

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
Policy Committee

**Minutes**

February 27, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department John Gast, Lake Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Erin Kercheval, MDOT Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Kim Gallagher, SWMPC

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Fenderbosch, with support by Woolcock, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Policy Committee Meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

### 4. STAFF REPORT:

#### ▪ Michigan Works Bridge Academy Presentation-Delayed

Flowers stated that as a means to reach out to the youth in the MPO planning area, she has scheduled a presentation with the Michigan Works JAG students and that the presentation has been delayed a week and will present information at the March 2012 TAC meeting.

#### ▪ Public Participation Plan Comments and Input Meetings

Flowers stated that the 45-day public comment period is coming to a close, that both public input meetings were held during the month of February, and that once the comment period ends, she will compile all public comments received and present them to the Committee.

#### ▪ Investments Reporting Tools Training (IRT)

Thomas again stressed the importance of the Asset Management trainings that have been on the SWMPC website and also brought up the topic of training for the new Investment Reporting Tool. Thomas will get the information out to the proper agencies, the county road commissions, cities, and villages, through an email to make sure that those agencies are aware of the changes occurring.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORT

#### ▪ Walk and Roll

The Walk and Roll Committee met before the TAC meeting and discussed the direction that they wanted to take for the implementation of the Walk and Roll Plan. Thomas reported to the members that he will develop policy language to incorporate into the next Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan; a top 10 list of priority projects will be developed; and more research will be done on the potential liability concerns regarding non-motorized facilities. The next Walk and Roll meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on March 19, 2012 before the next TwinCATS meetings.

#### ▪ Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)

RICC-Nothing to report the month of February.

TAG - The TAG group is no longer meeting and advocacy work is going to be done by individuals separately from the TAG group.

Scherwitz stated that since the group was specifically listed in the TwinCATS TAC By-laws that they will need to be noticed and amended per the specifications listed in the current TwinCATS TAC By-laws.

#### ▪ Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)

The reduced fare card system has processed over 360 applications and given out 365 reduced fare cards to riders to use on transit systems in southwest Michigan. This is a much easier system than carrying sensitive documents as people travel around the region. Gallagher added

that there will be a technical memo coming out very soon regarding the Berrien County Coordination Feasibility Study and that the MyWayThere.org website will be live by March. This website will allow people to access transportation options out of the county and link to other transportation connections such as the Indian Trails line.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**  
No report was given to the Policy Committee.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Legislative Updates**

Flowers and Thomas were asked to place the item on the agenda to keep Committee members better informed of what was happening at the state and federal level as it relates to transportation.

- Federal

Flowers and Thomas handed out a 2-page sheet explaining the updates for the Federal Transportation Bills along with a handout from the Association for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, comparing the House and Senate versions of the transportation bill. Discussion focused on provisions to eliminate existing small (under 200,000 populations) MPOs, as well funding implications for transit and the Transportation Enhancement program. Finally, Flowers and Thomas stated that the current consensus among experts is that neither the House nor the Senate transportation bill is likely to be passed in the near future.

Lenze pointed out that the current extension ends at the end of March and that would mean that if an extension or new legislation is not done that federal funding of projects would be in jeopardy. One member questioned what the justification would be to get rid of small MPOs and Lenze stated that there would be more funding to go around to the MPOs that were left. He also mentioned that there have been provisions about grandfathering in any small MPO but only new MPOs would be created if they had a population of 200,000.

- State

A number of bills have been proposed at the state level many of the bills are discussing the reinvention of Act 51, funding for roads such as using additional vehicle registration fees, an increase in the gas tax.

Scherwitz stated that members should help elected officials understand the local implications of the decision in Lansing. He encouraged people to press the key points and to stay connected and informed of what is happening in Lansing.

Merritt used a portion of the time to review a presentation that he heard from MDOT at a December 2011 meeting from the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissioners Conference. Merritt discussed the annual \$1.4 billion dollar shortfall that MDOT needs to improve the overall network in Michigan. He also discussed the current proposed legislation in Lansing that would reduce the number of Act 51 agencies in MI if they receive less than \$50,000. He discussed the impact that the lack of funds is having on the state infrastructure and the incorporation of a dashboard reporting tool for greater transparency for road agencies. He also explained the multiple discussions in Lansing

taking shape regarding restructuring P.A. 51, potential revenue streams that are being reviewed in multiple house and senate bills in Lansing.

