

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*TAC Meeting*  
 July 19, 2010  
 9:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Colin Betts, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Ray Lenze, Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Mark Seaman, Village of Shoreham Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township Paul South, Michigan Department of Transportation- Coloma TSC Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, Michigan Department of Transportation - Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Vice-chair Zebell called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

**2. MINUTES:**

- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 TAC meeting. Motion approved.*

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference**
  - Thomas gave a summary of the topics that the staff had learned about at the conference, and mentioned that the powerpoints/notes can be made available to anyone who is interested in any of the particular sessions.
- **PASER Rating update**
  - Thomas mentioned that the Cass County road rating is completed; the Berrien County rating will be conducted July 20-23, and the Van Buren County rating will be conducted July 26-30. The ratings are being done on the federal aid eligible roads in the northern half of each county.

- Berndt responded that all of his staff trained to do the PASER rating are unavailable this week, and so another time may have to be scheduled.
- **TIP & UWP submission**
  - Rahtz announced that the Transportation Improvement Program had been submitted to MDOT and the Unified Work Program would be submitted by August 2nd. She stated that both final documents will be available soon on the Transportation Documents page under the TwinCATS section of the SWMPC website. She mentioned that the only major change had been to add a more detailed financial plan section with revenue projections in the TIP.

#### 4. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2010 Projects:**
  - Berrien County Road Commission
    - Britain Avenue – starting construction in two weeks
    - Cleveland Avenue – under construction
    - Hilltop Road –changing cost in TIP at this meeting; holding GI August 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Hollywood Road – under construction
    - Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – under construction
  - City of Benton Harbor
    - Highland Avenue – August letting
  - City of Bridgman
    - Lake Street – under construction
  - City of St. Joseph
    - Broad Street – under construction
  - MDOT
    - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – let earlier this month
    - I-94 BL Rideshare Lot Expansion (JN 103292) –completed
    - I-94 BL resurfacing (JN 109704) – in design
    - M-139 resurfacing (JN 103173) – starting construction soon
    - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – advertised for letting
    - M-63 resurfacing (JN 110135) – completed
  - Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
    - Surveillance cameras – being installed next week
    - Fixed route ridership increased by 339 passengers last month.
    - Purvis also announced that the fixed route buses had run on the July 5<sup>th</sup> holiday because there were part-time drivers available. This is not normally done but was needed by the riders.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Walk and Roll update**
  - Thomas stated that he had updated the maps and that Suzann Flowers is working on drafting the list of priority projects. Once it is completed, the TwinCATS members will be asked for input and a public input session will be scheduled, most likely in September.
- **Benton Harbor Local Match Update**
  - Rahtz stated that BH City Manager had told SWMPC staff that TwinCATS can expect to receive a check from the City for its encumbered membership dues for TwinCATS in the next couple of weeks.
- **Brown School Road Nation Functional Classification Change**
  - Rahtz announced that the reclassification of Brown School Road from an urban local to an urban collector had been approved by the State. She added that this now means that the road is federal aid eligible. The Village of Shoreham’s reconstruction project is second on the Illustrative list of projects.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

### • TIP Amendments (BCRC)

#### ○ Berrien County Road Commission - STUL 2010 Bid Savings

- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Hollywood Rd for resurfacing of Hollywood Rd from M-63 to 300 feet south of Glenlord Rd. Federal cost (STUL) changed from \$114,590 to \$98,100. County cost changed from \$25,410 to \$21,753. Total cost changed from \$140,000 to \$119,853. MDOT job number 109478. Comments: Bid savings of \$16,490 (STUL).
- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Cleveland Ave for resurfacing of Cleveland Ave from Hilltop Rd to Glenlord Rd. Federal cost (STUL) changed from \$260,115 to \$195,900. County cost changed from \$57,680 to \$43,440. Total cost changed from \$317,795 to \$239,340. MDOT job number 109479. Comments: Bid savings of \$64,215 (STUL).
- *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above two amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

