

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*Technical Advisory Committee*

April 21, 2008  
 9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning Katie Montoya, Berrien Co. Planning Dept Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>TECHNICAL MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville John Gast, Lake Charter Township Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) Charles Kormanik, Village of Shoreham Steward McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Dennis Schuh (Berrien County Public Transportation) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township, TAC Chairman Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Donna Wittl, MDOT Planning Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Tim Zebell called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Chairman Gary Soper was absent.

**2. MINUTES OF February 25, 2008:**

- Motion by Berndt, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

• **Asset Management Workshop/Conference**

Kelly Getman-Dissette and Nickolas Musson attended the asset management conference on April 3, 2008 in Lansing. The focus of the conference was to show how other agencies are using asset management to their benefit. It is an important conference that explained many of the prevalent issues affecting us today. The next time that the conference comes around SWMPC will inform the committee of its location and time. Musson attended the asset

management workshop on April 2, 2008 in Lansing. The workshop was very informative and explained the reasoning behind asset management. The workshop was great because it brought together planners, engineers and elected officials to get their individual take on asset management. Musson highly recommends that the committee members attend the next time it is offered.

- **Traffic Counting Begins**

Traffic counting season has begun, and SWMPC has new traffic counting staff. David and Patricia Bly, along with Mark Gallagher, will be out taking counts in 2008. Committee members with requests should go to the SWMPC website to submit them. Getman-Dissette and Musson will meet John Egelhaaf to discuss whether or not requests from last year have to be resubmitted. Scherwitz stated that the Airport has traffic counting equipment if SWMPC needs to use it.

4. **PROJECT UPDATES:**

- **Washington Ave.** – Project will be let May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Hilltop** – Project is under design.
- **Historic Arts District** – Project is under construction and will be open to traffic by mid May.
- **St. Joseph Safety Project** – Zebell noted that the safety project near Lakeland Hospital was missing from the TIP. The project will improve the hospital entrance by creating a dedicated turn lane on Napier. The project will begin in July and finish before Labor Day. *A motion by was made by Lenze, supported by Latham, to recommend approval of the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the City of St. Joseph's FY 2008 safety project at Napier and Langley, with a federal cost of \$126,700 and a total project cost of \$212,000. Motion approved.*
- **MDOT** – Lenze explained that due to the uncertainty of FY 2009 funding, it was important to complete designs for 2009 projects as early as possible so that grade inspections can be scheduled early in the 2009 fiscal year.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Letter to Fred Upton**

Musson completed a draft letter to Congressman Fred Upton regarding TwinCATS support of the Congressman's opposition to the new EPA rulings on ozone attainment standards. The draft letter has been and sent to Upton's staff for comments. Committee members offered suggestions for minor edits. *A motion by was made by Scherwitz, supported by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the submittal of the letter of support to Congressman Fred Upton, after comments from Upton's office and committee members have been addressed. Motion approved.*

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **M-139 TIP amendment**

The M-139 at Nickerson CMAQ project has doubled in cost, and Darrell Harden requested that the TIP be amended to reflect the change. *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Montoya, to recommend approval of the amendment of the FY 2008-2011 TIP to increase the federal portion of the cost of the M-139 at Nickerson CMAQ project (FY 2008, JN 102537) from \$85,000 to \$178,571.97. Motion approved.*

- **Future year SE data**

Musson explained that the future year socioeconomic data for each agency is located on the SWMPC website. Because SWMPC is still receiving community input, the data is not yet ready for approval. Musson requested that committee members take one last look at the data tables and maps and offer comments. He explained that some agencies have made comments on the maps and sent it in, while others have simply sent an email. It is important that all of the affected agencies comment on the data projections. The deadline for input is May 9, 2008.

- **LRP goals subcommittee meeting**

A subcommittee has formed to review the goals and objectives for the long range plan update. Gary Soper, Larry Merritt, Dick Stauffer, Bob Judd, and Ray Lenze have agreed to serve on the committee. The first meeting is April 29, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the SWMPC office.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Lenze brought state transportation maps for everyone.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:12 a.m.**

- Next meeting is May 19, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 4/24/08