

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

January 26, 2009  
 9:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman 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 Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>TECHNICAL MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Suzann Flowers Nickolas Musson
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
  - Zebell called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M. Chairman Soper was absent.
  
2. **MINUTES:**
  - *A motion was made by Cook, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*
  
3. **STAFF REPORT:**
  - **Transportation Planner Update** - SWMPC is currently interviewing for candidates and should have a new planner by the next meeting.
  
  - **Non-Motorized Plan Update**
    - Musson announced the following:
      - SWMPC Phase 1 has been approved for the comprehensive, regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for MDOT’S southwest region. Phase 1 consists of updating the map and plan. There will be public input meetings in the near future. If there are any questions please contact Marcy Colclough or Suzann Flowers at SWMPC.

- 2009 Webinar Series- The Greenway Collaborative announced its 2009 webinar series. Each series will look at specific trail or non-motorized transportation issue in depth with some time for questions and answers. Sessions are from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every other month. To find out more information check out the Greenway Collaborative website at <http://www.greenwaycollab.com/>
- Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference- October 25-28, 2009 will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Kalamazoo. The conference celebrates existing and new connections and offers an excellent opportunity for all those involved in trails and greenways to share experiences, and learn from each other and continue to connect trails and greenways.
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) workshops will be held throughout the state beginning February 19th, 2009. The workshop will focus on MNRTF program, including application process. Schedule is attached to handout.

#### 4. **PROJECT UPDATES:**

- **Empire Ave** – February letting
- **Linco Rd** – Berrien County Road Commission received confirmation that Lincoln Township is going to contribute toward local match and is waiting for a response from Lake Township.
- **Linco Bridge** – GI took place two weeks ago and expecting May letting
- **I-94 BL** – Advertised
- Zebell announced that 2011 South State project is in accelerated design to make it available for economic stimulus funds.

#### 5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **CMAQ Meeting**
  - Musson reminded the committee that there is a Berrien & Cass County Congestion Mitigation Air Quality 2009, 2010 and 2011 Projects meeting at the Berrien County Road Commission located at 2860 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan on February 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Economic Stimulus-US-31**
  - Musson explained what was learned at the Michigan Transportation Planning Association meeting regarding economic stimulus funding. Economic Stimulus will only go towards federal aid eligible projects. The federal share of each project is 100% (no state or local match is required). The state has to obligate 50% of the total funds within 150 days or they funds may be lost. The additional 50% must be obligated by August 1, 2010. If states are unable to obligate the 50% by 150 days the funds become available to other states. Projects need to be shovel ready. The state will do what ever it can to use all of the money.
  - Originally we had talked about trying to schedule a face to face meeting with Bobby Welke from MDOT. On January 16, 2009 Jason Latham informed me that he has been asked by Bobby Welke to facilitate the discussion and represent MDOT on this process. Jason Latham has agreed to meet with us on Monday, February 23, 2009 following the TwinCATS meeting at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. At this meeting Jason will give a brief presentation on the status of US-31. Plus, at that time we will have a better understanding of how the economic stimulus funding will be spent. Musson proposes that we have a joint meeting at 10:00 AM and have the US-31 discussion following.
- *A motion was made by Woolcock, seconded by Scherwitz, to recommend that the policy committee approve to have the February 23, 2009 meeting be a joint meeting starting at 10:00 AM. Motion approved.*
- **NFC Discussion-** Merritt sent an email asking for a listing of NFC federal eligible mileage in each jurisdiction. Musson will create a table of jurisdiction including total mileage in each NFC and put it on the website and send out an email.

