

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, October 21, 2024

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal	x	x	V		V	V	A		V			V		
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V		A	A	A		A			A		
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Paul Gillespie	x		A		P	P	P		P			A		
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Mark Heyliger		x	A						P			P		
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P		A	A	P		P			V		
City of Benton Harbor	(Vacant)														
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P		P			P		
City of Bridgman	Juan G anum	Alt	x	V		A	V	V		V			V		
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell		x	A		V	A	A		A			P		
City of St. Joseph	Alex Austin	x		V		P	P	A		V			P		
Cornerstone Alliance	Vacant	x	x												
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy Gray	x		A		P	P	P		P			P		
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lake Charter Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P		P	A	P		P			P		
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		V		P	P	V		V			A		
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V		V	P	P		P			P		
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A		A	A	A		A			P		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Adrian Stroupe	x	x			P	P	P		P			P		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	Alt	Alt	V		P	A	A		A			A		
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V	V	A		V			V		
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	V		A	A	A		A			A		
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A		A	A	A		A			A		
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A		A	V	V		A			A		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P		P	P	P		P			P		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		P		P	P	P		P			P		
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P		V	A	P		P			A		
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Rufas Adams	x	x	P		A	P	P		A					
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x	V		V	V	V		A			V		
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	V		P	P	P		A			P		
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	P		P	P	P		P			P		
Federal Highway Administration	Andrew Sibold	x	x	A		A	A	A		A			A		
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	V		A	A	A		A			A		
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A	A	A		A			A		
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		V		V	V	A		V			A		
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	P		A	A	A		A			A		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P	P	P		P			P		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			P		P	P	P		P			P		

Pol. Ch. - Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P – Present in person; V – Participating remotely; A – Absent; A blank spot means the position is vacant.

Others Attending: Melanie Stange, Wightman & Associates On behalf of Bridgman; Brandon Miras, Williams & Works On behalf of Lincoln Twp; Terrie Martin, Carrier & Gable, Inc.

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, October 21, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am, and Kim Gallagher conducted roll call.

Tim Zebell announced his appointment as the Assistant City Manager for St. Joseph, adding that he will continue to also serve as City Engineer. Due to this, he will not serve on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and will now be the City's alternate representative on the Policy Committee (POL), with the City Manager, Emily Hackworth, as the primary representative. Zebell added that Alex Austin will represent the city on the TAC, with the City's Director of Public Works Greg Grothous serving as the alternate.

Changes to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of July 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the July 15, 2024 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Dick Stauffer. **Motion approved.**

SWMPC Staff Report

Gallagher presented the timeline for the 2026-2029 project selection. Applications have been received and are currently being reviewed and scored. The project review subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2024, at 1:30 PM at the SWMPC office.

Gallagher announced that surveys for the EV Readiness Plan had been distributed, which will be used to establish baseline conditions for the plan.

Local Road Agency Updates

Kevin Stack gave an update on the Berrien County Road Department's 2024 Projects

- **Lincoln Ave:** The project is nearly complete, with minor restoration work by contractor remaining.
- **Signal upgrades:** Pre-construction meeting held, and they are awaiting the schedule from the contractor who needs to confirm their timeline for component delivery. . Construction will begin in winter and conclude in spring.
- **Empire Ave Shoulder widening:** The project is complete, with stripping being done this morning.

Brandon Miras gave the update for the John Beers Path Project in Lincon Township

- The project is on the November letting. The Township is using ARPA funds for the local match, which requires a construction contract by Dec. 31 2024. This means MDOT LAP will need to get the contract with the accepted bidder promptly after the letting, potentially requiring an expedited award.

Tim Drews gave an update on the City of Benton Harbor's 2024 Projects

- **Colfax Ave Reconstruction:** The project was obligated just in time to avoid losing the 2024 funds. Due to Tribal consultation the project requires an Inadvertent Discovery Plan. Targeting the December letting with construction in the Spring.
- **Signal Replacement at Empire Ave & Colfax Ave:** Construction is set to start soon, beginning with underground work.
- **Jefferson St Rehabilitation:** Project completed.

Tim Zebell presented updates for the City of St. Joseph's FY 2025 projects

- **Botham Ave:** Targeting a January letting. Working on the EGLE permit for the water main. Applied for DWS funding but were not selected.
- **Cleveland Ave:** Working with Abonmarche on the design. Targeting a June letting with construction occurring in late summer 2025.

FY 2025 Carbon Reduction Program and Amendment Requests

Tim Drews presented updates on the Lakeshore Trail project: NEPA approval is taking a long time. The property acquisition process is changing often, with a property hung up on appraisal. However, the project is still on track for funding in 2025.

Dick Stauffer presented updates on the Roosevelt Path: This project was first designed in 2017, but bids came in higher than the Township had budgeted. Since the project was shovel ready, about a year ago Congressman Tim Walberg awarded the Township \$1.5 million in FY 2025 earmark funds. This leaves a 30% local match for the Township which is \$665,000.

FY 2025 CRP Funding Proposal: The committee reviewed the proposed split of FY 2025 CRP funding between the Lakeshore Trail and a Roosevelt Path, which would bring the federal funding for the Lakeshore Trail to 80%, with the remaining CRP funds allocated to the Roosevelt Path (*see [Meeting Packet](#) page 13 for details*).

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the allocation of FY 2025 Carbon Reduction Program funding as presented. Made by Tim Drews and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

Discussion about an NFC Request from the City of Bridgman

Gallagher led a discussion about the upcoming review of the National Functional Classification, which occurs every 10 years with the updated Census Urban area boundaries. This process will identify local roads which may now meet the qualifications to be reclassified as federal aid eligible.

Melanie Stange discussed two streets in Bridgman that the city believes should be reclassified.

Transit Updates

Gallagher reported that Twin City Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) will lose its insurance on November 30, effectively halting operations. The Michigan Transit Pool, which insures TCATA, voted to end coverage due to multiple accidents and lawsuits. Without insurance, TCATA cannot operate, posing a significant disruption to local transit services. She mentioned that a third-party provider could potentially take over TCATA's operations, but federal procurement requirements may complicate this approach, and no solution is confirmed. Discussions with state representatives are ongoing. Gallagher suggested this might be a good time to have a broader discussion about expanding transit services, since currently, only 48% of the urban area in Berrien County is served, with areas such as St. Joseph Township, Royalton Township, Lincoln Township, the Village of Stevensville, and the City of Bridgman lacking transit coverage.

MDOT Project Updates

See [meeting packet](#) Page 11 for additional details on MDOT projects

Jon Smith presented a detailed update on the I-94 reconstruction.

MDOT Amendment Requests

See [meeting packet](#) Page 13 for details on proposed amendments

The amendments requests were presented with no questions or comments.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Kacey Dominguez and seconded by Mark Heyliger. Motion approved.

Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Jim Sturdevant gave an update on items he was working on for TwinCATS.

Adrain Stroupe discussed a proposed Traffic Signal on Red Arrow Hwy/US-12 at Grand Beach Rd.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner