

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Policy Committee Meeting
 July 19, 2010
 10:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Izzy DiMaggio, Berrien County Road Commission Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gast, Lake Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Ron Carter, City of Benton Harbor John Egelhaaf, SWMPC Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Planning Commission
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by DiMaggio, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference**
 - Thomas gave a summary of the topics that the staff had learned about at the conference, and mentioned that the powerpoints/notes can be made available to anyone who is interested in any of the particular sessions.
 - There was discussion about what light rail is and what it connects, in relation to several corridor studies in Southeast Michigan that were discussed at the conference.
 - Several committee members noted that the bulk of the conference material seemed to focus on Southeast Michigan. Rahtz and Tupica noted that this likely because the conference host was Lansing and several of the conference planning committee members were from Southeast

Michigan, and they were attempting to showcase the progressive planning projects they were working on.

- **PASER Rating update**

- Thomas mentioned that the Cass County road rating is completed; the Berrien County rating will be conducted July 20-23, and the Van Buren County rating will be conducted July 26-30. The ratings are being done on the federal aid eligible roads in the northern half of each county.
- Discussion was brought up about what PASER rating is, how often it is done, and who does it. PASER stands for Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating. A representative from MDOT – Coloma TSC, SWMPC, and each county participate in the rating. They rate all of the federal aid eligible roads in each county during a two-year cycle. SWMPC can also rate locally owned roads for communities. The data goes onto the SWMPC website and is submitted to the Michigan Asset Management Council for the statewide asset management plan.
- It was also noted that SWMPC can conduct asset management plans for communities who are interested, like it did for Weesaw Township. The results of road ratings and the trends over time are used to persuade elected officials to invest in the preservation of infrastructure.

- **TIP & UWP submission**

- Rahtz announced that the TIP had been submitted to MDOT and the UWP would be submitted by August 2nd. She stated that both final documents will be available soon on the Transportation Documents page under the TwinCATS section of the SWMPC website. She mentioned that the only major change had been to add a more detailed financial plan section with revenue projections in the TIP.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Walk and Roll update**

- Thomas stated that he had updated the maps and that Suzann Flowers is working on drafting the list of priority projects. Once it is completed, the TwinCATS members will be asked for input and a public input session will be scheduled, most likely in September.

- **Benton Harbor Local Match Update**

- Rahtz stated that BH City Manager had told SWMPC staff that TwinCATS can expect to receive a check from the City for its encumbered membership dues for TwinCATS in the next couple of weeks.
- It was asked whether the City is paying the entire amount in full or in payments, and Rahtz responded that she was not sure but would let the committee know at the next meeting.

- **Brown School Road Nation Functional Classification Change**

- Rahtz announced that the reclassification of Brown School Road from an urban local to an urban collector had been approved by the State. She added that this now means that the road is federal aid eligible. The Village of Shoreham's reconstruction project is second on the Illustrative list of projects.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TIP Amendments (BCRC)**

- **Berrien County Road Commission - STUL 2010 Bid Savings**

- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Hollywood Rd for resurfacing of Hollywood Rd from M-63 to 300 feet south of Glenlord Rd. Federal cost (STUL) changed from \$114,590 to \$98,100. County cost changed from \$25,410 to \$21,753. Total cost changed from \$140,000 to \$119,853. MDOT job number 109478. Comments: Bid savings of \$16,490 (STUL).
- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Cleveland Ave for resurfacing of Cleveland Ave from Hilltop Rd to Glenlord Rd. Federal cost (STUL) changed from \$260,115 to \$195,900. County cost changed from \$57,680 to \$43,440. Total cost changed from \$317,795 to \$239,340. MDOT job number 109479. Comments: Bid savings of \$64,215 (STUL).
- *Motion by DiMaggio, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the above two amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **Berrien County Road Commission - CMAQ 2010**

- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Hilltop Rd for new route/structure from Washington Ave to Lakeshore Dr. Federal cost (CM) changed from \$326,400 to \$375,000. County cost changed from

\$81,600 to \$0. Total cost changed from \$408,000 to \$375,000. MDOT job number 106019. Comments: Converting to 100% federal funds using remaining FY 2010 Berrien County CMAQ money.

