

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
Joint Policy / Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
 June 21, 2010
 10:00 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Izzy DiMaggio, Berrien County Road Commission Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gast, Lake Charter Township Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation – Southwest Region Ray Lenze, Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Larry Merritt, St. Joseph Charter Township Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Deb Panozzo, Berrien County Board of Commissioners Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration Sarah Woolcock, Michigan Department of Transportation - Coloma TSC Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Planning Commission Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Ron Carter, City of Benton Harbor John Egelhaaf, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Derek Perry, City of St. Joseph / Village of Stevensville Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority 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) Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Paul South, Michigan Department of Transportation- Coloma TSC
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Matthew Aslesen Christina Phippen Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Brad Peterson, MDOT – Road Development

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Policy Committee Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Scherwitz, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2010*

TAC meeting. Motion approved.

- *A motion was made by DiMaggio, seconded by Seely, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

• **New Staff**

- The new transportation planner Trevor Thomas introduced himself. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Master's in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He interned at the New York City Department of Transportation and AARP.
- Christina Pippen, one of the new mobility managers, introduced herself. She holds a B.A. in Social Work and a Masters in Organization and Community Practice from Michigan State University. She previously worked at the Allen Neighborhood Center in Lansing, MI.
- Matthew Aslesen, one of the new mobility managers, introduced himself. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from Beloit College and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He previously worked for the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Washtenaw County Office of Economic Development and Energy.
- Judd asked how SWMPC was able to hire the mobility managers, and Rahtz explained that they had been hired with a New Freedom grant from the Federal Transit Administration, which is intended to improve the mobility of people with disabilities. The grant is a pass-through from the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority.

• **PASER Road Rating**

- Rahtz announced that the PASER rating process for federal aid eligible roads in the three-county area will begin July 6th. She mentioned that there is also still funding available for local agencies to have their locally owned roads rated by SWMPC. She clarified that the local road rating is on a three-year cycle, so the agency is notified by the Transportation Asset Management Council every three years that it is eligible.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

• **2010 Projects:**

- Berrien County Road Commission
 - Britain Avenue – signed contract
 - Cleveland Avenue – bids came in \$60,000 low (will discuss at next meeting how to spend the \$60,000)
 - Hilltop Road –CMAQ reapplication approved for separate 6' wide paths, has to be obligated by September 30th; changing description in TIP at this meeting
 - Hollywood Road – bid
 - Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway – Construction August 1st
- City of Benton Harbor
 - Highland Avenue – plans submitted; August letting
- City of Bridgman
 - Church Street ACC – no update
 - Lake Street – no update
- City of St. Joseph
 - Broad Street – completed
- MDOT
 - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – advertised; July letting
 - I-94 resurfacing (JN 79871, ROW phase) – Design phase in process
 - I-94 BL Rideshare Lot Expansion (JN 103292) –completed
 - M-139 resurfacing (JN 103173) –starting construction in July
 - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – holding last project meeting; September letting
 - M-63 resurfacing (JN 110135) – under way
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority

- No updates

5. OLD BUSINESS:

• Walk and Roll work update

- Cook stated that the Walk and Roll subcommittee has been meeting monthly. Currently the staff is working on updating the maps and writing up a summary of potential priority non-motorized projects, both on-road and off-road. Input on that summary of priorities will then be solicited from the TwinCATS members and the public. Cook emphasized that the ultimate goal of the subcommittee is to encourage non-motorized facilities on all new road projects and to develop a regional network of trails.
- Panozzo asked when the Walk and Roll meetings are, and Rahtz replied that the next meeting has not been scheduled yet. Panozzo stated that she meets individuals who have an interest in non-motorized facilities and she would like to refer them to attend the Walk and Roll meetings. Rahtz responded that they could be referred to the Walk and Roll webpage at <http://swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp>.

• Benton Harbor Local Match Update

- No action.
- Cook provided an update on the City of Benton Harbor's financial situation. He stated that the emergency financial manager Joseph Harris has acknowledged owing money to MDOT, and so likely he realized that money is owed to TwinCATS as well. The budget for FY 2010-2011 is expected to be straightened out after July 1, 2010.

• Brown School Road National Functional Classification Change

- No action.

