

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
TAC Meeting
 October 18, 2010
 9:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning John Olson, Royalton Township Derek Perry, City of St. Joseph and Village of Stevensville Don Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Paul South, Michigan Department of Transportation- Coloma TSC
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMI Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chris Cook called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. *The Chair and Vice-chair were absent.*

2. MINUTES:

- There was discussion about use of the word "circular."
- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by Schlipp, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2010 TAC meeting, with the correction of Tim Zebell as present. Motion approved unanimously.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

• Rail Update

- Rahtz announced that she had attended the MDOT public hearing on the State Rail Plan, held in Grand Rapids on September 29th. She had spoken with one of the consultants from HDNP and Larry Karnes from MDOT Multimodal Division, who had said that MDOT has decided to reopen the alternatives study for the Pere Marquette before it ever gets rerouted through Kalamazoo. It is not known how much detail this State Rail Plan will go into regarding the Pere Marquette; MDOT is still working out a system for prioritizing rail investments in the plan. It is a long range plan with proposed rail investments (using different financial scenarios) over the next 25 years.

• US Bicycle Route 35 Public Hearing

- Thomas announced that he and several committee members had been in attendance at the public hearing hosted by SWMPC (Suzann Flowers) at Michigan Works! on September 29th. There were around 50 attendees, and a lot of constructive feedback had been received on the proposed alignment for the bicycle route.
- He added that there had been overwhelming support for the construction of shoulders on the 1.2 mile section of M-63 owned by the Berrien County Road Commission.
- South made the correction that the road is referred to as Blue Star Highway at that point, since it is not a state highway.

• TwinCATS Annual Report

- Rahtz announced that the fiscal year 2010 Annual Report for TwinCATS will soon be completed and will be available on the TwinCATS Documents page on www.swmpc.org. The Annual Report is a list of planning activities conducted during the fiscal year, as well as the budget for the year.

• UWP and TIP

- Rahtz announced that the 2011 Unified Work Program was approved by FHWA and is available on the TwinCATS Documents page on www.swmpc.org.
- Rahtz added that the 2011-14 Transportation Improvement Program is waiting for approval from FHWA, and the current TIP is valid until October 31, 2010.

• CMAQ Meeting November 10th, 1:00pm, Berrien County Road Commission

- Thomas announced that a special CMAQ meeting has been called by St. Joseph and the Berrien County Road Commission.
- Berndt added that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Hilltop Road sidewalk project, and to see if it can be funded in the near future.
- Lenze was asked the status of the 2011 CMAQ applications, and stated that Pete Porciello at MDOT has been tied up with other projects and will be forwarding the applications to FHWA as soon as possible.
- Lenze added that because of the new EPA standards, three-quarters of the State of Michigan will qualify for CMAQ funding starting in fiscal year 2012, and so the same amount of CMAQ funding for the State of Michigan will be divided up amongst far more counties.
- It was noted that it is best to get the Hilltop Road sidewalk project funded in 2011 if at all possible.

• Final Trails Workshop – “Connecting the Dots”

- Thomas announced that the final workshop in the Trails Workshop series will be held at the Van Buren Conference Center on October 27th from 8:30am to 12noon. The workshop will cover the Michigan Airline Trail, the US Bike Route System, the Rails-to-Trails program, Safe Routes 2 School, and Complete Streets. He mentioned that Rahtz had registration forms, and there is an online registration form on the SWMPC website.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

• 2010 Projects:

- Berrien County Road Commission
 - Britain Avenue – complete
 - Cleveland Avenue – complete
 - Hilltop Road sidewalk – complete

- Hollywood Road – complete
 - Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – complete
 - Napier Ave west of I-94 – starting construction next week
- City of Benton Harbor
 - Highland Avenue – obligated; looking for local match funding
- MDOT
 - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – under construction
 - I-94 BL resurfacing (JN 109704) – being moved in TIP
 - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – has been let
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
 - No updates

5. OLD BUSINESS:

• Walk and Roll update

- Cook and Thomas gave an update on the Walk and Roll planning process. Meetings are being set up with municipalities to go over the benefits of non-motorized facilities and the current maps of proposed facilities.
- Rahtz asked Berndt how the Road Commission should be included in the discussions of the proposed projects on county roads in townships. Berndt responded that he would like to be kept in the loop on the meetings with the townships, and that possibly someone from his office could attend.

• Public Participation member survey

- Rahtz went over the results of the survey of TwinCATS members regarding TwinCATS' progress in fulfilling participation requirements.
- Cook noted that the participation is more successful now than it ever was in the past.
- Griffin suggested bringing employers into the discussion about transportation, mentioning that Lakeland Hospital had told him they plan to eventually move all of their facilities to Royalton Township. He noted that this would increase the need for public transportation service to that area. Rahtz responded that the mobility managers had begun doing outreach to let employers know about the three scheduled bus routes, but that she would appreciate getting the contact information for the person he had worked with at Lakeland.
- It was noted that the survey respondents had been split on whether the meeting time is convenient for the public. Rahtz mentioned that other government agencies address that issue by holding a certain number of evening meetings per year. Cook noted that this would be something to consider for the future.

• Long Range Plan / Socioeconomic Data Update

- Thomas reminded the committee members to hand in their revisions to the employment data to him before leaving the meeting, or to make comments electronically on the Google Documents site as soon as possible. He thanked everyone who had submitted comments thus far.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

• State Transportation Budget

- Rahtz asked an MDOT representative to give an update on the state transportation budget.
- South explained that money was found to fund the full state transportation program for fiscal year 2011, but that no continuous revenue stream has been secured for future years.
- Rahtz noted that she had read that in the state transportation budget, the wording from the Complete Streets legislation had been used that specified that communities will be awarded more points on Transportation Enhancement grant applications if they have a Complete Streets policy. South and Latham responded that they had not heard that the Transportation Enhancement grant application guidance was being revised and that that may have been language from a draft of the legislation that was revised before it was signed into law.

