

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee Meeting
 December 21, 2009
 10:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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| POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT: | Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) 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 Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC |
| POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT: | Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township John Egelhaaf, SWMPC Ron Ferguson, Benton Charter Township John Gast, Lake Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Sarah Van Buren, FHWA (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Commission |
| SWMPC STAFF PRESENT: | Nickolas Musson Anna Rahtz |
| OTHERS PRESENT: | Ralph Heibutzki, Herald-Palladium Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township |

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:39 A.M.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Scherwitz, seconded by Burkholz, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **MTPA question regarding distribution of federal funds**
 - Rahtz announced that at the last Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) meeting, Marsha Small from MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) had asked if any local agencies had suggestions for how federal transportation funding could be reformulated and distributed better. Any suggestions will be passed on to Marsha Small.
 - Discussion was brought up about Michigan not receiving back the amount that it contributes for transportation projects. South explained that Michigan's return was raised to 97% because of SAFETEA-LU. The committee members raised the point that Michigan has higher transportation costs due to wear and tear on transportation infrastructure caused by harsh winter weather, as well as high

volumes of international freight traffic coming from Canada. It was asked how the federal government estimates the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) that it uses to distribute funding, and it was explained that freight commodity reports are used.

- It was also suggested that a higher level of subsidy is needed for Amtrak service.

- **2009 Traffic Counts**

- Musson gave a summary of the 2009 traffic count activities completed. Musson reported that traffic counts were taken from April 8th to December 2nd, 2009, and will be resumed in March or April 2010. In 2009, 250 traffic counts were submitted, and 191 were completed. 15 HPMS (Highway Performance Monitoring System) counts were also completed. A link to a portal of traffic count information is available on the SWMPC website. The portal has downloadable pdf documents for every traffic count.
- Due to a comment made by a NATS member regarding difficulty with understanding the traffic count data, Musson will be presenting an example of a traffic count report at the next meeting.
- Panozzo suggested that the presentation also be released to the media, in case they have an interest in accessing the traffic count data for news stories.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Regional Rail**

- Musson and Rahtz announced that they still hadn't heard about a meeting date for the WestTrain Collaborative, and that they had been unsuccessful in reaching Tim Hoeffner at MDOT Rail Division. Musson announced that they would ask Ray Lenze at MDOT to talk with Mr. Hoeffner.

- **Transportation Importance Survey**

- Rahtz announced that around 190 people had responded to the survey, plus the pending responses in the four boxes that were still out. The survey has been extended through the end of December, and the results will be published in January.
- Judd commented that almost 200 survey respondents would add a level of public participation to the process that hadn't existed before. Rahtz added that there were a lot of open-ended responses in the comment box on the survey, which she would include in the Appendix of the results report for the committee members to read.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TIP Amendments**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Updates
 - Musson went over a handout explaining the important dates in the statewide redistribution process for unused stimulus funds.
 1. **December 30, 2009** – All projects already approved in the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for ARRA funds must have their GI (grade inspection) packages submitted to MDOT.
 2. **January 8, 2010** – The remaining ARRA funding within the State of Michigan will be redistributed to the regions.
 3. **January 15, 2010** – GI packages must be submitted for any project using the redistributed funds.
 - Any project using the redistributed funds must have a total project cost of at least \$100,000. MPOs (metropolitan planning organizations) must have a prioritized list of projects ready and in the TIP to use the redistributed funds.
 - Musson explained that TwinCATS is still waiting to find out the bid savings from the Bridgman ARRA project on January 7th, and then it will be known how much ARRA money remains to be used within the MPO.
 - He also explained that the technical advisory committee had created a prioritized list of three projects to receive remaining ARRA funding, as follows.
 1. City of St. Joseph – resurfacing of Broad Street from Lake Boulevard to Wayne Street (except for State Street to Main Street). Total project cost is \$317,626. \$42,626 of ARRA funds, \$220,000 of federal STUL (surface transportation) funds, and \$55,000 of city match

are already committed to this project. If additional ARRA funds are granted for this project, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or the local match, which can then be used for other projects.

