

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

May 21, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Fenderbosch with support by Merritt, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2012. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received for the May 2012 meeting.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **NADO Conference**

Flowers attended the National Association of Development Organizations annual conference in Burlington, VT. Flowers indicated the importance that the conference placed on safety, freight, and coordination of transportation within a region. The conference was designed for rural transportation agencies and small MPO regions.

- **Freight Workshop**

Flowers also attended a freight workshop hosted by MDOT. US DOT has been compiling data on various ground freight carriers and presented aggregate data that has been collected and can be used by MPOs to better understand freight transportation in Michigan.

- **Rural Task Force Training**

Flowers also attended a training session to wrap up the Rural Task Force season. This was an opportunity to give comments and feedback to MDOT on the overall process and to ensure that the process continues to move smoothly as the regions take over the administrative process on behalf of MDOT. Regions and Road Commission agencies were also able to provide comment on the proposed framework for the region.

- **Southwest Michigan Safety Forum**

Thomas reported on the Traffic Safety forum that has been reformed and will be meeting quarterly to provide information on key issues to traffic safety officials from around the region. The first of these meetings was held in April and focused on non-motorized and pedestrian safety. Thomas presented on information pertinent to the TwinCATS Walk and Roll group along with what types of activities are happening in the region. In addition, there were presentations made by regional law enforcement and one that focused on the MDOT Traffic Safety Database. This database shows a tremendous amount of information in regards to crashes and various other types of information that could be very useful to the MPO. If people have more questions they can contact Thomas. The next Traffic Safety meeting will be their legislative meeting in August.

- **Annual UWP**

Flowers discussed the annual work program and asked the Committee members if they had specific projects or tasks that they wanted the MPO staff to be working on for the next fiscal year. At the June meeting, the full UWP will be placed on the agenda for formal action to take place by the members.

- **Long Range Plan Goals**

Flowers discussed the development of the Long Range Plan goals and she asked if Committee members have comments to please send them to her or Thomas. The next version that members will see will include objectives and performance measures, which will be an indication of how the MPO measures their success.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

▪ **Walk and Roll**

Thomas presented information on the draft Complete Streets policy that the subcommittee has been working on. Thomas explained that since there was a small group of members today, that we should postpone a formal vote on the policy until June, that would also give members more time to review the policy with a couple of changes that were proposed at the subcommittee meeting for May. Thomas continued by explaining that a Top 10 list of projects is still being worked through the subcommittee at this time.

- Thomas reported on the concern that Zebell expressed over Exemption Number 7 in the Complete Streets Policy during the TAC meeting. Zebell gave the example of the need for road projects in conjunction with sewer work, saying that projects such as these might be very important and time sensitive, and that Complete Streets requirements, even if reasonably priced and useful, might still have the effect of derailed needed road work. He wanted to make sure that the Complete Streets Policy has an opportunity to address this.
- Judd and Fenderbosch inquired into the ability for the Complete Streets Policy to motivate the completion of important projects such as Hilltop Road, and to provide authority or motivation to take necessary steps to overcome resistance to such projects. Thomas stated that the MPO Complete Streets Policy would be aimed more at ensuring that the projects that do move forward and less about addressing specific problem areas. For the latter goal, Thomas said that the Top Ten List of non-motorized project locations would be more relevant. Merritt also added the importance of focusing efforts on projects where results are achievable.

▪ **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**

On April 23rd, members of the Berrien RICC met with Representative Pscholka to discuss a variety of disability-related issues. One of these is transportation. RICC members expressed difficulty with using current systems, particularly related to service area and frequency. Representative Pscholka emphasized the need for communities to work to improve their own service and supported attendee comments about the greater efficiency and service that could be obtained through better coordinating the four transit systems available.

