUB) limit to western junction of I-94 BL near Stevensville (exit 23) to install median cable barrier for a federal cost of \$1,223,000 (ARI) and a total cost of \$1,223,000.

A motion was made by Stauffer, supported by Bennett, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the previously mentioned MDOT ARRA project.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Pro Rata vs. Lump Sum**

- Musson passed around a handout with the five lump sum and pro rata methods on how the committee can spend their ARRA money and asked the committee to discuss and chose a method. The committee decided that lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100% was the best option because they didn't want to draw funds from other ARRA projects or already allocated STP funding.

A motion was made by Fenderbosch, supported by Bennett, to approve lump sum using a maximum amount ARRA funds not to exceed 100%.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Traffic Counting for 2009**

- Musson explained that the 2008 season was difficult for SWMPC because of new staff, number of count request remaining from the previous year and the restructuring of the traffic count database. The 2008 counts that were completed are located at the SWMPC website. SWMPC did not complete all request and apologizes for the inconvenience. If you are still interested in counts from previous years please re-submit a traffic count request and we will do our best complete that count.

- **2009 PASER Rating**

- Musson announced that Berrien County PASER is scheduled for July 27th to 31st. We are only rating 50% of the network at this time. I will be sending a letter out to those communities and townships that we will be rating to see if they would like to participate.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Musson handed out an announcement that SWMPC is looking for volunteers for a bicycle rodeo and possible locations. If there are any questions or suggestions please contact Suzann Flowers. Musson also handed out a RoadSoft training schedule for beginners if anyone was interested.
- Judd announced that he attended the Michigan Municipal League meeting where the discussion was on transportation funding for the future. Judd explained that 2009 and 2010 are funded, but beyond that needs a fix. We need to get out and talk to local representatives and the public. Here are two websites to get the word out. www.getmichiganmoving.com and www.drivingmi.org.

Judd also announced that he attended the Michigan Association Railroad Passenger meeting where the discussion was on high-speed rail. Judd explained that the change in Illinois governor would hopefully help in the change perception that Illinois has on high-speed rail and help with the bottleneck problem. Judd announced that a letter was written to Secretary LaHood to express the support and consensus for the passenger rail projects in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The map that was presented of the proposed routes bypassed the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor route. Judd felt that a letter should be written on behalf of TwinCATS and Cornerstone Alliance to the director of MDOT Kirk T. Steudle and our

local representatives contesting the map and requesting that we be invited to the table for further discussions.

A motion was made by Stauffer, supported by Bennett, to have SWMPC staff write a letter to Kirk T. Steudle and other local representatives asking for them to appeal the map and to invite TwinCATS to the table for further discussion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 a.m.

- Next meeting is May 18, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planner, 5/01/09