

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Technical Advisory Committee

May 19, 2008
 9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor John Chaddock, SW Michigan Regional Airport Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning Katie Montoya, Berrien Co. Planning Dept Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township, TAC Chairman Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township
TECHNICAL MEMBERS ABSENT:	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 Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Dennis Schuh (Berrien County Public Transportation) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Donna Wittl, MDOT Planning Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
OTHERS PRESENT:	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Soper called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M.

2. MINUTES OF April 21, 2008:

- Motion by Berndt, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Regional Transit Technology** – Getman-Dissette announced that SWMPC has been working with local transit agencies to select new software to help increase efficiency and improve coordination. The effort began in Van Buren County with a grant from the Center for Regional Excellence and eventually expanded to include 9 transit agencies in 6 counties. The agencies met several times to preview software solutions. After a request-for-proposal process, all of the agencies agreed that the preferred product was Dial-A-Ride Online, a web based software offered by a

company located in the U.K. The agencies involved are now in the process of finalizing contracts with Dial-A-Ride, and it is estimated that staff members will begin training in June. SWMPC received a \$90,000 grant from the National Center for Senior Transportation, of which approximately \$72,500 will help the local agencies purchase the software.

Purvis noted that he is looking forward to using the software, especially since ridership has increased. Cook mentioned that Ann Arbor transit buses are equipped with automatic vehicle locators which allow customers to track the buses online.

4. PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Washington Ave.** – Has been let and the pre construction meeting will be on Thursday May 22, 2008.
- **Colfax and May, and Territorial and Fair** – Colfax and May is held up due to ADA requirements. The stoplight was removed from Territorial and Fair.
- **Hilltop** – Soil boring was scheduled for May 20, and Berndt will submit for grade inspection in a few weeks.
- **Historic Arts District** – Paving begins May 19, and brick and tree work will occur in the coming weeks.
- **Ship Street** – Open to traffic.
- **Napier** – Project will begin after July 19th (after Venetian Festival) and finish by Labor Day.
- **TCATA** – Purvis reported that ridership was up by about 10 percent.
- **Discussion on concrete mix** – Cook reported experiencing difficulty with the new asphalt mixes. There was consensus among everyone that the current mix of 13A contains too much soft stone and is affecting the road quality. Lenze suggested contacting a South to schedule a meeting to discuss this issue. Zebell will organize this meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

• **LRP goals and objectives I-III**

A subcommittee met twice to review goals and objectives for the long range plan. Based upon the goals and objectives from the previous plan, a new set of goals and objectives has been prepared. Changes were made to clarify intent of the objective, to ensure that action steps were “accomplishable,” and to remove references to specific projects. Goals I-III were reviewed in order to obtain comments from the TAC. Lenze suggested that the introduction should make it clear that the goals are listed in no particular order. Goals IV-VI will be reviewed next month.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Future year SE data** – Musson explained that the deadline for input on the future year SE data had passed, and the data must be submitted to Sharlow. Committee members were offered one last opportunity to comment on the numbers. Soper noted that he would double check to be sure that Benton Township had reported all of its information. *A motion was made by Montoya, supported by Cook, to recommend approval of the future year SE data, pending clarification of data from Benton Charter Township. Motion approved.*

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Zebell will be applying for a \$450,000 bridge grant for preventative maintenance on the Park Street Bridge in St. Joseph. The application is due June 2nd. Staff will compose a letter of support and submit it to Zebell prior to the June 2nd deadline.
- Berndt reported that asphalt prices were expected to increase \$70 per ton beginning July 1.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 a.m.

- Next meeting is June 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson/Kelly Getman-Dissette, Transportation Planners, 5/21/08