• 2010 Trails Workshop Series

- Rahtz announced that the next workshop in the 2010 Trails Workshop series will be held June 30, 2010 at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence, Michigan. The workshop is from 8:30am to 12:00pm, and registration is at www.swmpc.org. The topic for June 30, 2010 is Funding for Bicycle Trails. The same session will be held on a different date in West Olive, Michigan for those who cannot attend the Lawrence session. This has been a topic of particular interest in the TwinCATS area, and so the Walk and Roll subcommittee members are encouraged to attend.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

• 2011-2014 TIP final draft document approval

- Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft TIP document, and distributed extra copies. She asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SMWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- Rahtz read the three comments that had been received from the public about the TIP, and asked the TwinCATS members to provide responses to write in the TIP document acknowledging the public comments. Responses were provided regarding drainage on M-139; the Amtrak station in St. Joseph; and the provision of four-foot-wide shoulders on Lincoln Avenue.
- Berndt began discussing with the other members how more funding could be acquired to add to the Lincoln Avenue project to construct a shoulder.
- Lenze asked for the explanation for the black shaded box on the Illustrative List of Projects, and Rahtz responded that Brown School Road is not yet federal aid eligible, so she left the funding source shaded as a reminder that Surface Transportation funding cannot yet be used for this project.
- Zebell asked why some projects on the Illustrative list were assigned years and some were not. Rahtz responded that these were the years in which the agencies desired to construct the projects. Not all agencies have preferred years; they want to construct the projects as soon as possible.
- Tupica noted that the City of St. Joseph's AC project did not have the funds properly assigned by year in the TIP table. Rahtz and Lenze responded that they would meet after the meeting to clarify how to show it in the table.
- *Technical Advisory Committee – Motion by Zebell, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- *Policy Committee – Motion by DiMaggio, seconded by Scherwitz, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **TIP Amendments**

- **2010 MDOT**

- Add in FY 2010, project named I-94 BL. Limits are Glenlord Rd to Pearl St, and length is 4.77 miles. Primary work type is Trunkline Highway CPM/CSM GPA (Capital Preventive Maintenance / Capital Structural Maintenance General Program Account). Project description is mill and one-course HMA overlay. Phase is CON (construction). Federal cost (ST) is \$1,542,873, state cost (M) is \$342,127, and total cost is \$1,885,000. MDOT job number 109704. MDOT fiscal year 2011.
- Delete in FY 2010, project named I-94 EB (Eastbound). Limits were from Sawyer Road to north city limit of Bridgman. Length was 5 miles. Primary work type was resurface. Project description was "Mill existing HMA and apply two course HMA resurfacing treatment. Widen outside shoulder to thirteen feet paved to maintain work zone traffic and meet FHWA guideline. Widen inside shoulder to ten feet wide to meet FHWA Standard. Flatten median slope, replacement of all median culverts and shallow cross culverts, re-install cable median barrier, guardrail upgrade, freeway signing upgrade, and ROW fence replacement. ROW may be required to complete drainage upgrade." Phase was ROW (right of way). Federal cost (IM) was \$135,000, state cost was \$15,000, and total cost is \$150,000. MDOT job number 79871.
- Amend in FY 2010, project named CPM CSM Bridge Trunkline GPA (Capital Preventive Maintenance / Capital Structural Maintenance General Program Account). Federal cost (ST) changed from \$61,927 to \$96,000, state cost changed from \$6,811 to \$11,000, and total cost changed from \$68,738 to \$107,000.
- Amend in FY 2010, project named EPE/PE/ROW Trunkline GPA (Early Preliminary Engineering / Preliminary Engineering / Right of Way Trunkline General Program Account). Federal cost (ST) changed from \$29,676 to \$239,094, state cost (M) changed from \$3,297 to \$33,259, and total cost changed from \$32,973 to \$272,353.
- Amend in FY 2010, project named M-63. Federal cost (formerly listed as STU, amended to STUT) changed from \$1,232,279 to \$417,460, state cost (formerly listed at M, amended to EDA) changed from \$273,254 to \$92,570, and total cost changed from \$1,505,533 to \$510,030. Note: Award cost came in significantly under TIP-listed estimate.
- *Technical Advisory Committee - Motion by Cook, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above three MDOT amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- *Policy Committee – Motion by DiMaggio, seconded by Fenderbosch, to approve the above three MDOT amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **2011 MDOT**