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

Flowers read an email that Christina Pippen supplied for the TwinCATS Committee members. “Over the past several years the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission has conducted [two studies](#) regarding public transit in Berrien County. From those studies support was expressed for creating a more seamless transit system that delivered a reasonable level of service to every municipality in the county and addressed local transit issues and needs. One of the agreed upon methods for creating such a system was to investigate the feasibility of coordination and or consolidating all of the four public transit services in Berrien County.

Since that time the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission partnered with the various municipalities served by the four public transit systems to secure funding and hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for coordination and consolidation of public transit in Berrien County. Last June, after a lengthy procurement process KFH Consultants were hired to conduct this feasibility study.

KFH consultants have worked with the four public transit providers, various human service agencies, and municipal officials to gather a wide range of information which is documented in

the first of three technical memorandums. On **Wednesday, June 6th**, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Michigan Works, KFH consultants will present an overview from both an operational and financial perspective. In addition they will lead a discussion about opportunities for coordination and consolidation that could improve services for customers and ensure the effective use of every dollar available for providing transit.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
There was no update regarding this Committee.

6. Project Updates

Thomas stated that if people wanted to review the updates to the projects that they could review the minutes when they were completed and on the website.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update
2010	NA			All projects have been completed	12-Mar
2011		Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	May 2012 Update: June construction	May-12
		Berrien County Road Commission	Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal	May 2012 Update: 99% complete	May-12
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	Lincoln Ave, Lincor Rd to Maiden Ln	Completed	12-Mar
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	Pipestone Rd and River Rd	Completed	12-Mar
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	Napier Ave. 200' section west of I-94	Completed	12-Mar
	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	let, construction April-Aug 2012	12-Mar
	88086	MDOT	I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work	May 2012 Update: Bridge is open for traffic-complete in August	May-12
	112949	MDOT	I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work	PE phase is complete, add to 5 year plan for 2017 construction May 2012 Update: Phase completed	May-12
	113014	MDOT	M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave	June-September construction 2012	12-Mar

	NA	MDOT	I-94BL (Main Street)- resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale	Completed	12-Mar
	109704	MDOT	I-94 BL Glenlord Rd to Pearl St	Completed	12-Mar
	108174	MDOT	I-94 WB over Lake St, Galion River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN	Completed	12-Mar
	109087	MDOT	I-196 under Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar
	NA	St. Joseph	S State St and Kingsley Ave	done and advanced- construct repayment done	12-Mar
	NA	Village of Stevensville	John Beers Rd- reconstruction and- sidewalk	Completed	12-Mar
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	will be located at MI Works and at the Triangle Park near the old Mercy Center-purchased, working with Abonmarche on where to set them-the City now wants cameras near the bus shelters and they would cost about \$10,000 a piece. Looking for other funding to purchase cameras.	12-Mar
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012	12-Feb
2012	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	May 2012 Update: Construction July 2012, bid savings of \$18,000; Advance construct dollars	May-12
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	May 2012 Update: April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap	May-12
	107686	St. Joseph	South State St. from- Granada Ave to- Wallace Ave	advanced construct- reimbursement done	
		Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	Move to 2013	12-Mar
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	final plans April 27, July let	12-Apr
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	May 2012 Update: Construction July 23; \$10,000 bid savings	May-12
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	12-Mar
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	All carpool lots are on hold due to funding issues; May 2012 Update: Schedule for	May-12

				October letting	
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase	12-Mar
	110931	MDOT	I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge)	design moved back to 2013	12-Mar
	109093	MDOT	I-94 under M-63 (bridge)	May-July 2012, let in March	12-Mar
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	No update	12-Mar
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	No update	12-Mar
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar

7. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business on the agenda for the month of May.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

▪ Brad Sharlow-MDOT

Lenze asked that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the future socio-economic data and then bring that information to the full committee for review. Flowers will be in touch with members to set up that meeting in the next couple of weeks. This will be on future agendas.

▪ TIP Amendments

- MDOT (*all TIP amendments details can be found in the handout for the May 2012 meeting*).