- Rahtz explained that the federal cost is now the same as the total cost because there was remaining CMAQ funding in Berrien County for FY 2010, and agencies are now permitted to use CMAQ funding as 100 percent federal.
- *Motion by Seely, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the above amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- The St. Joseph Charter Township representatives noted that the City and Township are sharing the engineering costs; the CMAQ grant is funding 100 percent of the construction costs.
- It was asked how the Hilltop Road project is progressing, and it was responded that Ron Griffin helped to obtain the consent of all property owners, and now grade meetings are being held and things are progressing quickly.

○ **Berrien County Road Commission – STUL 2010 Remaining Funds**

- Add in FY 2010, the project named Napier Ave for restoring and rehabilitating 200-foot section of Napier Ave west of I-94 in Benton Charter Township. Length is .05 miles. Federal cost (STUL) is \$61,000, county cost is \$50,000, and total cost is \$111,000. Project description is: "remove and replace failed concrete pavement slabs for approximately 200 feet."
- Rahtz explained that the Technical Advisory Committee had agreed that this project was the best solution for using the remaining \$61,000 of federal Surface Transportation funding. It was noted that it will be difficult to work out the road closing with all of the truck traffic, and that Gary Soper at the Road Commission has been working closely with the Flying J.
- *Motion by Fenderbosch, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the above amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

● **Draft Public Participation Plan**

- Rahtz stated that the SWMPC Transportation Public Participation Plan has to be revised every four years, and has to be revised in FY 2010. After the approval of the draft, there is a 45-day public comment period, and once all public comments are taken into consideration, the final draft can be approved by the TAC and Policy committee, and then it goes to the full SWMPC.
- Rahtz asked if everyone had read the document and if there were any questions about it, and stated that the staff were hoping for a motion to approve the draft document.
- Rahtz noted that the only major changes from the 2006 version were the addition of language describing the Transit-Human Services Coordination Council, and the addition of more techniques that could be used for public participation.
- *Motion by DiMaggio, seconded by Seely, to approve the draft of the Transportation Public Participation Plan. Motion approved.*

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Panozzo noted that she had seen non-motorized paths being constructed in Niles. Woolcock added that the City of Niles has an extensive trails plan, and that they are planning to connect to South Bend, IN with a trail. Discussion was raised about whether the trails groups in the City of Niles and in the City of Buchanan are coordinating with one another.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Fenderbosch noted that he had read in the newspaper that the City of New Buffalo had been awarded a grant from the Pokagon Fund for downtown redevelopment.
- Fenderbosch asked Woolcock what MDOT is doing on US-12 at I-94, and she responded that they are doing concrete patching.
- Stauffer stated that he and Ron Griffin had attended the nine-county trails plan wrap-up meeting last week. He asked if the Walk and Roll plan is tied to the nine-county plan. Rahtz responded that the Walk and Roll plan is derived from the Berrien County portion of the nine-county plan but is adding more detail, such as sidewalks, right-of-way details, potential costs of projects, and prioritization of projects.
- Judd announced that the Michigan Municipal League is planning a series of forums to discuss regional rail

across the state, and that the City of St. Joseph is planning to participate. The City is writing a letter about Amtrak to send to MDOT by August 6th. Fenderbosch suggested that he look back at the letters that had been sent by TwinCATS.

- Rahtz asked if this is a different rail forum series than the one being planned by the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers and the Michigan Environmental Council, and Judd responded that he thought it was different. Rahtz stated that the MARRP-sponsored forum would be held in either St. Joseph or Benton Harbor on September 8th or 9th, and that SWMPC staff are planning to help coordinate it.
- Woolcock noted that the Silver Beach Amtrak station does not have an accessible restroom, and that Amtrak passengers have limited space left outside of the pizza restaurant space. She asked if the City owns the building. Judd responded that it does, and that he plans on meeting with MARRP and Silver Beach Pizza about potential solutions for improving the Amtrak depot. He noted that both the pizza restaurant and the Amtrak station have increasing foot traffic.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:08 A.M.

- Next meeting is August 16, 2010 at 10:30 A.M.