2. Berrien County Road Commission – resurfacing of Cleveland Avenue from Hilltop Road to Glenlord Road. \$194,754 of STUL funds and a \$43,246 county match are already committed for this project. If enough remaining ARRA funds are available, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or local match, which can then be used for other projects.
 3. City of Benton Harbor – resurfacing of Highland Avenue from Wall Street to Fair Avenue. Total project cost is \$250,000. \$194,000 of STUL funds and a \$56,000 city match are already committed for this project. If enough remaining ARRA funds are available, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or local match, which can then be used for other projects.
- *Motion by Fenderbosch, supported by Burkholz, to approve the above prioritized list of projects to use potential redistributed ARRA funds. Motion approved.*
 - **Twin Cities Area Transit Authority** – TCATA would like to make the following amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
 - Reduce the five ARRA projects from 2009 by a total amount of \$109,685. (This cannot technically be amended to the FY 2009 TIP, since fiscal year 2009 is over, but the money can still be transferred and added to FY 2010).
 - Add in FY 2010, the project named Mobile surveillance/security to purchase mobile surveillance/security equipment for a total federal cost of \$109,685 (ARRA).
 - Purvis explained that TCATA is buying security cameras for the buses to prevent/eliminate issues occurring on the buses, including conflict between passengers and drivers and cell phone use by drivers while driving.
 - *Motion by Panozzo, supported by Burkholz, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the addition of the above-named project to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.*
 - **Berrien County Road Commission** – BCRC would like to make the following amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
 - Deleted in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hollywood Rd to do base repair and resurface from M-63 to 300 feet south of Glenlord Road. Federal cost of \$382,600 (STUL) and local cost of \$97,400 (Cnty).
 - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hollywood Rd to minor base repair, single seal coat and single microsurface from M-63 to 400 feet south of Glenlord Road. Federal cost of \$114,590 (STUL) and Local cost of \$25,410 (Cnty).
 - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Cleveland Ave to minor base repair and single microsurface from Hilltop road to Glenlord. Federal cost of \$194,754 (STUL) and Local cost of \$43,246 (Cnty).
 - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Britain Ave to single seal coat from City of Benton Harbor to Paul Ave. Federal cost of \$73,665 (STUL) and Local cost of \$16,335 (Cnty).
 - *Motion by Fenderbosch, supported by Panozzo, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.*
 - **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program** – The following FY 2010 CMAQ projects are being added to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
 - Add in FY 2010 for SWMPC, project named Marketing/Public Outreach to improve public awareness of public transportation services in St. Joseph Benton Harbor Urbanized Area through advertising, promotion, and public information. Federal cost of \$4,800 (CM) and local cost of \$1,200 (TRAL). Van Buren mentioned that this funding cannot be transferred from FHWA to FTA until at least a six-month continuing resolution of the transportation legislation is passed.
 - Add in FY 2010 for SWMPC, project named Rideshare to provide the standard rideshare program. Federal cost of \$12,000.
 - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hilltop to construct a non-motorized path from Washington Avenue to Lakeshore Drive. Federal cost of \$358,400 (CM) and local cost \$89,600

(County).

- *Motion by Purvis, supported by Burkholz, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above additions to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.*

○ **City of St. Joseph** – The following FY 2010 project is being amended to the FY 2008-2011

Transportation Improvement Program:

- Amend in FY 2010 for the City of St. Joseph, project named Broad Street (JN 107685), to resurface from Lake Blvd to State Street & Main Street (I-94 BL) to 50 feet west of Wayne Street. \$42,626 of ARRA funding, \$23,000 of STUL federal funds, and \$8,800 of City funds was added to the project. The Federal cost changed from \$220,400 (STUL) to \$243,400, the local cost changed from \$56,700 to \$65,500 (City), and the total cost changed from \$277,100 to \$308,900.
- *Motion by Smith, supported by Panozzo, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment to the above-named project in the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

○ In addition, the following **administrative modifications** were made to the FY 2008-2011

Transportation Improvement Program:

- The following FY 2010 ARRA Modification in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway (JN 106904) to microsurface 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. Red Arrow Highway from Village of Stevensville to Linco Road, from Linco Road to Bridgman. Federal cost changed from \$657,680 (ARRA) to \$615,054 because of bid savings.
- Modification in FY 2010 for MDOT, project named I-94 for the Right of Way (ROW) phase to resurface from Sawyer Road to north city limit of Bridgman. The project name changed from I-94 to I-94 EB and the federal cost changed from \$103,950 to 135,000 (IM) and the State cost changed from \$11,550 to \$15,000.

● **CMAQ Call for Projects Meeting**

- Musson announced that the Call for Projects meeting for 2012-2014 CMAQ projects will be held on February 3, 2010 at 1:00pm at the Berrien County Road Commission. He stated that any new project ideas to reduce congestion and improve air quality are welcome at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Burkholz commented that Panozzo would be needed at an upcoming township meeting. He explained that a township had recently passed a formula developed by the State of Michigan for the distribution of funding.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:16 a.m.

- *Motion by Fenderbosch, supported by Scherwitz, to dismiss the meeting. Motion approved.*
- Next meeting is January 25, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson and Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planners, 12/22/09