#### 6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TIP amendments** – The following TCATA, MDOT and City of Benton Harbor TIP amendments were discussed:

- Adding to FY 2009, transit vehicle replacement of a 20 year old staff car with \$20,000 in federal funds and \$5,000 in state funds.
- Adding in FY 2009, ROW Phase of the resurfacing project for I-94 from north city limits of Bridgman to west of I-94 (JN 90362) with \$450,000 in federal funds, and \$50,000 in state funds.
- Changed in 2010, public transit urban operating cost to \$655,023 (from \$592,000) federal, \$642,608 (from \$608,000) state funds, and \$506,435 (from \$400,000) local funds.
- Adding in 2010, I-94 from US-12 to I-94 BL a median barrier (JN 100292) with \$3,434,000 federal funds and \$382,000 state funds.
- Adding in 2010, ROW Phase of the resurfacing of I-94 from Sawyer Road to north city limit of Bridgman (JN 79871) with \$173,250 federal funds and \$19,250 of state funds.
- Adding in 2010, M-139 from north of US-31 junction a mill and one course HMA overlay (JN 103173) with \$318,920 federal funds, and \$71,020 state funds.
- Changed in 2009, GPA PE/ROW trunk line total funding cost to \$74,709 (from \$3,000) federal and \$726 (from \$1,000) state.
- Changed in 2009, GPA Enhancement trunk line total funding cost to \$1,116,800 (from \$943,000) federal and \$279,200 (from \$236,000) state.

The follow two amendments are going to be off until air quality has been run.

- Adding in 2010, Graham Avenue extension with \$1,991,000 state funding and \$530,000 local funds.
  - Adding in 2010, Klock Road widen and extension with \$1,043,000 state funds and \$1,243,000 local funds.
- *A motion was made by Woolcock, supported by Lenze, to recommend that the Policy Committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the above mentioned amendments. Motion approved.*
  - **Administration Modifications**– The following administration amendments were made:
    - Changed in 2009, Local Bridge GPA total funding cost to \$580,000 (from \$551,000) by adding \$29,000 to local funds.
    - Changed in 2009, project descriptions for PE Sub Phase road design (JN 104002) to reflect MDOTs actual project description for I-94 under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor.
    - Changed in 2009, project descriptions for PE Sub Phase bridge design (JN 104002) to reflect MDOTs actual project description for I-94 under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor.
    - Changed in 2010, project descriptions to reflect MDOTs actual project description (JN 104002) for I-94 under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor.
    - Changed in 2009 TCATA Bus replacement state funding cost to \$50,000 (from \$58,000).
  - **Election of Officers** – The nomination committee nominated Gary Soper as Chairman and Tim Zebell as Vice Chairman.
  - *A motion was made by Scherwitz, supported by Woolcock, to accept Gary Soper as Chairman and Tim Zebell as Vice Chairman. Motion approved.*
  - **LRP discussion** – Musson announced the LRP tentative timeline to the committee members:
    - Timeline
      - February 13 – Air Quality
      - February 23 – Draft Plan
      - March 16 – Policy Approval
      - April 21 – Full Commission Approval
      - April 22 – Submit to MDOT
  - **2010-2013 TIP Projects are due** – Musson asked anyone who has not turned in their TIP project applications to do so.
  - **Asset Management IRT training**
    - Musson explained that if you have not participated in Investment Reporting Tool training before, it is very important that you attend this training session. For those who have previously participated in this training, this is

the chance to see the many improvements from the last year, which will cover changes in the reporting process, several user interface enhancements, continued data importing for Roadsoft Investment and PASER data, along with other programming improvements. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts. The training will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, from 1:00 to 3:30pm at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center in Lawrence, Michigan

- **Asset Management for Elected Officials**

- Musson announced another workshop that is designed for city, county and township elected officials. All local elected officials who have an interest in transportation projects or facilities should attend. No engineering background is required. You do not have to be an elected official to attend. The workshop will be held at the Berrien County RESA Administrative Center, 711 St. Joseph Ave., in Berrien Springs. Musson distributed sign up sheets and handouts.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Lenze explained that everyone has to move with projects as soon as they are approved because agencies are losing money because they are not acting fast enough.
- Woolcock announced that South has returned to the Coloma TSC.

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

- Next meeting is February 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planner, 1/26/09