▪ **Support letter for Harbor Authority**

Flowers explained that the NATS Policy Committee had asked her to draft a support letter for the Harbor Authority and that at the January meeting, John Gruchot had asked if the support letter could come from both the NATS and TwinCATS MPOs.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Fenderbosch to recommend the TwinCATS Policy Chair, Robert Judd, to sign the resolution of support for the St. Joseph River Harbor Authority. **Motion passed.**

▪ **TIP Amendments**

**New projects being proposed to the 2011-2014 TIP.**

- MDOT
  - 2012-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and ROW phase for a federal cost of \$400,000 and state cost of \$100,000; for a phase cost of \$500,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.
  - 2012-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and PE phase for a federal cost of \$90,000 and state cost of \$23,000; for a phase cost of \$113,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.
  - 2012-Project Region wide General Program Account, Program development scoping trunkline, EPE phase for a federal cost of \$409,000 and state cost of \$91,000 for a total project cost of \$500,000.
  - 2014-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and CON phase for a federal cost of \$990,000 and state cost of \$248,000 for a phase cost of \$1,238,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.
- Berrien County Transportation Authority
  - This project was discovered to not be an applicable project for the TwinCATS MPO and was removed from the TIP discussion.
- St. Joseph
  - 2012-Project Napier Avenue, JN 115066, traffic operations/safety at Langley Avenue intersection for a federal cost of \$235,000 and total project cost of \$235,000.
  - 2012-Project at CSX transportation, Inc, in the City of St. Joseph, JN 115434 for a federal cost of \$175,000 and a state cost of \$75,000 for a total project cost of \$250,000.
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission-Rideshare
  - 2012-Rideshare program, JN 115067, for a federal cost of \$12,000 and total project cost of \$12,000.
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
  - 2013-Expanded Hours, federal cost of \$85,000 and state cost of \$85,000 and total project costs for \$170,000.
  - 2013-New Freedom, federal cost of \$75,000 and total project cost of \$75,000.

- 2013-New line haul route, for a federal cost of \$108,000 and state cost of \$108,000 for a total project cost of \$216,000.
- 2013-Replacement buses total number 3, for a federal cost of \$139,000 and state cost of \$35,000 for a total project cost of \$174,000.
- Bridgman
  - 2012-At CSX Transportation, Inc. in City of Bridgman, JN 115432, for a federal cost of \$175,000 and state cost of \$75,000 for a total project cost of \$250,000.
- Berrien County Road Commission
  - 2014-Date Road, JN 115768, for a federal cost of \$750,000 and state cost of \$135,000 and local cost of \$45,000 for a total project cost of \$900,000.

Motion by Fenderbosch with support by Woolcock to add the new projects to the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP. Motion passed.

#### **Amendments for current TIP project modification**

- MDOT
  - Deleting in FY 2012, Project Name I-94, JN 110931, moving to FY 2015.
  - Adding to FY 2012 from the Illustrative List, Project name I-94 EB, JN 79871 federal cost change increase from \$15,165,000 to \$15,615,00; change in state cost increase from \$1,685,000 to \$1,735,000 for a total cost change increase from \$16,850,000 to \$17,350,000 and a total project cost change increase from \$17,950,000 to \$18,550,000.
  - Amending in FY 2012, Project name I-94, JN 109093, increase in federal cost from \$598,000 to \$912,00 and increase in state cost from \$66,000 to \$101,000 and a total cost increase from \$664,000 to \$1,013,000 and an increase in total project cost from \$749,000 to \$1,098,000.
  - Amending in FY 2011 to FY 2012, Project name I-94, JN 88086. No change in cost only a change in fiscal year.
  - Amending in FY 2012 to FY 2013, Project name I-94, JN 110779. No change in cost only change in fiscal year.
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
  - Amending in FY 2012, Project name Transit vehicle additions/replacements JN 115068, increase in federal cost from \$146,000 to \$162,000 and a decrease in state costs from \$37,000 to \$0, for a total cost increase from \$183,000 to \$202,000 for a total project increase from \$183,000 to \$202,000.
  - Amending in FY 2013, Project name Transit operations, a decrease in federal cost from \$710,000 to \$700,000 and an increase in state costs from \$610,000 to \$652,000 and a decrease in local costs from \$480,000 to \$448,000 and no change in total project cost.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Fenderbosch to approve the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP amendments. **Motion passed.**

#### **Amendments for non-FTA/FHWA projects**

- Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
  - 2012

- Land Acquisition for Rwy 32 RPZ- Phase I (\$93k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
- PE for Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA Compliance (\$57k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
- 2013
  - Land Acquisition for Rwy 14/32 approach- Phase II (\$93k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
  - Design Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA compliance (\$57k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
  - Tree Clearing/Pruning Rwy 14/32 (Cost TBD)
- 2014
  - Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA compliance (370' south) and Rehabilitate existing runway surface & lighting (\$1,625k federal, \$43k state, \$43k local)

Motion by Merritt with support by Seely to add the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport projects to the TwinCATS 2011-2014 TIP. **Motion passed.**

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:33 a.m.** Motion by Fenderbosch with support from Woolcock to end the meeting. **Motion passed.**

- Next meeting is **March 19, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

*Compiled by Trevor Thomas and Suzann Flowers, February 2012*