

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
TAC Meeting
 November 16, 2009
 9:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission 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 Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Sarah Van Buren, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Ron Ferguson, Benton Charter Township Charles Kormanik, Village of Shoreham Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Nickolas Musson Anna Rahtz
OTHERS PRESENT:	None

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Zebell, seconded by Montoya, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 Joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Mid-America Trails And Greenways (MATAG) conference**
 - Rahtz announced that she and Musson attended a day-long workshop on US bicycle routes and learned about the program, which will help them in working on the US 35 bicycle route along with the TwinCATS non-motorized subcommittee. The US 35 route will go along the western coast of Michigan, within a 50-mile buffer; the alignment has not yet been determined.
- **SmartCode workshop**
 - Musson announced that he had attended the SmartCode workshop with Andres Duany and learned about smart growth ideas and the difference between traditional Euclidean zoning, form-based zoning,

and "smart codes."

- Musson was asked to make the electronic version of the basic code guidebook available on the TwinCATS web page.
- **Michigan Association of Planning Transforming Transportation workshop**
 - Rahtz announced that she had attended a day-long workshop about Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, and Context Sensitive Design. She attended four segments of the CSS track, and learned about the difference between CSS and the NEPA process, and techniques for mediating between the desires of different stakeholder groups. She asked if the committees would be interested in having a CSS presentation at some point; the MDOT CSS staff had offered to present the information to MPOs.
- **"SMART: Moving Minds: The Next Transportation Infrastructure" conference**
 - Rahtz announced that she had attended a day of the SMART conference on sustainable transportation infrastructure at the University of Michigan and learned about the idea of "New Mobility," including focusing on developing around connections between various modes of transportation, and investing in a transportation infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and other unknown future events.

4. **PROJECT UPDATES:**

2009 Projects

- **MDOT**
 - I-94, Traffic Operations – Obligated
 - I-94 BL, Fair to River – Under Construction
 - I-94, Bridge Replacement PE – Started
- **TCATA**
 - Twin City Dial a Ride has received its six new buses paid for with ARRA (stimulus) money.
 - Twin City Dial a Ride is encountering barriers to beginning the new Job Access and Reverse Commute bus route. There are difficulties in getting approval for bus stop signs due to concerns about loitering at bus stops.
- **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Linco Rd – Completed Thanksgiving
 - Linco Rd, Bridge Replacement - Completed Thanksgiving

2010 Projects

- **Berrien County Road Commission**
 - Hollywood Road – Proposing amendment at next meeting
 - Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – December 4th letting
- **City of St. Joseph**
 - Broad Street – GI last week, March letting
- **MDOT**
 - I-94, Bridge Replacement (JN 104002) – Let next summer
 - I-94 BL, Expansion of Parking Lot – Advertised
 - I-94, ROW – Has not been obligated yet
 - I-94, Bridge Replacement (JN107176) – August 2010 letting

Future Projects

- **Berrien County Road Commission** – Berndt announced that Hollywood Road will be reconstructed in fiscal year 2013-2014, and that TIP amendments will most likely be requested in FY 2011 and 2012 for microsurfacing and/or patching Hollywood Road to keep it maintained up until the time of reconstruction. There was discussion about the drainage issues along Hollywood Road, particularly related to the needs of the projected new development in that area. Zebell asked whether the Hollywood Road project is meeting Department of Environmental Quality requirements, and Berndt replied that he would check on that.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Regional Rail**
 - Musson and Rahtz announced that they still hadn't heard about a meeting date for the WestTrain Collaborative, but that they had met with the City of Watervliet, which is trying to get a rail stop on

the Pere Marquette line. Watervliet hadn't been aware of the Pere Marquette line being realigned in Phase 5 of MWRRI, and was interested in collaborating in an effort to convince MDOT to reconsider the realignment of the Pere Marquette, including gathering support and research in support of keeping the line aligned along the shoreline.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

MDOT would like to add the following FY 2010 project:

- o Added in FY 2010, the general program account named Local Highway Safety GPA. The federal cost is \$216,000 and the local cost is \$54,000.

A motion was made by South, supported by Panozzo, to amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add the previously mentioned MDOT project. Motion approved.

The following administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2011 TIP were discussed:

- o Modification in FY 2009, project named I-94 (JN 104002) for bridge replacement under Britain Avenue in Benton Harbor Right of Way (ROW) Phase. Federal cost is \$24,300 and State cost is \$2,700 for a total cost of \$27,000. Move from FY 2009 to FY 2010.
- o Modification in FY 2010, project named Broad Street (JN 107685), to resurface from Lake Blvd to State Street & Main Street (I-94 BL) to Wayne Street. Federal cost is \$220,400 and Local cost is \$56,700 for a total cost of \$277,100. Limits needed to be clarified. Will be modified to Lake Blvd to State Street & Main Street (I-94 BL) to 50 feet west of Wayne Street.

• Call for FY 2014 Projects for FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program

- o Musson announced that applications are being solicited for local and state transportation projects and passed out a handout illustrating the tentative timeline for the TIP. The applications will be due at the January 25, 2010 TwinCATS TAC meeting. The project selection committee will meet to select the projects in February. The project applications are available online and should be filled out electronically and emailed to Mussonn@swmpc.org.
- o Musson announced that Act 51 reports are due from the county, villages, and cities at the January 25, 2010 meeting.
- o Musson also stated that a call for projects will soon be announced for the FY 2012-2013 CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) projects. A Call for Projects meeting will be scheduled shortly.
- o Van Buren stated that the approvals for the FY 2010 CMAQ projects will be sent out within the next week.

• Fill out Transportation Importance survey

- o Rahtz passed out the surveys and asked each TwinCATS member to fill one out and mark "TwinCATS member" at the top of the paper. Members of the public are also being asked to fill out the survey. It is online, and TwinCATS members should forward the link to the survey to everyone they know. TwinCATS members who fill out the survey online should mark "TwinCATS member" in the comment box. The survey closes December 1, and the results will be published shortly thereafter.
- o Rahtz also announced that she would provide paper copies of the survey for anyone who would like to distribute them to their constituents.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:35 a.m.

- Next meeting is December 21, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson and Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planners, 11/16/09