▪ 2012

- Adding GPA for CON phase, highway safety trunkline for federal cost of 22,000.
- Adding GPA for EPE phase, program development scoping trunkline for federal cost of 409,000; state cost of 91,000 for total cost of 500,000.
- Amending JN 103293 CON phase, roadside facility, there is a change in federal fund source only from ST funds to STUT funds
- Amending JN 109707, CON phase, traffic operations on I-94 and I-196, change in project limits.
- Amending JN113585, PE phase, restore and rehabilitate, change in project limits, and change in federal funds from 1.8 million to 1.575 million, change in state funds from 200,000 to 175,000, change in total phase cost from 2 million to 1.75 million and change in total project cost from 15 million to 14.75 million.

- Deleting JN 114962 ROW, PE total project cost of 1.85 million. This project will be asked to be placed back in the TIP after MDOT JN 115206 is completed.
- 2013
 - Amending JN 113585 ROW phase, resurface project, change in project limits.
 - Adding JN 115751 PE phase, resurface on I-94, federal cost 634,000, state cost of 70,000 for a total project cost of 705,000, total project cost of 28 million
- 2014
 - Deleting JN 114962, CON phase, total project cost of 1.85 million. This project will be asked to be placed back in the TIP after MDOT JN 115206 is completed.
- 2015 (*The current TIP does not go out to FY 2015 but MDOT wanted to make sure that this project was given notice*).
 - *Adding JN113585, CON phase, restore and rehabilitate on I-94, federal cost of 11.655 million, state cost of 1.295 million for a total phase cost of 12.950 million and total project cost of 14.750 million.*

A motion was made by Stauffer with support by Purvis to approve the above listed 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

▪ **TwinCATS Walk and Roll Complete Streets Policy**

At the TwinCATS Walk and Roll subcommittee meeting held prior to the TAC and Policy Committee, there were several changes proposed to the policy, and it was decided to wait until June 2012 to vote on its approval.

▪ **Legislative Updates**

○ **Federal**

Flowers stated that the House and Senate are working through a Committee to hash out the details of the transportation bill.

○ **State**

Flowers also stated that members of the Michigan legislature were getting ready to go on summer recess and that there were no updates to mention.

Lenze was asked if he had any updates pertaining to the Michigan's Complete Streets Policy implementation. He stated that a presentation from the Complete Streets Advisory Committee has been made to the Transportation Commission, which is tasked determining how MDOT will implement state Complete Streets policy, with this determination due by August, 2012.

Merritt added that the Legislature is asking more of Road Commission agencies in the form of mandates with no additional funding for tasks such as having a road safety plan, and if these items are not completed, that MTF funds will be withheld from the agency. He also added that the Governor wants to add items such as the dashboard to promote best practices and that the Road Commission has been doing this to better educate the public on the state of transportation assets in the county. Merritt also addressed how we as an MPO need to present information to our elected officials.

Stauffer asked if there was an advocacy group for county road commissions, and Merritt stated that the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) does this type of work. Stauffer added that the MML, MTA, and CRAM should be working together on these types of issues.

Merritt also discussed SB 351, which would shift, not increase, a portion of the sales tax away from schools to be spent on roads. The money would go directly to MDOT for trunkline funding and any funds left over would then go to local agencies. He stated that this shifting of funds would allow MDOT to match federal funding requirements.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Flowers presented a handout that looked at the 2010 and 2011 state Asset Management reports and how The Asset Management Council is projecting the deterioration of roadways throughout the state. She stated that it is an easy and quick report to read with a lot of graphics that show the condition of roads and bridges in the state. Flowers encouraged people to view the report, saying that it makes a good case for how important additional funding is for the county and state.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:31a.m.

Motion by Judd with support from Stauffer to end the meeting. **Motion passed.**

- Next meeting is **scheduled for June 18, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by Trevor Thomas and Suzann Flowers, May 2012