

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
Policy Committee

**Minutes**

March 18, 2013

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<p>Pamela Boyd, MDOT Planning          Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township          Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township          Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township          Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville          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          Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission          Bill Purvis, TCATA          Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport          Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio)          Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township</p>
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman          Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township          Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township          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          Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph          Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning          Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)          Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township          Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Town          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</p>
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	<p>Suzann Flowers          Kim Gallagher          Gautam Mani</p>

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:53 am and led the group in introductions.

## 2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Boyd with support by Hodge to approve the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of February 25, 2013.  
**Motion passed.**

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

## 4. STAFF REPORT:

### ▪ **Climate Change Grant Update**

Mani updated the group on the climate change workshop which took place in late February. The meeting was intended to gauge what the public's attitude in this region was towards climate and climate change. The meeting was very well attended, and a lot of diverse views were expressed. Mani encouraged committee members to attend the next workshop on Wednesday May 8 at 6 PM at Michigan Works, as this was money coming into the TwinCATS committee specifically.

### ▪ **2013 Additional Obligation Authority Letter**

Mani stated that TwinCATS had received \$453,972 in additional obligation authority for 2013 as a result of MDOT's decision to split up the \$54 million in leftover statewide obligation authority based on a formula. The formula awarded STP dollars to the TMAs, MPOs, small urban areas, and rural programs. Boyd stated that these projects must be ready for obligation in 2013, and therefore had to be ready to submit for grade inspection by May. Boyd said that any unspent obligation authority would go back into statewide pools, for which the MPO would have to apply through a competitive statewide process for 2014. Any unspent statewide authority would go back to the federal government in 2015. Mani stated that we would discuss the expenditure of the unspent obligation authority later in the agenda.

### • **Funding Outlook from MDOT**

Mani stated that in the TAC meeting, Woolcock said that she had just spoken with State Sen. John Proos, who advised her that no revenue enhancements would be voted on until after the summer, and hence no new funding increases from MDOT would come before then. Boyd encouraged committee members not just to have projects ready when funding increases come, but to continue to lobby their legislators to increase and sustain funds for transportation projects. Flowers concurred, stating that we need to better convey deficiencies and needs in our region in order to get more funding.

### • **Other Meeting Reminders**

Mani reminded the Committee of upcoming meetings.

**Wednesday March 27- 9:30-11:30 AM-** Sediment and Soil Erosion Control Training, Michigan Works; same training from 2-4 PM at Niles Fire Station

**Wednesday May 8- 8:00 am- 4:00 pm** Statewide Asset Management Conference in East Lansing

Mani stated that SWMPC would be hosting public comment sessions on the TwinCATS Long Range Plan and TIP, to give the public multiple opportunities to give input as the plan is developed. For the TwinCATS region the public comments sessions would take place from **5-7 PM at Michigan Works**

on March 20, April 17, and May 22, all of which are Wednesdays. The public is welcome at any point in that time frame.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Walk and Roll**  
None.
- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**  
None.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**  
None.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**  
Purvis stated that ridership is up on both the fixed route and demand response

**6. PROJECT UPDATES**

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	<b>July 2012:</b> 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; March 2013, still in limbo—bus shelters will be outside Michigan Works and Chemical Bank	March 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012; contract has been awarded; March 2013- 3 buses in. Completed.	March 2013		x
<b>2012</b>							
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	<b>July 2012:</b> September let, with construction starting in spring '13; bid spring 2013; CMAQ funds let, spring construction; <b>March 2013:</b> April	March 2013		x

				Construction			
	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)	Schedule for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward; no change; <b>March 2013</b> Moving Forward for January 2013 letting	March 2013		x
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; <b>July 2012:</b> 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; no change; March 2013: Air Quality Plans 99% complete	March 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	<b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); <b>September 2012:</b> 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	<b>July 2012:</b> 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; no plans yet	March 2013		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	1/2013: Pre-engineering complete- need 1.3	February 2013		

				million. Depending on availability of STP funds, project will get funding in 2013 and 2014. 2/2013- Project will be a go in 2014, pending project selection process, and will be using STP funds in that year.			
	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 Road)	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase; no change	December 2012		
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	Bridge Replacement- CON phase-AC project; <b>11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change</b>	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	<b>11/2012 Purvis stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this</b>	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	SWMPC has received communication that this project and the accompanying 2014 Phase A of this project need to be removed from TIP waiting for guidance	December 2012		

				from MDOT; still working on the details of the project, scoping at Pipestone will be done first, the CMAQ project in the TIP will be delayed until the scoping is done.			

Mani stated that during the TAC meeting, Chris Cook had advised that the City of Benton Harbor’s scheduled CMAQ project for 2013 may encounter some issues. This is a signal replacement at Britain and Riverview. The new emergency financial manager in Benton Harbor has frozen all spending, meaning that although the project is 100% federal, the local engineering costs would still not be available. Cook is working on fundraising on behalf of the city. Cook advised transit providers and others with possible CMAQ projects to be ready in the possible event that the project does not go through.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Brad Sharlow- Travel Demand Model**

Sharlow presented the deficiencies analysis for the out years (2020, 2030, and 2040) in the model. M-63 was a particular corridor of concern, as by 2040, the road would be over capacity. In addition, Napier Avenue presents a concern for the TwinCATS region in the long range plan. M-139 will be removed from the deficiencies list because the model does not take into account service drives along certain segments off of M-139 entirely. Griffin suggested issues with measuring traffic coming off the bridge on M-63. Sharlow stressed the need for the Committee and SWMPC staff to work on the data for the Niles Road interchanges. Griffin asked about seasonal use of the roadways, and Sharlow stated that after the LRP is completed, he would be happy to use data the Committee provides to create seasonal models. Sharlow also reiterated that the model did not take into account movements along corridors to Indiana, particularly US-31.

