

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TAC and Policy Committee Combined Minutes

October 16, 2017 9:30 A.M.

Kinexus, Lighthouse Room

Present		Committee Representing	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Carolyn Fowler	Benton Charter Township		x
Bill Chickering	Berrien County Commissioner		x
Eric Lester	Berrien County Planning Commission		x
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Department	x	
Chris Cook	City of Benton Harbor	x	x**
John Hodgson	City of St. Joseph		
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph	x	
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township		X
Jason Latham	MDOT Southwest Region	x	x
Katie Beck	MDOT SUTA*	x	
Scott Weber	Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission*	x	x
Vince Desjardins	Southwest Michigan Regional Airport	x	x
Jonathan Fisk**	St. Joseph Charter Township	x	
Denise Cook	St. Joseph Charter Township		x
Alex Little	TCATA	x	x
Bob Lawrence	Village of Shoreham	x	x
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC	Staff	
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	Staff	
Absent		Committee Representing	
Name	Representing	TAC	POL
Calli Berg	Benton Charter Township	x	
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	x
Darwin Watson	City of Benton Harbor		x
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman	x	x
Stacey Stephens	Cornerstone Alliance	x	x
Terezie Harazinova	Disability Network Southwest Michigan	x	
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Angelica Selgado	Federal Transit Administration*	x	x
Gloria Payne	Lake Charter Township	x	x
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	X	
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Business Office	x	x
Fred Featherly	MDOT Passenger Division	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Statewide Planning	x	x

Absent	Representing	TAC	POL
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Statewide Planning	x	x
Steve Tilly	Royalton Township		x
David Chandler	Sodus Township	x	x
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township	x	

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Brian Berndt at 9:30 AM

2. Changes to the Agenda

None

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approve Minutes from the March 20, 2017 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2017 meeting by Tim Lynch, second Dick Stauffer. **Motion Approved**

5. Staff Report

Long Range Plan Update: Brandon Kovnat presented the Non-motorized Technical Memo (http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/nonmotorized_technical_report_final.pdf).

Napier Avenue Corridor Study: Kim Gallagher said the contract between SWMPC and AECOM was approved on October 4. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled for early November. This meeting will include a walking audit where the steering committee will walk the corridor and observe the conditions.

There was a discussion about sidewalk maintenance.

- Dick Stauffer mentioned that Davenport, Iowa had good sidewalk metrics.
- Alex Little asked if the Napier Avenue Study would look at Benton Harbor Sidewalks and how they connect to Napier Avenue.
- Kim Gallagher responded that the scope of work for the Napier Study didn't include exploring condition on other roads.
- Tim Zebell said that the City of St. Joseph has a sidewalk maintenance plan. A hazard of 3/4 inches gets the sidewalk on the maintenance schedule, while a 1.5-inch hazard results in an immediate repair. Cost is shared between property owner and city 50/50.
- Benton Harbor has used CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds in the past for sidewalks.

6. Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates

None

7. Public Transit

Countywide Transit Study: Kim Gallagher reminded the group that the CEO of Nelson Nygaard had taken over the project. A timeline would be released shortly

TCATA: Alex little said TCATA was pursuing more funding opportunities. He was looking at using 5339 funds (Federal transit Administration section 5539 funds are given for “bus and Bus facilities”) for a storage and maintenance facility. He was also looking at a greater presence in Benton Township with a terminal in the shopping area. Currently there is no good area for buses to board and drop of passengers in the area.

8. Walk and Roll

Chris Cook gave an update on the Walk and Roll Committee meeting held on October 12. He mentioned that the committee had last met prior to this in 2015. He said that they discussed the political climate around walking and biking. Attitudes in the area about walking and biking have been changing with greater acceptance but more progress is still needed. The next phase is to incorporate data into prioritizing project and working with communities.

Kim Gallagher added that many potential projects were not in the TIP or the LRP. She said that they need committee help to add more projects and put projects into an illustrative list.

Chris Cook said that the Walk and Roll committee would like the TwinCATS Policy Committee to make a motion that officially authorizes the Walk and Roll subcommittee and specifies its scope of their work. The original goals of the Walk and Roll committee were presented.

Motion for the Policy Committee to charge the Walk and Roll subcommittee with the following goals:

- To review studies, plans, and projects already completed for non-motorized transportation in the Twin Cities Area.
- To identify specific objectives/priorities for non-motorized transportation in the Twin Cities area.
- To create specific strategies for implementing those priorities.
- To communicate with surrounding areas in the region to ensure regional connectivity.

Made by Chris Cook, Second by Alex Little. **Motion Approved**

Kim Gallagher said that work on the Marquette Greenway was progressing and that SWMPC had partnered with NIRPC (Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission) to apply for a TIGER grant.

Scott Webber explained that Marquette Greenway was a planned trail going from Chicago to New Buffalo, going along the lakeshore through most of Indiana.

Kim Gallagher mentioned breaking news that SWMPC had received funding to update the 9 county Road and Trail Bicycle Guide. Kim explained that the guide mapped out the location of all trails and bike facilities as well as the traffic on roads to help cyclists plan trips. Kim explained that the inclusion of traffic levels on the map helps cyclists of different abilities know where they might be comfortable riding.

9. Airport Updates

Vince Des Jardins said the airport was busy preparing for winter.

10. Agency Project Status

Berrien County Road Department: Brian Berndt mentioned that since the County took control of the Berrien County Road Commission, the name has been changed to the Berrien County Road Department.

Berrien County Road Department:

- Nickerson Avenue: Plans have been submitted
- Shawnee Road: the site has been surveyed

City of St. Joseph: Wallace Avenue has had its Grade Inspection (GI)

City of Benton Harbor: Pipestone signal had been obligated and letting was expected in early November.

MDOT:

- Joint Resealing on US-31: Eastern side to Exit 23 is done. The remaining portion is on track for completion in mid-November
- I-94 Bridge Scoping for 2023-2025 replacement: designs are being worked on but the project is outside MDOT's 5-yr plan

11. Old Business

Katie Beck reminded the committees that future year socioeconomic data, which was handed out at the last meeting, was going to be voted on at the November meeting. She asked that communities review the data to check if it was reasonable and submit any changes to her before the next meeting.

12. New Business

None

State and Federal Updates

None

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, Associate Planner SWMPC