

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes
January 28, 2013
10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Michael Kastner, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gast, Lake Charter Township John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani
OTHERS PRESENT:	- Matt Kodis, Michigan Works

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

- Pam Boyd introduced herself to the group and stated that she will be the TwinCATS MPO representative for the next few months, until Ray Lenze's position can be filled. Ray Lenze had to retire unexpectedly the previous week due to very serious health issues. Boyd said that when she gains information on where to send cards and well-wishes, she will pass these along to the group.

2. MINUTES:

- Judd proposed one correction to the minutes from the December 17 meeting, correcting mentions of the TAC to Policy Committee.
- A motion was made by Kastner with support by Guetschow to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2012 Policy Committee meeting.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **STP Targets (805,524)**
Mani noted that our STP targets for FY 2013 and beyond would be slightly lower than were estimated in the prior projections. Prior projections had the target levels at \$814,000, whereas currently, the target is \$805,524. Flowers stated that the latest figure comes from the Local Agency balance report provided by MDOT.
- **Funding Workshop**
Flowers stated a desire on the part of SWMPC staff and several committee members to have a meeting where available funding sources for MPO projects can be discussed in greater detail, with members of MDOT and FHWA present. Flowers suggested that the need for a funding workshop stems from a greater need to be more creative with pooling funding sources as cuts to some programs have happened. Flowers stated that with very busy meetings over the next few months, we would look to have this funding workshop sometime in the late summer
- **Lengthy meetings next 6 months**
Mani reminded the group to expect to stay for the full hour or longer at the meetings for the next few months, as SWMPC brings sections of the Long Range Plan before the committee and project selection gets underway. Flowers said that TAC members had agreed to set the meeting for 1 PM in the Regional Airport boardroom on February 25th. Flowers reminded the group that the 2014-17 TIP application would be live online on February 1 and that submissions should be in prior to the meeting on the 25th, and to please read through instructions before submitting. Flowers also emphasized that the meeting should be limited to subcommittee members to allow for efficient processing of TIP submissions.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**
Mani stated that the Top Ten list had been posted online based on feedback from the previous TwinCATS meeting. Mani said that he would repost it in a more accessible format.
- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**
None.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
None.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
None.

6. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings	Projected Letting and obligation date
	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, maybe spring of 2013	December 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012; contract has been awarded	January 2013		x
2012							
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13; bid spring 2013; CMAQ funds let, spring construction	January 2013		x
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design; no change	December 2012		x
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Scheduled for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward; no change	December 2012		x
	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	December 2012		x

				to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014; no change			
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); September 2012: Continued Service; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else; December 2012-already been awarded	December 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else	November 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else	November 2012		x
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	1/2013- continues to be in limbo due to negotiations with Harbor Shores	January 2013		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	1/2013: Pre-engineering complete- need 1.3 million. Depending on availability of STP funds, project will get funding in 2013 and 2014.	January 2013	Have you reviewed the tip for available funding for fy 2013 and fy 2014 for this project	
	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, no change	December 2012		
	113585	MDOT	I-94 WB (On I-94 from Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase; no change	December 2012		

			Road)				
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	Bridge Replacement- CON phase-AC project; 11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change	December 2012		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December	December 2012		
		TCATA	Expanded hours- JARC grant				
		TCATA	Mobility manager grant	11/2012 Purvis stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this	December 2012		
		TCATA	New line haul to Stevensville	Project is continuing; hoping to get state funds in 2014	January 2013		
		TCATA	Bus operations	Not submit yet			
	116924	SWMPC	Berrien County- Rideshare	In progress			
	114962	MDOT	I-94 westbound off ramp at Pipestone	1/2013- project will be removed from TIP.	January 2013		

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Public Comment on the Agenda**

