

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*TAC Meeting*  
 August 16, 2010  
 9:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Kercheval, Michigan Department of Transportation – Coloma TSC Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township Paul South, Michigan Department of Transportation- Coloma TSC Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township 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 Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Matthew Aslesen Christina Pippen Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Waymon Hodges Joanne Johnson, Disability Network

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.
- Rahtz noted that there were some changes in representation, and asked those present to introduce themselves and state the agencies they are representing.

**2. MINUTES:**

- *A motion was made by Cook, seconded by Schlipp, to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2010 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant**
  - Thomas announced that the SWMPC had been planning to apply for a HUD Sustainable

Communities Regional Planning Grant but had decided to plan for a summer 2011 application timeframe. The SWMPC is working to put together a Consortium of partners for the three-county area of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren.

- **Complete Streets Laws**

- Rahtz went over a handout summarizing Public Acts 134 and 135 that had recently been passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Granholm. Public Act 134 is an amendment to Act 51 governing distribution of funding for roads. This amendment requires road agencies to consult with one another on nonmotorized projects affecting each other's jurisdictions and to inform one another when creating a five-year nonmotorized plan. It also creates a statewide Complete Streets Advisory Council to the governor, mandates an MDOT Complete Streets Policy, and states that MDOT will provide technical assistance and expertise to local governments regarding Complete Streets.
- Public Act 135 is an amendment to the Michigan Planning Enabling Legislation, and it broadens the definition of a street and road improvements to specifically include all users.
- Cook asked the committee members for their interpretation of what the legislation will do. He noted that it does not seem to have "teeth."
- South and Latham responded that the legislation has a lot fewer "teeth" than it did when originally proposed, due to the political controversy over it. They stated that the laws solidify Michigan's policy of Context Sensitive Solutions by requiring road agencies to consult with one another and to consider the needs of all road users.

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

- **2010 Projects:**

- Berrien County Road Commission
  - Britain Avenue – seal coat complete, except for white paint
  - Cleveland Avenue – complete, except for white paint
  - Hilltop Road –GI held August 3<sup>rd</sup>, working on right-of-way easements
  - Hollywood Road – complete, except for white paint
  - Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – complete, except for white paint
  - Napier Ave W of Benton Harbor – GI completed, final plans approved, waiting for project to be obligated
- City of Benton Harbor
  - Highland Avenue – pre-construction meeting next week
- City of Bridgman
  - Lake Street – will be completed by Labor Day
- MDOT
  - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – starting construction August 17th
  - I-94 BL resurfacing (JN 109704) – in design
  - M-139 resurfacing (JN 103173) – under construction
  - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – in letting
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
  - Surveillance cameras – cameras being installed next week, need additional cable
  - Fixed route ridership increased by 440 passengers last month.
  - Scherwitz asked if TCATA has a system for tracking where individual rider trips are originating and ending. Purvis responded that the riders are tracked by community of origin, and that TCATA does not have the budget for additional technological equipment for tracking passengers. Rahtz added that TCATA does have color-coded transfer slips that are collected with the fares, which indicate which route riders are transferring to and from.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS:

### • Walk and Roll update

- Thomas gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the work that the Walk and Roll subcommittee and staff have done thus far. He showed maps of the proposed non-motorized facility construction or improvement projects that had been compiled from the nine-county non-motorized plan, the Walk and Roll subcommittee meetings, and the public survey. He also showed examples of neighborhood data that have been compiled and that could help facilitate the planning process.
- Thomas passed out copies of the maps and asked the committee members to mark up the maps and give comments on facilities they think should be added, removed, or changed in the proposed list of projects.
- Thomas outlined the next steps in the process, including the further collection and organization of important demographic and crash data and reaching out to the public for input on the draft plan.
- A comment was made that some of the on-road facilities proposed on the map appear to end at arbitrary points. It was suggested to continue the on-road facility on Benton Center Road all the way to Red Arrow Highway to provide access to the Sarrett Nature Center.
- Aslesen asked why transit routes were not included in the list of data that would be collected in the Walk and Roll plan, and Thomas responded that it would be.
- Johnson added that connections should be drawn between multiple modes of transportation, and suggested including a plan for parking shuttles that are connected to trails so that non-motorized users can access important destinations.
- Purvis added that the line haul buses now all have bicycle racks.
- Hodges suggested that non-motorized pathways be constructed wide enough that they can be plowed for snow removal in the winter. He noted that the new sidewalks on Main Street in Benton Harbor cannot be used in the winter, and residents are forced to walk in the streets.
- Thomas responded that it may make sense to consider wide shoulders on some roads rather than sidewalks, since they can be plowed along with the street.

### • Benton Harbor Local Match Update

- No action.

### • Public Participation Plan draft

- Rahtz stated that a survey had been put out to the public as a vehicle for gathering public comments during the mandatory 45-day public comment period of the draft Transportation Participation Plan. She went over a powerpoint presentation summarizing the comments that had been received. She stated that all respondents had found out about the survey through the outreach email list or the SWMPC website, so the responses may be skewed toward the needs of those who have internet access.
- The themes of the public comments included: taking information to where people already are; holding meetings in the evening rather than during the day and in an accessible location for transit riders; providing information both online and in physical locations frequented by large numbers of people such as senior centers, churches, and public libraries; addressing public comments specifically; and informing the public about how their input can actually influence a project.
- Rahtz asked for ideas or discussion from the committee members about how the Transportation Participation Plan could be altered, as well as how the process itself could be altered, to address the issues raised by the public.
- Rahtz noted that the Technical Advisory Committee had held a discussion about the need to communicate with the public about statewide issues and financial scenarios.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

### • TIP Amendments (BCRC)

#### ○ Benton Harbor CMAQ Project

- Add in FY 2010, the project named Benton Harbor Bicycle Racks. Primary work type is Roadside

facility. Project description is "Purchase and install up to 15 bicycle racks throughout City of Benton Harbor." Phase is CON, federal cost (CM) is \$60,000, and total cost is \$60,000.

- Rahtz explained that this project was the only project application submitted in a final Call for Projects to use \$60,000 of additional Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program money for Berrien County in FY 2010.
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program, on the condition that the project is approved for the CMAQ program funding by the Federal Highway Administration. Motion approved.*

○ **Berrien County Road Commission - Modifications**

- Rahtz stated that the below administrative modifications had already been made to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. She added that the purpose of the modifications was for the Road Commission to shift funds between fiscal years using Advance Construct in order to fill a gap in local match for a project.
- Modify in FY 2010, the project named Napier Avenue. The Advance Construct column was changed to "AC," and the county cost was changed from \$50,000 to \$56,911. The total cost was changed from \$111,089 to \$118,000.
- Add in FY 2011, the project named Napier Avenue. Limits are 200' section west of I-94, length is 0.05 miles, primary work type is Restore & rehabilitate, project description is "Remove and replace failed concrete pavement slabs for approximately 200 feet," and phase is CON. Advance construct is ACC. Federal cost (STUL) is \$35,494.
- Modify in FY 2011, the project named Lincoln Avenue. Federal cost was changed from \$486,000 to \$450,506, county cost was changed from \$114,000 to \$99,898, and total construction cost was changed from \$600,000 to \$550,404.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Stauffer noted that the new Meijer store has broken ground and will be completed in April 2011.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Meeting adjourned at 10:38 A.M. Next meeting is September 20, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.