

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
 Tueaday, January 16, 2024 Meeting Attendance

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal	x	x	V											
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V											
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	(Vacant / Dan Fette)	x		A											
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P											
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A											
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P											
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	V											
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A											
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		V											
Cornerstone Alliance	Vacant	x	x												
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy Gray	x		A											
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lake Charter Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P											
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		V											
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V											
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A											
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V											
MDOT – Southwest Region	(Vacant)	Alt	Alt												
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V											
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	V											
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A											
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A											
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P											
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		P											
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P											
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Rufas Adams	x	x	P											
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x	V											
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	V											
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P											
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	x	x	A											
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	V											
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A											
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		V											
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	P											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P											
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			P											

Pol. Ch. - Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; IP – Present in person; V – Participating remotely; A – Absent; A blank spot means the position is vacant.

Others Present : Alan Smaka WHightma & Associates; Oliver Linsey , TCATA ;

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and Kim Gallagher conducted roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of The November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

(Draft meeting minutes can be found in the meeting packet page 2)

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023, TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Kim Gallagher gave an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development timeline, focusing on the project selection criteria and application process. The goal is to have the project selection criteria approved by the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee in April 2024, release the application packet in June, review applications in Late fall, and approve the fiscally constrained project list in January 2025.

6. **Local Road Agency Updates**

Kevin Stack gave update on the Berrien County Road Department projects

- The Lincoln Ave project has been submitted for a March letting.
- The Empire Ave project is scheduled for letting in February or March.
- The Countywide Signal Project is in the approval process, currently undergoing SHPO review. The Signal Project will upgrade the computer systems for 13 signals in the county, primarily along the Napier and Pipestone Corridors.

Tim Drews gave updates on the City of Benton Harbor projects:

- Pipestone road project has been bid, a pre-construction meeting was held, and its scheduled for construction in spring.
- Pipestone and market is done, but two weeks ago a car hit the new signal cabinet. It was fixed using the drivers' insurance. The Colfax project, from Market to Main Street, has been submitted for a grade inspection, with a meeting scheduled for Friday.
- The Empire and Colfax project was also submitted for grade inspection but won't doesn't a meeting; minor revisions are underway, and final estimates are being prepared.
- The Jefferson Street project is in preliminary design with the survey done.

Drews added details about the two state funded projects. The Paw Paw Ave. project is funded with Category F state funding, a very competitive grant aiming to enhance freight connections between local and state-owned corridors. Linking Paw Paw Ave. with the I-94 Business Loop contributed to the projects receiving the grant. The Jefferson Ave. project is using Category B funding, another competitive grant designated for cities or villages with a population under 10,000.

7. **Transit Updates and Amendments**

(The TCATA amendment request can be found in the meeting packet on page 7)

Oliver explained that TCATA had remaining FTA funds from FY 2022 which need to be added to a grant before it lapses. TCATA is requesting to use these funds for facility maintenance.

8. **CMAQ & CRP Funding Amendments**

(Proposed CMAQ & RTF project amendments can be found in the meeting packet on page 8)

Kovnat explained that proposed amendments were suggested during the Berrien County CMAQ meeting and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) subcommittee meeting, both held on December 14th.

Stauffer gave an update about the John Beers non-motorized path, which is a half-mile path from S Roosevelt to the Stevensville village limits, connecting into the village's sidewalks. The project currently has \$400,000 in CMAQ funding and has been awarded another \$400,000 by State Rep. Joey Andrews from a State Special Grant. Which leaves a local match of the \$23,000.

Drews gave an overview of the Lakeview Trail Project, which is sponsored by Whirlpool and the County. It will be a non-motorized path along the west side of M-63 from Higman, Park Road to Monty Rd. On that road near the Whirlpool headquarters and will connect to the new tunnel in that vicinity. The path passes by a manufactured home community and can be used for commuting purposes. While fundraising is ongoing, most funding has been secured, with the additional CRP funding being significant.

Adams explained that the EV infrastructure in FY 2026 will be used to support TCATA's new EV buses, and that TCATA will be using FY 2025 CMAQ funding to purchase two more EVs.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Local Road Agency and Transit project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

9. **MDOT Project Updates**

(see meeting packet page 9 for more details)

Gallagher explained that they included a new format for the MDOT updates, which will include current and future projects. The list is organized by construction dates and includes information about projects which have already been obligated, including projects currently under construction.

Kovnat added that the list excludes pavement markings and most other "areawide" projects. These projects are routine work, which are typically managed from the Lansing office, not by Jon Smith at the Coloma TSC.

Gallagher gave a presentation about the MI Drive website (<https://mdotboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/map>). She showed how you can find construction projects, as well as current driving conditions. She added that only construction that leads to detours or traffic issues are included.

10. **MDOT Project Amendments**

(Explanations for the MDOT project amendment can be found in the meeting packet page 11)

There were no questions or comments about proposed amendments.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet . Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Kevin Stack. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Tim Drews and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

11. **2024 Traffic Safety Performance Targets**

(The proposed safety targets can be found in the meeting packet on page 12)

Kovant gave a brief overview of the 2024 traffic safety performance targets (which are for the calendar year), explaining that the targets are forecasts for each performance measure based on existing trends. They are not aspirational goals but should be considered the “baseline scenario” to compare efforts against.

Kovnat added that you can get additional data from the State’s annual traffic safety report, which has statistics for each county. Another source of data is Michigantrafficcrashfacts.org. He is also able to pull any data or reports by request. These are great for identifying high crash locations and obtaining data for Safety grants.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee support the Statewide Traffic Safety Targets for 2024. Made by Roger Seely and seconded by Kevin Stack. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Tim Drews and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

12. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Stauffer complimented MDOT on the work at Exit 23. He also said that there was new development along Red Arrow in this area including a new Holiday Inn.

Gallagher complimented St. Joseph Township on plowing the new sidewalk on Napier Avenue.

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner.