

Minutes
TwinCATS ARRA Bid Savings Project Selection Meeting
St. Joseph City Council Chambers
August 27, 2009 at 2:00 PM

Attendees: Aaron Anthony, Jason Auvil, Brian Berndt, Chris Cook, Bill Purvis, Nicole Moon, Nick Musson (staff), Anna Rahtz (staff), David Warfield and Tim Zebell

1. **Purpose of the meeting** - Musson explained that the purpose of this meeting was to identify if any of the four American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects in the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) has any bid savings and how should those bid savings be used.
2. **What are the bids and what are the savings?** A bid is the cost that a contractor would charge to construct the job. Bid savings are calculated by subtracting the project bid amount from the programmed amount. Each project prior to the bidding is cost-estimated and that figure is programmed into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Once the project has a bid the TIP is amended to reflect the actual cost of the project.

Musson handed out a list of the four ARRA road projects including: Berrien County Road Commission's (BCRC) Glenlord/John Beers Road, Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman's Lake Street and St. Joseph's Park Street. Musson asked the committee members to identify any bid savings. Berndt announced that the Glenlord/John Beers Road project had very little in bid savings, about \$1,000. Anthony explained that Lake Street will not be bid until December, but doesn't anticipate any bid savings. Zebell announced that Park Street had considerable savings, around \$150,000.

3. **What projects need additional funding?** Berndt announced that the Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway project estimates came in \$239,000 above programmed cost. Berndt explained that he would reject the bid because there was only one bidder. Berndt also, mentioned that his estimates for the project were off and expects the bids still to be high.
4. **Illustrative list** – see attached ARRA project list.
5. **Prioritize projects for bid savings** - Berndt proposed that the remaining \$150,000 of bid savings from Park Street be moved to Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway to ensure that project gets completed. Berndt also pointed out that there was an additional \$46,598 available in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds in bid savings on the Empire Avenue project that could be transferred to the Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway project. Any other bid savings that are received from the Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway project re-bid and Lake Street will move to the illustrative list of projects.

The first project on the illustrative list was St. Joseph's Kingsley Avenue for a total cost of \$513,500. Zebell explained that the project has been cut down in size and now the total cost is \$167,000. Zebell is going to ask Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to give St. Joseph's project a Grade Inspection (G.I.), to ensure the project is completely ready to go. Zebell also mentioned that South State Street and Broad Street are smaller projects and can be ready to go immediately.

6. **Future additional bid savings** - The subcommittee decided that Southwest Michigan Planning Commission staff will prepare the following TIP amendments for the next TwinCATS meeting:

- Amend FY 2009 Empire Avenue STP funding by \$46,598 and transfer it to the Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway project.
- Amend FY 2009 Park Street to reduce federal cost from \$398,900 to \$248,000 and transfer the remaining \$150,000 funds to the Pipestone Rd/Nickerson Ave/Sodus Parkway/Red Arrow Highway project.
- Amend FY 2009 ARRA illustrative list to reduce Kingsley from \$513,500 to \$167,000 and to add Broad and South State Street to the illustrative list based on the information given to SWMPC from Zebell.

7. **Additional public comment** – Nicole Moon asked why three Benton Harbor projects (Klock Road, East Klock Road, and Graham Avenue), which had recently secured other funding, were on the Illustrative Projects list. Musson responded that the Illustrative List had already been written before the other funding was awarded to those projects. Cook suggested that the projects be left on the Illustrative Projects list in case other federal funding opened up, so that state funding wouldn't have to be used.