

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*TAC Meeting*  
 December 21, 2009  
 9:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Sarah Van Buren ( <i>via conference call</i> ), Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Ron Ferguson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT, Statewide Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Nickolas Musson Anna Rahtz
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	None

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.

**2. MINUTES:**

- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by South, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **MTPA question regarding distribution of federal funds**
  - Rahtz announced that at the last Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) meeting, Marsha Small from MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) had asked if any local agencies had suggestions for how federal transportation funding could be reformulated and distributed better. Any suggestions will be passed on to Marsha Small.
- **2009 Traffic Counts**
  - Musson gave a summary of the 2009 traffic count activities completed. Musson reported that traffic counts were taken from April 8th to December 2nd, 2009, and will be resumed in March or April 2010. In 2009, 250 traffic counts were submitted, and 191 were completed. 15 HPMS (Highway

Performance Monitoring System) counts were also completed. A link to a portal of traffic count information is available on the SWMPC website. The portal has downloadable pdf documents for every traffic count.

- Due to a comment made by a NATS member regarding difficulty with understanding the traffic count data, Musson will be presenting an example of a traffic count report at the next meeting.

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

##### **2009 Projects**

- **MDOT**

- I-94, Traffic Operations – Obligated
- I-94 BL, Fair to River – Completed
- I-94, Bridge Replacement PE – Started

- **TCATA**

- All Projects have been obligated

- **Berrien County Road Commission**

- Linco Rd – Completed
- Linco Rd, Bridge Replacement – Completed

##### **2010 Projects**

- **Berrien County Road Commission**

- Hollywood Road – Being amended
- Pipestone Rd ACC – Received check
- Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – Letting complete, bid savings identified and modified

- **City of St. Joseph**

- Broad Street – Submitting final plans

- **City of Benton Harbor**

- Highland Ave – In design

- **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

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

- **Regional Rail**

- Musson and Rahtz announced that they still hadn't heard about a meeting date for the WestTrain Collaborative, and that they had been unsuccessful in reaching Tim Hoeffner at MDOT Rail Division. Musson announced that they would ask Ray Lenze at MDOT to talk with Mr. Hoeffner.

- **Transportation Importance Survey**

- Rahtz announced that around 190 people had responded to the survey, plus the pending responses in the four boxes that were still out. The survey has been extended through the end of December, and the results will be published in January.

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

- **TIP Amendments**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Updates
  - Musson went over a handout explaining the important dates in the statewide redistribution process for unused stimulus funds.
    1. **December 30, 2009** – All projects already approved in the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for ARRA funds must have their GI (grade inspection) packages submitted to MDOT.
    2. **January 8, 2010** – The remaining ARRA funding within the State of Michigan will be redistributed to the regions.

3. **January 15, 2010** – GI packages must be submitted for any project using the redistributed funds.
  - Any project using the redistributed funds must have a total project cost of at least \$100,000. MPOs (metropolitan planning organizations) must have a prioritized list of projects ready and in the TIP to use the redistributed funds.
  - Zebell asked why the Illustrative List for ARRA projects was not being used to select projects for remaining ARRA funds. Van Buren responded that MDOT and FHWA do not have time to process the TIP amendments and meet the ARRA deadlines, and so projects already in the TIP must be used. They also must be projects over \$100,000 to reduce the amount of processing of projects that has to be done by MDOT and FHWA. She also noted that, since it is not known how much money the MPO will receive, the projects selected have to be projects that can still continue regardless of how much or how little money is granted.
  - The committee agreed upon the following prioritized list of projects to receive remaining ARRA funding, based upon project-readiness and local commitment to complete the project:
    1. City of St. Joseph – resurfacing of Broad Street from Lake Boulevard to Wayne Street (except for State Street to Main Street). Total project cost is \$317,626. \$42,626 of ARRA funds, \$220,000 of federal STUL (surface transportation) funds, and \$55,000 of city match are already committed to this project. If additional ARRA funds are granted for this project, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or the local match, which can then be used for other projects.
    2. Berrien County Road Commission – resurfacing of Cleveland Avenue from Hilltop Road to Glenlord Road. \$194,754 of STUL funds and a \$43,246 county match are already committed for this project. If enough remaining ARRA funds are available, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or local match, which can then be used for other projects.
    3. City of Benton Harbor – resurfacing of Highland Avenue from Wall Street to Fair Avenue. Total project cost is \$250,000. \$194,000 of STUL funds and a \$56,000 city match are already committed for this project. If enough remaining ARRA funds are available, they will be used in place of the STUL funds and/or local match, which can then be used for other projects.
  - *Motion by Cook, supported by Montoya, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above prioritized list of projects to use potential redistributed ARRA funds. Motion approved.*
- **Twin Cities Area Transit Authority** – TCATA would like to make the following amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - Reduce the five ARRA projects from 2009 by a total amount of \$109,685. (This cannot technically be amended to the FY 2009 TIP, since fiscal year 2009 is over, but the money can still be transferred and added to FY 2010).
  - Add in FY 2010, the project named Mobile surveillance/security to purchase mobile surveillance/security equipment for a total federal cost of \$109,685 (ARRA).
  - Motion by Berndt, supported by Zebell, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the addition of the above-named project to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.
- **Berrien County Road Commission** – BCRC would like to make the following amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - Deleted in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hollywood Rd to do base repair and resurface from M-63 to 400 feet south of Glenlord Road. Federal cost of \$382,600 (STUL) and local cost of \$97,400 (Cnty).
  - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hollywood Rd to minor base repair, single seal coat and single microsurface from M-63 to 300 feet south of Glenlord Road. Federal cost of \$114,590 (STUL) and Local cost of \$25,410 (Cnty).
  - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Cleveland Ave to minor base repair and single microsurface from Hilltop road to Glenlord. Federal cost of \$194,754 (STUL) and Local cost of \$43,246 (Cnty).
  - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Britain Ave to single seal coat from City of Benton Harbor