- **TIP Amendments**

- Lenze noted that the amendments are being made to the FY 2011-2014 TIP, not to the 2008-2011 TIP, even though the 2008-2011 TIP is technically still valid through the end of October. He explained that MDOT will be approving the TIP amendments on November 12th, after they have approved the 2011-2014 TIPs.
- Rahtz noted that the applications for new projects were available in case anyone had any questions about the projects.
- MDOT
 - Add in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for Trunkline Bridge CPM/CSM GPA work, specifically healer/sealer on deck surface. Urban locations are on I-94 EB and WB over Lake Street/Galien River and I-196 NB and SB over I-94 in Coloma TSC area. Construction phase. Federal cost (BHI) is \$168,192 and state cost (M) is \$18,688 within urbanized area. MDOT Job Number 108174. 21.80% of job is in TwinCATS area.
 - Add in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for bridge work, specifically concrete shallow overlay, beam and substructure repair, paint bearings, joints, railing retrofit, and approaches. Urban location is Empire Ave over I-94. Construction phase. Federal cost (IM) is \$481,805 and state cost (M) is \$53,534 within urbanized area. MDOT Job Number 110931. 31.74% of project is in TwinCATS area.
 - Add in FY 2011, CPM CSM Bridge Trunkline GPA for Capital Preventive Maintenance and Capital Structural Maintenance on Bridge Trunkline. Limits are regionwide. Construction phase. Federal cost (ST) is \$362,294 and state cost (M) is \$40,255.
 - Add in FY 2011, CPM Road Trunkline GPA for Capital Preventive Maintenance on Road Trunkline. Limits are regionwide. Construction phase. Federal cost (ST) is \$1,542,873 and state cost (M) is \$342,127. Comments: MDOT project 109704 moved from 2010 to 2011, moved into GPA.
 - Add in FY 2011, Program Development Scoping Trunkline GPA. Limits are regionwide. Phase is Early Preliminary Engineering. Federal cost (ST) is \$39,162 and state cost is \$11,842.
 - Add in FY 2012, the project named I-94 for bridge restoration and rehabilitation, specifically deep overlay and railing replacement on EB and WB I-94 over Hickory Creek. Construction phase. Federal cost is \$1,244,452 (IM) and state cost (M) is \$138,274.
 - *Motion by Berndt, seconded by South, to recommend the approval to add the above six MDOT projects into the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
- CMAQ
 - *Rahtz noted that the following projects would be added into the TIP only on the condition that the CMAQ applications are approved by FHWA.*
 - Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County Road Commission project named Napier Ave at Colfax Ave for a traffic signal upgrade at intersection of Napier Ave and Colfax Ave. Construction phase. Federal cost (CMG) is \$200,000.
 - Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County Road Commission project named John Beers Road for Roadside Facility. Project description is to construct non-motorized paths 6 feet wide along north and south side of John Beers Road from Wyndstone to James St (south side) and from Roosevelt to James St (north side). Construction phase. Federal cost (CM) is \$221,859 and township cost is \$55,465.
 - Add in FY 2011, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission project named Berrien County Rideshare for a standard rideshare program. T-ops phase. Federal cost (CMG) is \$12,000.
 - *Motion by South, seconded by Berndt, to recommend the approval to add the above three CMAQ projects into the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*

- City of St. Joseph
 - Modify in FY 2011, 2012, and 2013, the project named S State St and Kingsley Ave for reconstruction of roadway including sanitary and storm sewer construction. Limits changing from "S State St from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and Kingsley Ave from S State St to 100 feet East of S State St" to "S State St from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and Kingsley Ave from S State St to 225 feet East of S State St."
- **BCRC Local Match**
 - Berndt stated that the County Road Commission would not be able to provide the local match funding for the Lincoln Ave resurfacing project slated for FY 2011. He had planned to propose TIP amendments to use the \$450,506 from this project at this meeting, but Rahtz had reminded him that a 10-day public comment period is required for TIP amendments. Thus, he wanted to discuss potential uses for this money at this meeting and propose the TIP amendments at the December meeting.
 - Berndt explained that the Road Commission would like to move to a strategy of using force account work of applying seal coat treatments to county roads based on their PASER ratings. This will preserve the pavement on county roads for another four to five years. The Commission's long range goal is a program of seal coating every road within every seven to eight years. Using the federal STP funds they had programmed for other projects would get them partway to this goal.
 - Rahtz noted that TwinCATS already has an illustrative list of projects for FY 2011-2014, the top priorities being an additional \$25,000 to Village of Stevensville - John Beers Road, then St. Joseph -Napier Avenue, then Village of Shoreham - Brown School Road.
 - Cook suggested convening a meeting of the TwinCATS TIP Project Selection Subcommittee. Berndt added that the subcommittee could rethink the entire four-year program, noting that there is also a possibility that some projects programmed for future years could be moved up to 2011 as advance construct projects.
 - The committee agreed upon scheduling the meeting for Monday, October 25, 2010 at 9:00am at St. Joseph City Council Chambers.
 - It was asked who sits on the subcommittee. Rahtz responded that most of the engineers and the transit agency are represented on it, and that she would send out a notice.
- **NTI Transportation and Land Use Workshop**
 - Thomas reported on the workshop he and Rahtz had attended the previous week, held at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and sponsored by the National Transit Institute. He mentioned that he and Rahtz could make the materials available from the workshop for anyone who was interested, including the PowerPoint presentations.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 A.M

- *Motion by Schlipp, seconded by South, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Next meeting is November 15, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.

Compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 10/18/10