

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

## Minutes

March 21, 2016

10:30 A.M.

St. Joseph City Commission Chambers

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bill Chickering, Berrien County Board of Commissioners Vince DesJardins, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Dan Roberts, MDOT Kalamazoo TSC Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Steve Tilly, Royalton Township
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Dave Chandler, Sodus Township Denise Cook, St. Joseph Charter Township Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Juan Ganum, City of Bridgman John Gast, Lake Charter Township John Hodgson, City of St. Joseph Deb Kavanaugh-Frank, Hagar Township John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Cathy Tilley, Cornerstone Alliance
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Stauffer called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

### 2. CHANGES TO THE POSTED AGENDA

None.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### 4. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Lynch with support by Chickering to approve the minutes of the February 22 Policy Committee meeting as amended. **Motion passed.**

#### 5. STAFF REPORT

- **Upcoming Staff Changes at SWMPC**

Mani announced that he was leaving SWMPC on May 13th. He had accepted a position with the Federal Highway Administration in Albany, NY. Mani thanked committee members for giving him their support and for an outstanding experience in his first planning job. The committee members congratulated him and wished him well.

Mani said that SWMPC was working hard to fill his position. Resumes had come in and interviews were going to be scheduled shortly. The goal is to have someone in place by the time that he departs.

- **Asset Management Conference April 13th**

Mani informed committee members that the Spring Asset Management Conference would be taking place on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Dearborn. Prices are relatively low for the conference. Unfortunately, an agenda was not available as yet.

#### 6. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Gallagher said that the Request for Proposals released online for the countywide service planning study in Berrien County. This study is looking at possibilities for fixed route service throughout the county so that more people can be served by transit, so that the transit agencies can operate more efficiently, and so that Dial-A-Ride service can serve those who absolutely need it. Gallagher said that this study would be useful regardless of if full consolidation occurred. Gallagher said that a phone call had taken place with consultants who were interested to answer questions regarding the study. The proposals were due on April 8<sup>th</sup>. After that date, consultants will be brought in for interviews. The study is expected to be completed in May of 2017.

Gallagher said that there were still questions regarding the role of Berrien County elected officials in the consolidation process.

Evan Smith said that the previous Thursday, Berrien County staff had met with the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to continue discussions of forming a new Countywide Transportation Authority. Evan Smith said that the County Board of Commissioners had instructed staff to attempt to conduct meetings in all of the municipalities of Berrien County to understand the level of support for consolidation and for transit, and to discuss what benefits each municipality might receive in terms of services. The transit agencies on their own bring in \$4 million in federal and state funds per year.

Stauffer said that Lincoln Township would like to have a presentation at their board meeting regarding how consolidation could lead to greater benefits in terms of service.

- **TCATA Updates**

Purvis reported that he had placed the order for new radios and dispatching software. Gallagher reported that she was working with Purvis on figuring out the appropriate sites for new bus shelters for TCATA.

Purvis reported also that he was in the process of ordering slightly larger medium duty buses for the fixed route, as there were an increasing number of passengers during the beginning of the month. The medium duty buses would accommodate 21 passengers. Purvis said that overall ridership was still down.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**

No report.

- **Walk and Roll Report**

Mani said that the Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council (MGSSLC) had been ramping up its efforts for non-motorized planning in the area. Mani said that one thing SWMPC was working on was to make sure members of the MGSSLC were informed about work that had already been done in our region on non-motorized planning, including the TwinCATS Walk and Roll plan. The goal was to avoid duplication of effort, and focus MGSSLC on implementation. Mani said that many priorities identified in existing plans had still not been met, and so it does not make sense for MGSSLC to be writing completely new plans.

Stauffer commended John Egelhaaf of SWMPC for leading the Strategic Leadership Council in its initiatives.

## 8. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

### -LECO

Gallagher shared the news story on the further planned expansion of LECO in St. Joseph Township, and wondered about the possibility of sidewalks and in particular, a marked crosswalk leading to the facility. Fenderbosch said that there was a public meeting on the first Monday at the Township Hall to discuss the planned expansion.

## 9. PROJECT UPDATES

### **City of Benton Harbor**

2016 Pipestone at Wall Street Traffic Signal replacement project- Grade Inspection meeting is next week. The City is still anticipating a July letting.

### **City of St. Joseph**

2016 Lakeview Avenue from Hilltop to Highland Avenue reconstruct- Funds are obligated. The project will be let in May and constructed as soon as school lets out.

### **Berrien County Road Commission**

2016 Shawnee Road from the Bridgman city limits to Jericho Road- April 1 letting

2016 Pipestone Traffic Signal at Entrance to Meijer- Final plans have been approved.

2016 Napier at Pipestone traffic signal- completed.

## **MDOT**

No updates

## **TCATA**

Replacement radios and dispatching software have been ordered.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

### **▪ Napier Avenue**

Mani and Gallagher reiterated that the TAC and Policy Committees had each stated at their February meetings that despite approving the projects for funding on Napier Avenue, the TwinCATS committees should continue to have discussions in order to urge Benton Township and St. Joseph Township to comply with the Complete Streets Policy with the Napier Avenue projects.

Fowler said that people walk in the roads even if sidewalks are put in place, and also that there were increased winter maintenance costs once sidewalks are put into place. Gallagher acknowledged that winter maintenance was an understandable concern for the townships. Certain townships had success with developing winter maintenance plans for their sidewalks, but it can create huge costs as well. Gallagher said that it is worth getting more information about those exact costs for non-motorized infrastructure before they make a decision.