#### ○ Berrien County Road Commission - CMAQ 2010

- Amend in FY 2010, the project named Hilltop Rd for new route/structure from Washington Ave to Lakeshore Dr. Federal cost (CM) changed from \$326,400 to \$375,000. County cost changed from \$81,600 to \$0. Total cost changed from \$408,000 to \$375,000. MDOT job number 106019. Comments: Converting to 100% federal funds using remaining FY 2010 Berrien County CMAQ money.
- Rahtz explained that the federal cost is now the same as the total cost because there was remaining CMAQ funding in Berrien County for FY 2010, and agencies are now permitted to use CMAQ funding as 100 percent federal.
- *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

#### ○ Berrien County Road Commission – STUL 2010 Remaining Funds

- Add in FY 2010, the project named Napier Ave for restoring and rehabilitating 200-foot section of Napier Ave west of I-94 in Benton Charter Township. Length is .05 miles. Federal cost (STUL) is \$61,000, county cost is \$50,000, and total cost is \$111,000. Project description is: "remove and replace failed concrete pavement slabs for approximately 200 feet."
- *Motion by Woolcock, seconded by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.*
- Discussion: Rahtz stated that this \$61,000 for the Napier Ave project was available because of the bid savings from the Hollywood Rd and Cleveland Rd projects. Cook asked if the money could be used to add shoulders on the Lincoln Ave project. Rahtz responded that it would be difficult to add FY 2010 money to a FY 2011 project unless BCRC did a partial Advance Construct and fronted all of the money for the project to construct it. Ray added that any project using this money must already have the engineering done so that it can be moved quickly before obligation authority runs out.
- Discussion: Berndt added that he had been incorrect at the previous meeting; the plan is to construct a three-foot shoulder on Lincoln Avenue. However, the County is currently looking for the \$120,000 local match.
- Discussion: Berndt explained that this proposed new project is on a short segment of Napier Avenue at I-94 in front of the truck stop, which has extremely high levels of truck traffic. The concrete has settled four inches and the top inch is worn down to the reinforcing steel. Lenze brought up a concern about STUL funding being used for maintenance. The committee agreed that the project is more than maintenance because the segment needs total reconstruction, cannot be done in-house, and is importance for facilitating truck traffic.
- *Motion approved.*

### • Draft Public Participation Plan

- Rahtz stated that the SWMPC Transportation Public Participation Plan has to be revised every four years, and so is due for revision in FY 2010. After the approval of the draft, there is a 45-day public comment period, and once all public comments are taken into consideration, the final draft can be

approved by the TAC and Policy committee, and then it goes to the full SWMPC.

- Rahtz asked if everyone had read the document and if there were any questions about it, and stated that the staff were hoping for a motion to approve the draft document.
- Rahtz noted that the only major changes from the 2006 version were the addition of language describing the Transit-Human Services Coordination Council, and the addition of more techniques that could be used for public participation.
- *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the draft of the Transportation Public Participation Plan. Motion approved.*

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

• **Sign Retroreflectivity Presentation**

- Rahtz gave a presentation of the information she had learned at the Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program training on Sign Retroreflectivity. She stated that the new FHWA requirements for sign retroreflectivity only apply to MDOT, the County, and the cities or villages that own and maintain their own signs. The representatives from sign-owning agencies stated that they had had some exposure to the material, but the committee expressed an interest in seeing the presentation for a brief overview of the topic.
- Rahtz explained what retroreflectivity is, why it is important, what the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices mandates for minimum levels of retroreflectivity of signs, and the various methods for complying.
- Zebell asked about the cost of a retroreflectometer, and Rahtz said she would check into it. Zebell suggested that the TwinCATS agencies could go together and share one.
- Woolcock clarified that the Michigan Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices is adopted from the national Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and has not yet been amended. The Michigan MUTCD includes language from the Michigan Vehicle Code. Rahtz added that the MMUTCD can be more restrictive than the MUTCD, but not less restrictive, so at least the regulations in the MUTCD regarding sign retroreflectivity will have to be met, at a minimum.
- Tupica suggested that TwinCATS invite Dave Morena from the Federal Highway Administration – Michigan Division to present at a future meeting if the members want any more information about the MUTCD.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M. Next meeting is August 16, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.