to Paul Ave. Federal cost of \$73,665 (STUL) and Local cost of \$16,335 (Cnty).

- *Motion by Zebell, supported by South, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.*
- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program** – The following FY 2010 CMAQ projects are being added to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - Add in FY 2010 for SWMPC, project named Marketing/Public Outreach to improve public awareness of public transportation services in St. Joseph Benton Harbor Urbanized Area through advertising, promotion, and public information. Federal cost of \$4,800 (CM) and local cost of \$1,200 (TRAL). Van Buren mentioned that this funding cannot be transferred from FHWA to FTA until at least a six-month continuing resolution of the transportation legislation is passed.
  - Add in FY 2010 for SWMPC, project named Rideshare to provide the standard rideshare program. Federal cost of \$12,000.
  - Add in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Hilltop to construct a non-motorized path from Washington Avenue to Lakeshore Drive. Federal cost of \$358,400 (CM) and local cost \$89,600 (County).
  - *Motion by Berndt, supported by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above additions to the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Motion approved.*
- **City of St. Joseph** – The following FY 2010 project is being amended to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - Amend in FY 2010 for the City of St. Joseph, project named Broad Street (JN 107685), to resurface from Lake Blvd to State Street & Main Street (I-94 BL) to 50 feet west of Wayne Street. \$42,626 of ARRA funding, \$23,000 of STUL federal funds, and \$8,800 of City funds was added to the project. The Federal cost changed from \$220,400 (STUL) to \$243,400, the local cost changed from \$56,700 to \$65,500 (City), and the total cost changed from \$277,100 to \$308,900.
  - *Motion by Zebell, supported by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment to the above-named project in the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- In addition, the following **administrative modifications** were made to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:
  - The following FY 2010 ARRA Modification in FY 2010 for BCRC, project named Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway (JN 106904) to microsurface Pipestone Road from Townline to East Nickerson Avenue. Nickerson Avenue from Pipestone Road to West 2,114 feet. Sodus Parkway from Pipestone Road to Naomi Road. Red Arrow Highway from Village of Stevensville to Linco Road, from Linco Road to Bridgman. Federal cost changed from \$657,680 (ARRA) to \$615,054 because of bid savings.
  - Modification in FY 2010 for MDOT, project named I-94 for the Right of Way (ROW) phase to resurface from Sawyer Road to north city limit of Bridgman. The project name changed from I-94 to I-94 EB and the federal cost changed from \$103,950 to 135,000 (IM) and the State cost changed from \$11,550 to \$15,000.

- **CMAQ Call for Projects Meeting**

- Musson announced that the Call for Projects meeting for 2012-2014 CMAQ projects will be held on February 3, 2010 at 1:00pm at the Berrien County Road Commission. He stated that any new project ideas to reduce congestion and improve air quality are welcome at the meeting.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Scherwitz shared a Dilbert comic about contractor bids.

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- South mentioned that MDOT is in design of a bridge rehabilitation on M-63 and asked what the committees thought of having the bridge closed for two to four-and-a-half months. The committees were concerned because of the lack of alternative routes, and asked South to bring a safety phasing and routing plan to a future meeting.

- Cook mentioned the article that had been in the Herald-Palladium about Berndt at the Berrien County Road Commission not being able to contribute the local match for a project. Berndt explained that it is a safety grant in FY 2010 to add a turn lane in front of a school, which requires a \$60,000 local match. There have been discussions with Lakeshore Schools about helping with the match. He mentioned that the rural program is in the same situation and that he is hoping the State of Michigan will pass an increase of the gas tax.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:31 a.m.**

- *Motion by Zebell, supported by Purvis, to dismiss the meeting. Motion approved.*
- Next meeting is January 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson and Anna Rahtz, Transportation Planners, 12/22/09