- Add in FY 2011, project named US-31. Limits are Berrien County, length is 21.17 miles, primary work type is traffic operations, project description is freeway signing upgrade, and phase is CON (construction). Federal cost (NHG) is \$249,607, and total cost is \$249,607. MDOT job number 108921. Comments: MDOT FY 12; 34.91% of project within TwinCATS boundary; total phase cost = \$715,000 federal NHG.
- Add in FY 2011, project named I-196. Limits are: Red Arrow Highway over I-196, 1.0 miles north of I-94 in Berrien County. Length is .03 miles, primary work type is Bridge – Other, project description is beam repairs, and phase is CON (construction). Federal cost (IM) is \$256,755, state cost (M) is \$28,528, and total cost is \$285,283. MDOT job number is 109087.
- Add in FY 2011, project named I-94. Limits are: at Nickerson Avenue, M-40 at M-43, and I-94 at M-40. Length is .01 miles, primary work type is roadside facility, project description is resurface carpool lots, and phase is CON (construction). Federal cost (ST) is \$22,100, state cost is \$4,900, and total cost is \$27,000. MDOT job number is 103294. Comments: Nickerson Ave is the only one of the three in the FAUB. This project possibly duplicates JN 103293.
- *Technical Advisory Committee - Motion by Berndt, seconded by Zebell, to recommend that the*

Policy Committee approve the above three MDOT amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.

- *Policy Committee – Motion by Scherwitz, seconded by Fenderbosch, to approve the above three MDOT amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **Other 2011 Projects**

- Delete in FY 2011, the Benton Harbor project named Territorial Road. Limits were 4th Street to Fair Avenue, primary work type was resurface, and project description was "Cold mill and resurface. Replace sidewalk and make minor drainage improvements." Phase was CON (construction). Federal cost (ST) was \$280,000, local cost (city) was \$70,000, and total cost was 350,000. Comments: Duplication with MDOT 94 BL project in FY 2010.
- Amend in FY 2011, the St. Joseph project named South State Street. Responsible agency name was modified from City of St Joseph to St Joseph to match FY 2011-2014 TIP. Project name was modified from South State Street to S State St and Kingsley Ave. Limits changed from "Granada Ave to Wallace Ave" to "Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and S State St to 100 feet east of S State St." Length changed from .17 miles to .19 miles.
- Add in FY 2011, the TCATA project named Transit vehicle replacement. Limits are Twin Cities Area, primary work type is transit vehicle additions/replacements, project description is replacing three buses, and phase is T-Cap (transit capital). Federal cost (5307) is \$153,600, state cost (CTF) is \$38,400, and total cost is \$192,000.
- *Technical Advisory Committee - Motion by Woolcock, seconded by Smith, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the above three amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*
- *Policy Committee – Motion by Stauffer, seconded by Woolcock, to approve the above three amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved.*

- **FY 2011 Unified Work Program final document approval**

- Rahtz asked if all committee members had had a chance to thoroughly read the draft UWP document, and distributed extra copies. She went over the public comments that were submitted about the document, and asked if anyone had any further questions or comments about the document. She stated that the document would be revised as necessary and then presented to the full SWMP Commission on July 20, 2010, and then submitted to MDOT, FHWA, and FTA.
- Lenze asked why the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians had not been added to the membership list in the UWP, and Rahtz responded that the Pokagon Band would not officially be a member until their planner gets approval from the Tribal Council to accept the invitation to join.
- *Technical Advisory Committee - Motion by Rieder, seconded by Montoya, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011 Unified Work Program. Motion approved.*
- *Policy Committee – Motion by DiMaggio, seconded by Panozzo, to approve the final draft of the FY 2011 Unified Work Program. Motion approved.*

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- **Context Sensitive Solutions Presentation**

- Brad Peterson from MDOT Road Development gave a presentation on MDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions policy. He explained that Context Sensitive Solutions is the concept of using broad stakeholder involvement early on in the design and development process to ensure a project considers the context of the people and the environment.
- DiMaggio asked for clarification on the definition of a stakeholder. Peterson responded that anyone who believes they have a stake in a project is a stakeholder.
- Judd comments that if the CSS policy had been used years ago, the US-31 project may be completed because the opposition would have already been addressed early on in the process.
- Merritt asked if the CSS policy has been applied to all MDOT projects currently in the TIP, and Peterson responded yes.
- Tupica commented that the case study in the presentation – the I-94 BL / Main Street project in Benton Harbor – was changed significantly from MDOT's original design because of public input that was

received late in the process.

- Latham noted that MDOT projects are fixed type – while design changes can be made, the overall type and scope of the work is set by MDOT.
- Judd commented that these CSS principles can be applied to the Walk and Roll plan that is currently being done within TwinCATS. He noted that having the stakeholders' priorities written in the long range plan will help to justify those projects in funding applications, etc.
- Berndt announced that Larry Merritt has been appointed by the Berrien County Commissioners to fill a seat on the Berrien County Road Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M. Next meeting is July 19, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. (TAC) and 10:30 A.M. (Policy Committee).

Compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 6/29/10