Chickering wondered what the accountable body was on the project, and what avenues could be pursued by people who thought of non-motorized conditions as an issue. Mani said that the TwinCATS Policy Committee was the body that was ultimately accountable. It was the TwinCATS Policy Committee that made decisions about which projects get funded and which ones do not. Chickering also wondered why Benton Township was not mentioned in the Be Healthy Berrien report when St. Joseph Township was called out.

Mani reminded committee members again that they or the previous representatives from their agencies had all voted to approve the Complete Streets Policy with no dissenting votes.

Gallagher said that it is worth getting more information about those exact costs for non-motorized infrastructure before they make a decision.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **▪ Amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP**

#### *TCATA*

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority proposed the following amendments to the 2014-2017 TwinCATS TIP:

#### **2017**

- Add Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.

-Add Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position for a total of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.

- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute Funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.
- Add one bus replacement purchase using Section 5339 federal funds for \$68,398 and state funds in the amount of \$17,100.
- Add the purchase of four replacement buses using federal CMAQ funds in the amount of \$230,000; federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$43,594, and state funds in the amount of \$68,368.
- Add the purchase of three replacement buses using federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$205,194 and state funds in the amount of \$51,300.

A motion by Purvis with support by Tilly to approve the transit amendment requests to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion passed.**

#### *MDOT*

The Michigan Department of Transportation proposed the following amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP:

#### **2016**

- Add PE Phase of US-31 Longitudinal Joint Repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$16,370; and state funds in the amount of \$3,630.

Roberts noted that this was an emerging technology that MDOT was testing out on Napier Avenue and other areas.

#### **2017**

- Add Construction Phase of the US-31 longitudinal joint repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$234,036, and state funds in the amount of \$51,897.

-Move I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 ROW phase from 2015 to 2017. The project has a federal cost of \$22,500 and a state cost of \$2,500.

A motion by Roberts with support by Purvis to approve the MDOT amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP. **Motion passed.**

- **2017-2020 MDOT and Transit Projects**

#### *TCATA*

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority proposed the following additions to the 2017-2020 TIP:

#### **2017**

- Add Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.
- Add Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position for a total of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.
- Add one bus replacement purchase using Section 5339 federal funds for \$68,398 and state funds in the amount of \$17,100.

-Add the purchase of four replacement buses using federal CMAQ funds in the amount of \$230,000; federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$43,594, and state funds in the amount of \$68,368.

### **2018**

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for facilities improvements for a federal amount of \$80,000 and a state amount of \$20,000.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

### **2019**

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$816,249 federal, \$691,681 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,913,930
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for one bus replacement for a federal amount of \$72,000 and a state amount of \$18,000.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

### **2020**

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$857,061 federal, \$726,265 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,993,327.
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for one bus replacement for a federal amount of \$74,400 and a state amount of \$18,600.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

A motion by Tilly with support by Purvis to approve the transit additions to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion passed.**

The Michigan Department of Transportation is proposing the following additions to the TwinCATS 2017-2020 TIP:

### **2017**

- Add ROW phase of I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 for a federal cost of \$22,500 and a state cost of \$2,500.
- Add PE Phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$53,096, and a state cost of \$11,774.
- Add ROW Phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$4,093, and a state cost of \$907.
- Add Construction Phase of I-94 EB between Exit 16 and Exit 23 for a federal cost of \$10,737,000 and a state cost of \$1,193,000.
- Add Construction Phase of M-63 overlay project from Winchester to I-94 BL for a federal cost of \$80,525 and a state cost of \$17,856.

- Add Construction Phase of Crack Fill project on M-63 from I-94 to Midway for a federal cost of \$28,412 and a state cost of \$6,300.
- Add Construction Phase of the US-31 longitudinal joint repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$234,036, and state funds in the amount of \$51,897.

## 2018

- Add Construction Phase of bridge replacement work on M-63 over I-196 for a federal cost of \$4,135,701 and a state cost of \$459,522.
- Add Construction Phase of Carpool Lot Resurfacing and Expansion on Napier Avenue at US-31 for a federal cost of \$69,573 and a state cost of \$15,427.
- Add Construction phase of I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 for a federal cost of \$15,840,000 and a state cost of \$1,760,000.
- Add Construction phase of Glenlord and Cleveland over I-94 bridge repair for a federal cost of \$2,727,000, and a state cost of \$303,000.
- Add PE Phase of I-94 WB from E of I-196 to W of M-140 overlay project for a federal cost of \$195,197 and a state cost of \$21,689.

## 2019

- Add Construction Phase of M-63 over the St. Joseph River bridge repair project for a federal cost of \$3,008,373 and a state cost of \$667,098.
- Add construction phase of I-94 BL over the St. Joseph River bridge repair project for a federal cost of \$2,232,905 and a state cost of \$495,139.

## 2020

- Add Construction phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$486,712 and a state cost of \$107,928.

Mani said that SWMPC staff always looked for opportunities to incorporate the Complete Streets Policy into MDOT projects. With most of these projects being either interstate or bridge replacement jobs, however, few opportunities exist. However, MDOT's project on M-63 within the City of St. Joseph provides potential for more marked crosswalks. Mani said that people are crossing the street now in the absence of marked crosswalks, and the road is four lanes.

A motion by Tilly with support by Purvis to approve the MDOT additions to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. **Motion passed.**

### ▪ **MDOT and FHWA Updates**

Roberts noted that Erin Jolivette had left MDOT. Roberts would be the preliminary point of contact at the TSC moving forward.

## 12. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT at 11:45 AM.

Next meeting is April 18, 2016 at 10:30 AM at the St. Joseph City Commission Chambers, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph.

*Compiled by: Gautam Mani, SWMPC Associate Planner, 2016.*