

Minutes

Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Technical Advisory Committee

December 15, 2008

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham
TECHNICAL MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development 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 Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kelly Getman-Dissette Nickolas Musson
OTHERS PRESENT:	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Lee called the meeting to order at 9:36 A.M. Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Berrien County Transit Forum-** SWMPC coordinated a Berrien County transit forum on December 3, 2008. The forum was a success with over 65 people from Human service and transit agencies in Berrien County attending. Attendees went over transit scenarios and attempted to connect riders to their destinations.
- **NCST visit-** The NCST grant was awarded to SWMPC for transit coordination technology. NCST visitors came to the SW region to visit various transit agencies using the transit coordination technology.

4. PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Empire Ave** – February letting

- **Linco Rd** – The Road Commission is currently seeking assistance with local match from both Lincoln and Lake Townships for this project.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **NFC Discussion-** In response to Merritt’s email asking for a listing of mileage in each jurisdiction and to the discussion from the previous meeting on changing your local NFC Musson created a table of jurisdiction including total mileage in each NFC. There was a question about the NFC unk or 0 and what it represents. Musson said that he would look into exactly what it represents.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP amendments** – General Program Accounts (GPA) projects and Stevensville park and ride lot repaving
 - FY 2009 Local Bridge GPA with state funding at \$551,000;
 - FY 2009 Local Highway Safety GPA with federal cost at \$297,680, local cost at \$74,420, and total cost of \$372,100;
 - FY 2009 Local Railroad Crossing GPA with federal cost at \$154,000, state cost at \$66,000, and total project cost \$220,000; and
 - FY 2010 Stevensville park and ride lot repaving (JN 103292) with federal cost at \$64,662, state cost at \$14,338, and total project cost at \$79,000.

A motion was made by Berndt, supported by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add three GPA projects to FY 2009 and to add the Stevensville park and ride lot repaving to FY 2010. Motion approved.

- **2009 Berrien County CMAQ funds discussion –**

Excerpt from October 28, 2008 NATS TAC minutes

Due to confusion in procedure as well as staff changes, the City of Buchanan purchased its replacement street sweeper, scheduled for FY 2008 CMAQ funds, prior to obligating the federal funding. Ordinarily, federal funds cannot be used for any cost which has previously been incurred. However, Title 23 allows for exceptions to be made, under certain circumstances. Therefore, the City must compose a letter that requests that federal funds be used on a previously incurred expense and that explains the special circumstances involved in this case. MDOT will then review the letter and request the funds from FHWA. However, because the 2008 fiscal year has ended, the dollars originally set aside for this project are no longer available. Bellina and Berndt were asked to consider whether unallocated FY 2009 CMAQ dollars in Cass and Berrien Counties could be used to fund the street sweeper in 2009. Both Bellina and Berndt will follow up with their respective boards/taskforces. Buchanan will compose the necessary letter, and this item will be discussed again at the December meeting.

Berndt explained that he is waiting to see if the Lincoln and St. Joseph Township CMAQ projects get accepted or not. There should be an answer at the 2010, 2011 CMAQ call for projects meeting.

- **CMAQ call for projects 2010 & 2011**

There will be a CMAQ 2010, 2011 call for projects meeting on February 4, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the Berrien County Road Commission. Musson will send out a legal notice.

- **Officer Nominating Committee**

Nominating committee Scherwitz and Merritt nominate Gary Soper as Chairman and Tim Zebell as Vice Chairman.

- **LRP Discussion**

- Community transportation issues- The previous LRP identified several community issues related to transportation that need to be considered whether each of them are still relevant enough to be listed in the new LRP and whether there are any other issues that should be discussed. Getman-Dissette went through each community issue in the previous LRP plan looking for committee comment. New issues identified were Harbor Shores and high speed rail.

Scherwitz mentioned that he has been in communication with Upton on the US 31 project. It was decided that we need to pull the project off of the back shelf to make it accessible to possible stimulus funding.

Lenze recommended that we get the Kalamazoo region involved. They would need to move the project on their list if it is even going to be considered.

- Projects to consider for air quality analysis- Getman-Dissette explained that we recently had a inter agency work group meeting (IAWG) to discuss projects that would need air quality analysis. Two projects in particular came up, I-94 BL and US-31. It was also mentioned at the IAWG meeting that Harbor Shores may have a few projects to consider for air quality analysis. Cook stated that Harbor Shores plans to extend Klock road from North Shore to Paw Paw with a ½ mile long two lane road. Also to extend Graham Ave. to the west to connect to Riverview. Both projects would be funded locally in 2010. Cook will gather more information on these projects and submit them to SWMPC for the TIP and air quality analysis. Getman-Dissette explained that we will have to keep an eye on St. Joseph Ave and the possible construction of a center turn lane from Red Arrow to the railroad tracks because of the new Meijer that may be constructed in the area.

Lenze brought up the possible Stimulus Package that might be offered from the Obama Campaign. He asked if there were any projects that could be considered that would need air quality analysis. Cook said that Benton Harbor had a \$10 million dollar water main project, but would only require resurfacing.

- **2010-2013 TIP**

Getman-Dissette reminded the committee that SWMPC announced a call for projects for the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Annual estimates have been handed out along with approximate timeline for completion of the 2010-2013 TIP. TIP applications were e-mailed out and there is a copy located at the SWMPC website http://www.swmpc.org/tcats_tipapp.asp. If you need another copy of the word file let Nickolas Musson know. Applications are due to the SWMPC on or before the January 26, 2009 meeting. Applications must be submitted via email, postal mail, and fax or in person.

Project subcommittee will consist of Anthony, Berndt, Cook, Purvis, and Zebell. Zebell is willing to host the meeting at St. Joseph city hall. Meeting will need to be scheduled early February.

- **TF2 Report**

The Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) was created in response to Public Act 221 of 2007. The purpose of the Task Force is to “review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance” in Michigan, review strategies for maximizing return on transportation investment, and evaluate the potential of alternative strategies to replace or supplement transportation taxes and fees. A report containing the recommendations of the Task Force was submitted to the legislature in November and is available online: http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9623_31969-202856--,00.html

Musson handed out Surface Transportation Funding Alternatives and went over a few of them for committee discussion. Lenze suggested that any committee member that felt strongly about any of these alternatives should contact their legislator.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Kelly announced that she has accepted a job with the city of Niles and that her last day will be January 7, 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:36 a.m.

- Next meeting is January 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planners, 12/15/08