

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TAC and Policy Committee Combined Minutes**

September 18, 2017 9:30 A.M.
Kinexus, Lighthouse Room

Present		Committee Representing	
Name	Representing	TAC	Policy
Calli Berg	Benton Charter Township	X	
Carolyn Fowler	Benton Charter Township		x
Eric Lester	Berrien County Planning Commission		X
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	X	
Chris Cook	City of Benton Harbor	x	X**
Tom Mac Donald	City of St. Joseph	x	
Stacey Stephens	Cornerstone Alliance	x	X
Terezie Harazinova	Disability Network Southwest Michigan	x	
Andrea Dewey	Federal Highway Administration*	x	x
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township		X
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	X	
Jonathon Smith	MDOT Coloma Business Office	X	X
Jason Latham	MDOT Southwest Region	x	X
Brenda Burdick	MDOT Southwest Region		
Katie Beck	MDOT SUTA*	x	
Scott Weber	Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission*	x	X
Steve Tilly	Royalton Township		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		TAC	POL
Kelli Nelson	Benton Charter Township	x	
Evan Smith	Berrien County Community Development	x	
Darwin Watson	City of Benton Harbor		x
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman	x	x

Absent		TAC	POL
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph	x	
Angelica Selgado	Federal Transit Administration*	x	X
Gloria Payne	Lake Charter Township	x	x
Fred Featherly	MDOT Passenger Division	x	
David Chandler	Sodus Township	x	x
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township	x	
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Statewide Planning	x	X

*Non-Voting **Alternate Member

1. Call to Order / Introductions

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

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approve Minutes from the June 19, 2017 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2017 meeting as written, by Dick Stauffer, second by Brian Berndt. **Motion Approved**

5. Staff Report

Brandon Kovnat gave a review about the Long Range Plan. In the upcoming meetings, a technical memo will be presented which contains data about the TwinCATS area that will be used in the Long Range Plan. Non-motorized transportation will be the topic of the tech memo presented at the October meeting.

Chris Cook express interest in holding a Walk and Roll committee meeting. A doodle poll with suggested times will be sent out before the October TwinCATS meeting.

6. Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates

Dick Stauffer said that out lot for t Meijer were up for sale. There was an application by AutoZone. This led to a discussion about safety on Red Arrow around Meijer due to the placement of cones. There was concern that the cones were causing dangerous merging in the area where the lane is closed.

7. Public Transit

County-Wide Transit Project: Kim Gallagher said that the CEO of Nelson Nygaard is now leading the study. She hopes this will rebuild enthusiasm. Kim also said that University of Michigan was conducting a study on mobility, water, and runoff. Researchers are exploring how technology can be used to solve area problems.

TCATA: none

8. Airport Updates – Vince Des Jardins

Papi lights are being installed. These lights guide planes on approach. It is being 95% fed/state funded and 5% local. Kim asked about how the airport was used. Vince said that they do not track the cargo of each plane. However, he said that UPS has regular flights and that manufactures regularly charter planes to get parts to other factories. The nuclear plant also often needs just in time deliveries because it is cheaper to charter a flight than to shut down the plant while parts are delivered by other means.

9. Agency Project Status

2017 Projects:

Berrien County Road Commission: All FY 2017 projects have been completed

Village of Stevensville: The Red Arrow & John Beers Road Intersection project is completed. There was a complement on the quality of the intersection.

City of Benton Harbor: Colfax South was let. Construction will occur any day.

MDOT: There was an Administrative amendment to move the I-94 WB overlay PE phase (JN 128907) from 2018 to 2017.

2018 Projects:

Berrien County Road Commission: Brian Berndt explained that Nickerson Avenue would be a Mill and Fill replacing 2 inches. The plans have been approved. Shawnee Rd is an overlay with a wide shoulder added. The plan for this will be completed in about 2 weeks.

St. Joseph: Tom MacDonald discussed the Wallace Avenue project. Three options were presented to St. Joseph residents at a public meeting. The final plan chosen will narrow lanes on Wallace Avenue and add a 10ft path. This will eliminate street parking from Lakeshore Dr. to Stadium Dr. Street parking will be available at Dickerson Park. An improved crossing of Wallace will be added at Stadium Rd.

A comment was brought up by Alex Little about the desperate need to fix M-139 from Napier to Nickerson. He explained that the road was in such a poor condition that it was causing maintenance issue with buses. Jason Latham explained that the road needs Restore and Rehabilitation. Jason explained that 90% of the R&R funds are used on the interstate.

The cost for repair on M-139 could be up to \$25 million. He explained that smaller fixes and patching would not be the best use of funds. They might do some patch with leftover maintenance funding. He explained that M-139 is a major problem, which will require larger funding sources.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

Katie Beck handed out future year socioeconomic data. She mentioned that this was similar to the approval that occurred for the base year data. Katie also asked if there were any proposed projects or ideas that they wanted to test with the model. The future year data will be voted on at the November meeting.

State and federal Updates

None

12. Privilege of the Floor

None

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Minutes Compiled by: Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC associate planner