

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Brown, NIRPC (ex officio) Bill Boyd, Royalton Township Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Admin (ex officio) 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 Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Gary Soper, Benton Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services Todd Gardner, Village of Stevensville Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning Paul South, MDOT- Coloma TSC Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Nickolas Musson
OTHERS PRESENT:	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by Scherwitz, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Transportation Planner Update**
 - Musson explained that SWMPC is interviewing candidates and expects that we will have a new transportation planner in June.

4. PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Pipestone Road** - Completed
- **Empire Avenue** – Has been let
- **Linco Road** – July letting
- **Linco Bridge** – June letting
- **Roosevelt SR2S** – May letting

- **Arts District** – Cook is double checking to make sure Benton Harbor received their money for 2009.
- **Calvin Britain SR2S** – Looking into
- **Seelye McCord SR2S** – Looking into
- **Church Street** - Completed
- **I-94 BL** – Start April 15

There was a discussion about including stimulus projects with the project updates to ensure that the money is being spent properly and timely. Lenze explained that the projects can not be obligated until the governor has certified them. Musson will add the stimulus projects to the project list for the next meeting.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **US 31 update** –

Musson explained to the committee that a letter was written to Lt. Governor Cherry asking for a meeting to discuss the completion of US-31 in southwest Michigan. The letter pointed out that US-31 was completely designed and engineered and only waits funding, the completion is critical to the north/south link and will provide several essential elements lacking from this region. Also that the designed I-94/US-31 interchange at Benton Harbor and South Bend will be a major economic development engine and that this project belongs at the top of the Governor's discretionary ARRA funding list.

SWMPC plans to get the completion of US-31 a priority for City of Promise and to influence other political figures with direct influence to the governor.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TIP amendments**

- Amend in FY 2009, I-94 BL (Main St) at I-94 BL and Broad Street traffic operation's project description from modernize signal, and left turn phase to only add left turn phase. In addition to the project description change the federal cost will be reduced.
- Amend in FY 2009, M-139 at M-139 and Fairplain traffic operation's project description from modernize signal, and left turn phase to only add left turn phase. In addition to the project description change the federal cost will be reduced.

A motion was made by Berndt, supported by Zebell, to recommend that the Policy committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to change the project description to only include left turn phase and reduce the federal funding for the 2009 MDOT CMAQ projects I-94 BL and M-139.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Adding in FY 2009 for TACTA, two buses for a line haul route with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for a total cost of \$140,000.

A motion was made by Scherwitz, supported by Zebell, to recommend that the Policy committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to add to FY 2009 two buses for a line haul route for American Recovery act.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **ARRA Discussion** – Musson announced that stimulus funding estimates came in \$100,000 lower than expected. BCRC would like to replace Lincoln Avenue with micro surfacing projects in Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Townships.
 - Delete in FY 2009, Lincoln Avenue from John Beers to Maiden Lane with federal cost at \$455,340 because the project can't fully be funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.
 - Adding in FY 2009, adding micro surfacing projects in Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Township for a total cost of \$455,340. In Sodus Township 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. In Lincoln Township Red Arrow Highway from Village of Stevensville to Linco Road, and in Lake Township Red Arrow Highway from Linco Road to Bridgman.

A motion was made by Zebell, supported by Montoya, to recommend that the Policy committee amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to delete the Lincoln Avenue project and add the Sodus, Lincoln, and Lake Townships micro surfacing project.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Arts District needs additional funding** – Musson explained that the Arts District Project needs \$200,000 additional funding. Musson presented the committee with a possible solution consisting of moving Benton Harbors 2010-2013 projects out a year and adding the arts district in 2010. Lenze explained that if the arts district project is capped with a specific dollar amount then no additional funds can be give to the arts district project. If the project is an 80/20 project then additional funding can be given. It all depends on how the contract is written. Cook is going to look into the details of the project and report back at the next meeting.
- **Safety Project Support** – Musson explained to the committee the BCRC would like support on a safety project they are submitting. The project consists of adding a center turn lane on John Beers Road from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue. Musson explained that there has be pedestrian injuries because of the proximity of Lakeshore High School and Lakeshore Middle School, numerous crossing trips, and multiple parent drop offs and pick ups. The center turn lane would reduce much of the confusion in the area and give waiting motorist a storage and refuge area while waiting to enter school property.

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Merritt, to recommend that the Policy committee support BCRC's Safety Project to add a center turn lane on John beers Road from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **LRP Approval** – Musson announced that he had received comments from Federal Highway on February 25, 2009 and made some changes to the LRP. The recommended changes included reconstructing the Financial Analysis Section and adding more detail to the Environmental Mitigation Section and the Consultation Section. Musson handed out the updated sections to the committee. Musson asked if anyone from the public had a comment and then asked the committee if they had any additional comments. No one from the public and or committee added any more comments. Muss then explained that he is asking the committee to approve two resolutions, one for the entire LRP and the other for air conformity.

A motion was made by Berndt, supported by Cook to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolutions to approve the entire LRP document and the air conformity analysis.

MOTION APPROVED.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:19 a.m.

- Next meeting is April 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Compiled by: Nickolas Musson Transportation Planner, 3/28/09