

Minutes

Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Technical Advisory Committee

October 16, 2006

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission
Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor
Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region
Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio)
Charles Kormanik, Village of Shoreham
Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning
Catherine McIlwee, Berrien Co. Planning Dept.
Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning

TECHNICAL MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman
Wilbert Brown, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville
John Gast, Lake Charter Township
Elaine Luo, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services
Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township
Andy Minyo, Federal Transit Administration
Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport
Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township
Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township, TAC Chairman
Paul South, MDOT/TSC, Coloma
Donna Wittl, MDOT Planning
Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC
Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
Representative, Cornerstone Alliance

STAFF PRESENT: Rachael Tupica, SWMC

OTHERS: John Chaddock, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
Derek Perry, City of St. Joseph
Louise Price, Benton Township

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Alternate Chair Brian Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

2. MINUTES OF July 17, 2006:

Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Ray Lenze: "TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2006 TAC MEETING." The motion was approved.

3. STAFF REPORT:

- New Transportation Planner was hired and started October 2nd. Her name is Kelly Getman-Dissette and will be at the November meeting where we will do introductions.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- 4 Training opportunities were announced: RoadSoft Training on October 24th; Context Sensitive Solutions for MPOS on November 9th; Designing Healthy Livable Communities Conference on November 13th; and Pavement Management Class on November 15th and 16th.
- Rachael suggested a change in the TwinCATS meeting date that could possibly start in January and was suggested to better align the monthly meeting with the Southwestern Michigan Commission's quarterly meeting. This will help reduce the problem of getting items resolved/edited at monthly meetings and receiving final review/approval by the SWMC. This will become increasingly important when we work through our Long Range Plan update process. Dates will be explored and possibly agreed upon at the next meeting.
- I-94BL Scoping Project was not reviewed but comments are welcome at the October 23, 2006 public input meeting. Charlie Kormanik stated that in the Scoping Report minutes it states that the Village of Shoreham made comments, but no representative was present to make any comments. The Village is in favor of lowering the speed limit.
- No FY07 UWP Revision was needed, so no amendment was done.
- Local Jobs Today loan program was discussed. In this program, federal money for these projects are being loaned to agencies which have to repay with interest. For loans that are to be repaid with FY09 federal funds, agencies are taking a risk as there is no guarantee that there will be funding this year due to the 2009 rescissions. Agencies should realize that they are taking a gamble by advance constructing projects with repayment scheduled for FY09 as they may be stuck with the bill of the project. Motion by Chris Cook, seconded by Kate McIlwee: TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD THE STATE STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$102,000 IN FY09 AND MOVE SHIP STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 TO REPAY IN FY08. Motion approved.
- Motion by Ray Lenze, seconded by Kate McIlwee: TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE TO APPROVE MOVING THE 8TH STREET PROJECT TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$327,400 IN FY09 AND MOVING THE TERRITORIAL ROAD TO A/C IN FY07 WITH REPAYMENT OF \$161,280 IN FY08.
- Brad Sharlow, our travel demand modeler, presented the corrections of items in the network identified at the August TAC working session. Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Chris Cook: TO APPROVE THE NETWORK WITH CORRECTIONS MADE TODAY." Motion approved

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Sarah Koepke announced that a federal appropriations bill has not been passed. There is a continuing resolution that is 48/365ths of last year's budget and lasts until November 17th, 2006.
- Update on Harbor Shores – Park Mitigation Plan will be reviewed and voted on by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board on Wednesday October 18th. If plan is approved, construction on golf course could begin in FY07.

7. ADJOURNMENT: 10:26 am

Next meeting is November 20, 2006 at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport at 9:30 AM

Compiled by
Rachael Tupica, Transportation Planner
10/15/2006