Mani stated that concerns were brought up at both TwinCATS and NATS as to whether public comment belongs at the beginning or end of the agenda. Mani said that NATS had settled on having public comment at both beginning for agenda items and at the end for any other matters, but TwinCATS committee members are in no way obligated to follow that course. Scherwitz and Judd stated that it made sense to leave public comment where it was and allow public comment on agenda items individually as is appropriate. Johnson said that opportunities for public comment need to be explicitly stated so that a member of the public enters for the first time, they would know when it is appropriate to comment.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Performance Measures**

Mani discussed concerns expressed at the TAC meeting with attaching percentages to these performance measures without knowing baseline figures. For example, a 2% increase in signal optimization projects may in fact mean zero more projects; we just don't know. Mani noted that the group had suggested keeping the goals and objectives. The group also suggested maintaining

the categories of performance measures to give a clear idea of what exactly we want to affect, but that we remove the percentages and time horizon associated with the measures.

Boyd stated that the MDOT is still working on performance measures and receiving guidance from the federal level. At this stage, MPOs should be focused on establishing baseline data. Boyd also advised approving the goals and objectives, and leaving percentages out of the performance measures.

Guetschow agreed, asking whether we would see less funding if other communities in Michigan were more ambitious with their performance measures. Judd agreed that the committee should hold off on setting performance measures until further guidance is obtained.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Kastner to approve the proposed Goals and Objectives in the modified format agreed to in the meeting and put out the section for the required 10 day public comment period. **Motion approved.**

- **CMAQ Project Review**

Mani presented the list of 2014-2017 CMAQ projects in Berrien County, approved at the December county CMAQ meeting, that are within the jurisdiction of the TwinCATS MPO. Mani explained that TwinCATS would need to approve this project list before applications could be submitted to MDOT/FHWA for approval, as per Ray Lenze's guidance. Once approved, these projects will populate the TwinCATS 14-17 TIP.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Bennett to approve the CMAQ projects that impact the TwinCATS MPO planning boundaries. **Motion approved.**

- **TIP Amendments**

Mani explained that there were two TIP amendments, one of which was from Berrien Bus rural operating funds. The other amendment, for TCATA replacement buses, was previously approved by the committee in January 2012. Due to a SWMPC staff error where these 2013 buses were replaced in the TIP (rather than supplemented) by 2012 buses, the project got deleted. Mani stated that to SWMPC's knowledge, there was also an error on the federal end in that SWMPC never received an October e-file. The 2013 buses now require approval so that this TIP error can be corrected.

A motion by Purvis with support by Scherwitz to approve the TIP Amendments as presented and place them into the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

- **Long Range Plan-Introduction and Committees Section**

Mani described changes to the Long Range Plan Introduction from the 2009 version. In particular, the transportation planning section has been shortened to focus more heavily on Southwest Michigan, the legislation section has been updated to reflect MAP-21, and a summary of current transportation assets has been added.

A motion by Kastner with support by Bennett to approve the Introduction and Committees section of the Long Range Transportation Plan. **Motion passed.**

- **Resolution of Support for ACUB Changes**

Mani stated that while the ACUB changes had been approved for TwinCATS, we needed a formal resolution, signed by Policy Chair Robert Judd, to certify those changes before submittal. The resolution states that all legal and public participation procedures have been followed, and that Hagar Township will be added as a member jurisdiction of TwinCATS.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Guetschow to authorize Chair Robert Judd to sign a resolution of support for the Adjusted Census Urban Boundary changes. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

○ **Federal**

None.

○ **State**

Boyd said that the State Transportation Commission had approved the 2013-2017 State Transportation Improvement Plan, meaning that a list of MDOT projects for the 2014-2017 MPO TIPS would be coming soon. Boyd also noted that there was committee restructuring in the state legislature. A representative from Portage is on the Transportation Committee, and Al Pscholka is on the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee in the House. Boyd also said that with the new revenue bill, 1 cent on every dollar of sales tax would go to transportation.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:18 a.m.

Judd adjourned the meeting.

- Next meeting is **scheduled for February 25, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, 2013

Makesure that you read through the motions and make sure that for policy they are taking the action and not recommending actions.