

# Minutes

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

November 20, 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  
Charles Kormanik, Village of Shoreham  
Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning  
Catherine McIlwee, Berrien Co. Planning Dept.  
Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township  
Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport  
Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township  
Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township, TAC Chairman  
Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph

**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  
Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio)  
Elaine Luo, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services  
Andy Minyo, Federal Transit Administration  
Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning  
Paul South, MDOT/TSC, Coloma  
Donna Wittl, MDOT Planning  
Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance

**SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:** Rachael Tupica  
Kelly Getman-Dissette  
Kim Gallagher

### **OTHERS:**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gary Soper called the meeting to order at 9:36 A.M.

#### **2. MINUTES OF July 17, 2006:**

- Motion by Darrell Harden, seconded by Chris Cook: "TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE October 16, 2006 TAC MEETING." The motion was approved.

#### **3. STAFF REPORT:**

- Please welcome our new Transportation Planner, Kelly Getman-Dissette. Kelly received her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Spanish at Hope College and her masters in Sociology from Western Michigan University. While working on her master's degree, she worked for social research centers at both WMU and Hope College. Part of that work included community surveys and master planning, which led to her interest in Planning as a career. She was able to pursue that interest through her position as a Community

Development Educator with MSU Extension in Van Buren County. As a Community Development Educator, she was responsible for land use planning and zoning education, trail development, housing grants, and the county farmland preservation program. She came to the SWMPC after her position at MSUE was cut. We are glad to have her on board. Welcome Kelly!

- The new Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) website is LIVE! We are still working on getting more content on the website, please go on and take a look. Please update your bookmarks to <http://www.swmpc.org>.
- Along with the change of website address, the email addresses of staff at SWMPC are changing. Please update your address books to [tupicar@swmpc.org](mailto:tupicar@swmpc.org) (no longer [tupicar@swmicomm.org](mailto:tupicar@swmicomm.org)). The old email address will be only temporarily available.
- SWMPC staff will soon begin working on the SE Data portion of the Long Range Plan update. This will include starting the identification and clarification of employment data, set to start in early 2007, followed by household and population data, set to start approximately in April 2007. Staff will be doing as much of this in-house, but will look to create an SE Data Sub-Committee to review the data.
- Kim Gallagher presented the upcoming project “Berrien County Public Transportation Coordination Plan”, which is set to start in early 2007. The purpose of the plan, the first year achievements, and the success measures of the study were reviewed. The project could take up to 2 years. The coordination will be between public and private transportation providers and also human service providers.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A list of FY2006 Obligated Funds was dispersed for the review of the TAC Committee. SAFETEA-LU now requires MPOs to post and publish this data at the end of every fiscal year. This data is also available online at <http://www.swmpc.org/tcats06obligated.asp>.
- A Local Jobs Today Announcement was made that there is a second call for projects, due to left over monies from the first call. This call for projects is for FY09 and FY10. If you receive a FY09 or FY10 Local Jobs Today project, it has to be amended into the TIP. The project has to be let in FY07. The project would be Advance Construct in FY07 to be repaid in the year we indicate.
- TIP Project Selection Criteria Form need to be created before the January 2007 call for projects. The project selection criteria need to reflect the Goals and Objectives of the TwinCATS area that are listed in the Long Range Plan.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

**6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- November 30, 2006 at 9:00 am - noon in Lansing is a meeting to discuss the MDOT Preferred Vision
- Chip Seal Best Practices Class is available, see handout at <http://www.swmpc.org/training.asp>.

**7. ADJOURNMENT: 10:26 am**

- Next meeting December 18<sup>th</sup>

Compiled by  
Rachael Tupica, Transportation Planner  
12/5/2006