

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

October 15, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Derek Perry, Berrien County Road Commission Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Don Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC</p>
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	<p>Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gast, Lake Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Bill Purvis, TCATA Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Representative, Cornerstone Alliance</p>
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	<p>Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani Kim Gallagher</p>
OTHERS PRESENT:	<p>Joanne Johnson, Disability Network</p>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:31a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Fenderbosch with support by Panozzo to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2012 TAC meeting.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received for the month of October.

4. TRANSIT DISCUSSION

Kim Gallagher discussed the status of the Berrien County coordinated transit study. She provided handouts on the presentation. There was discussion regarding the coordination of the Senior Centers transportation providers and the other transportation providers in Berrien County. Gallagher also stated that another reason to think about coordination of the transit services in Berrien County would be the proposed HB 5306 of 2012 which discusses a 10% reduction in operating funds if there is more than 1 transit provider in a county. While this bill is on hold, it is still a point that our legislature is discussing.

Fenderbosch asked that if presentations of this nature happen, that a joint meeting be held. Flowers noted this in the minutes and stated that she and Mani will make sure of this for future meetings.

5. STAFF REPORT:

- **Funding discussions with MDOT**

Flowers discussed that there is a proposed funding cut for local STP dollars. The final numbers have not been given to the MPOs yet but it is clear that there will be a funding shortage for FY 2013 and FY 2014. Flowers continued that she had been in conversation with the local agencies that have projects listed for the two fiscal years. Lenze added that the change in local dollars came when the Kalamazoo MPO became a TMA and that there is also a new MPO being added to the state in Midland. Population is used in helping determine the formula. Lenze added that he encouraged all local agencies to get their projects obligated as soon as possible.

- **Urban boundary and road classifications**

Flowers stated that the MPO is reviewing the urbanized boundaries. There will be a formal meeting set up in the next couple of weeks to discuss this. All MPO Committee members will be invited to the meeting.

- **Committee changes**

Flowers stated that as new Committee members are added, that she and Mani will get them up to speed as quickly as possible.

- **Climate change evaluations**

Mani stated that after the Climate Change workshop evaluations were compiled and those results showed to us that the elected officials and other decision makers were not in high attendance and that will be a focus of the next workshop sessions held.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani reported that at the September Walk and Roll meeting, the subcommittee suggested that we leave the segment prioritization up to each jurisdiction and that would help determine the Top 10 list for TwinCATS. Mani continued that those segments have been sent to all Committee members and mailed to some. The list is due back to SWMPC the first week of December.

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**
There was no update for the month, but Johnson reviewed that RICC was an advocacy organization for those with developmental disabilities and are funded from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. Johnson added that the RICC group now stood for the Regional Inclusive Community Coalition.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
Kim Gallagher commented that the transit agencies are working on goals and policies that they can all adopt for a countywide system, such as wait time for customers. The goal is to have a rider guide for the county.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
There were not updates provided this month.

6. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2011						
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	July 2012: Still waiting on permission from MDOT to install Main St. shelter. May have to install in Michigan Works parking lot, though this would make route less efficient.	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012;	12-Feb	
2012	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	construction July 2012, bid savings of \$18,000; Advance construct dollars; July 2012: Construction has begun; should be completed by the 31 st ; Completed	August 2012	18,500
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap; July 2012: Construction to start after Labor Day; project is let, will start after Labor Day and completed by mid November; Underway	August 2012	
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13;	August 2012	

				bid spring 2013		
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	July-September Letting; July 2012: September let date, with approval needed from Joe Harris in Benton Harbor; already obligated (delay would just push construction back to 2013); funds obligated construction summer 2013; Local match is an issue, and missed out on obligation for this fiscal year, the project had GI and was ready for advertising	October 2012	
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	Completed	August 2012	10,000
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	12-Mar	
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Schedule for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward	August 2012	
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; July 2012: Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design; the bridge was made longer to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014	August 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); September 2012: Continued Service	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar	
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw	Move to 2013	March 2012	

			Paw)-			
	112089	Benton Harbor	Empire from Riverview Dr. to Colfax Ave.	Mill and resurface road, minor drainage improvements, ADA sidewalk ramp replacements; will receive a request from the city on the potential movement of this project	October 2012	
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	Restore and rehabilitate road with paved shoulders		
	115751	MDOT	I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)	2 course HMA over scratch course on existing concrete-PE phase		
	113585	MDOT	I-94 WB (On I-94 from Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston Road)	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase		
	113586	MDOT	I-94 (From Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston Road)	Mill existing and place 2 course HMA overlay-ROW phase		
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	Bridge Replacement- CON phase-AC project		
	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Ave from Niles Ave. to Langley Ave	Milling off existing pavement, new storm sewer, ADA ramps, ACC project; submitting for reimbursement less the big savings from 2012 of 18,500.	October 2012	
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses			
		TCATA	Expanded hours- JARC grant			
		TCATA	Mobility manager grant			
		TCATA	New line haul to Stevensville			
		TCATA	Bus operations			

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Long Range Plan Goals Review**

Mani discussed the issues with the goals at the NATS meeting and that was a reason that he and Flowers discussed separating the plans and reviewing the goals once again and making sure that we can measure and impact the goals through the MPO. He continued stating that two goals had been reviewed and that they hoped to have the others worked out by the end of the week.

- **Officer nominations**

Judd reviewed that he and Scherwitz had agreed to be Chair and Vice Chair once again for the Committee.

A motion by Fenderbosch with support by Panozzo to accept the current Policy Committee officers for the next two years which would be Judd for Chair and Scherwitz for Vice Chair. **Motion passed.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

▪ **Annual Report**

Flowers stated that the FY 2012 Annual Report has been available online for review for the Committee members, and that Flowers received one comment regarding representatives not listed in the report for Berrien County Planning Commission. Flowers made the change in the report.

A motion by Fenderbosch with support by Woolcock to recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the FY 2012 TwinCATS Annual Report as presented. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

○ **Federal**

Flowers stated that as information is provided to SWMPC that we will share that with our local agencies.

○ **State**

There were no updates given.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Woolcock stated that she attended a safety workshop on using epoxy on the road; the top layer is a bauxite stone. She stated that this is used for friction and that it seals out moisture on the roadways. The material will not degrade from snowplows. Woolcock stated that this could be a great safety project for the region. Woolcock asked the Committee members if they would like to get Dave Moreno here to give a presentation on the material. The Committee members agreed that this would be a good thing for the region.

Flowers added that the FY 2013 TIP amendment schedule is online and she encouraged the local agencies to make sure that they review this.

Fenderbosch stated that he would like to talk to MDOT about sound barriers along I-94. He continued stating that the south bound lane on Napier will be closed to pull pipe from the St. Joe River; there is 2,250 feet of pipe.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:45a.m.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Panozzo to adjourn the meeting.

- Next meeting is **scheduled for November 19, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**