A motion by Stauffer with support by Jolivette to approve the Travel Demand Model List of Deficient Roadway Segments. **Motion passed.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **TIP Amendments (for 2011-2014, including new 2013 obligation authority)**

Mani introduced the March 2013 TIP amendments. In particular, Mani noted that TAC recommended that the Policy Committee use the additional \$453,000 in obligation authority towards the 2013 Advanced Construct (AC) on Hollywood Road. This would free up money to be used in later years.

A motion by Gruchot with support by Zebell to approve the March 2013 TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

- **Proposed 2014-2017 TIP Subcommittee Recommendations**

Mani read through the proposed 2014-2017 projects recommended by the subcommittee.

**2014**  
Brown School Road- Cleveland Avenue to the Village of Shoreham

**STP Available: \$805,524**  
\$ 119,080

Brown School Road- Village of Shoreham- Reconstruct	\$ 400,000	
Hollywood Road (ACC)-Restore and Rehabilitate	\$ 286,444	
	<b>STP Spent:</b>	<b>\$805,524</b>
<b>2015</b>		<b>STP Available: \$821,634.48</b>
City of St. Joseph- Botham Avenue Reconstruct (AC)	\$422,634	
BCRC- Marquette Woods Road Resurfacing (St. Joe Avenue to Roosevelt)	\$399,000	
	<b>STP Spent:</b>	<b>\$821,634</b>
<b>2016</b>		<b>STP Available: \$838,067.16</b>
City of St. Joseph- Botham Avenue Reconstruct (ACC)	\$200,000	
City of Benton Harbor- Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	\$272,000	
BCRC- Shawnee Road from Jericho to Date	\$366,067	
	<b>STP Spent:</b>	<b>\$838,067</b>
<b>2017</b>		<b>STP Available: \$854,828.50</b>
St. Joseph City and SJCT- Hilltop Road- Mill and Fill	\$654,000	
John Beers Road- Hollywood Road West to Township Line Restore/Rehab	\$200,000	
	<b>STP Spent:</b>	<b>\$854,000</b>

In addition, there were four transit projects recommended in 2014.

- Transit Operations funding at \$680,000 federal cost, \$445,657 from the City of Benton Harbor millage.
- New line haul route for commuters- at \$106,000 federal cost, \$106,000 state cost
- Expanded hours at \$87,000 federal cost
- Mobility Manager at a \$75,000 federal cost

A motion by Fenderbosch with support by Stauffer to recommend that the Policy Committee release the TIP 2014-2017 Project list for the required 10-day public comment period. **Motion passed.**

Flowers noted that in the TAC meeting, Zebell had asked that the Local Resolutions of Support for which the Committee is now asking of jurisdictions with regards to their projects come before Committee by April 1 of the year preceding the programmed fiscal year for the project. Otherwise, if resolutions were only presented at the start of the programmed fiscal year, funding might get lost as there might not be enough time to program new projects.

- **Long Range Transportation Plan and TIP sections**

- Transit

Gallagher explained the transit section and its expansion since the previous Long Range Plan update. Gallagher said that the new plan outlined ridership figures by community and was geared towards MAP-21's focus on performance measures, and an analysis of possible fixed routes. Gallagher also stated that for a certain dataset to appear in the plan, it would have to come from the National Transit Database. Judd recommended that the data should show ways that each community is being served by transit, so that committee members could go back to their jurisdiction and advocate for maintenance or increases in funding levels.

- TIP Document Draft

Mani explained that while the TIP document was a work in progress, this draft did include the project list, and was quite far along except for the section on transit operations and maintenance finances. Judd

asked whom the TIP Document was intended for in terms of an audience. Flowers stated that while the document was going to FHWA and MDOT, ultimately, the document needed to be accessible to an audience that may not know about the work that the MPO does.

- Environmental Justice

Mani explained that this section was updated to reflect population changes in the latest Census and American Community Survey, as well as new legislation from MAP-21. Mani said that once the proposed 2014-2017 projects were overlaid, he did not anticipate that any of EJ populations would suffer disproportionately adverse effects, nor are they being excluded from the benefits.

- Environmental Mitigation

Mani stated that this section had been updated to include information from Michigan's Low Impact Development (LID) manual, which has evolved since the previous update. The section also contains data from a 2011 study on barriers to movement of fish species in the St. Joseph River Watershed. The TwinCATS region does not appear to have any obstacles, namely culverts, which completely block fish movement in creeks and streams, but some culverts pose barriers to movement of some species. In general, within the TwinCATS region, road construction professionals appear to be using best practices quite widely in culvert placement.

- Regionally Significant Projects

Mani stated that thanks to help from the City of St. Joseph, this section reflects the current situation at Harbor Shores, which SWMPC staff would continue to monitor for its transportation impacts throughout. Mani invited the committee members to suggest other regionally significant projects.

- Air Quality

Mani stated that this section was updated to reflect new legislation, and that we do not need to conduct air quality conformity analysis.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Panozzo to approve drafts of the Long Range Plan and TIP sections. **Motion passed.**

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**

None

- **State**

None

## **8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

None.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:53 a.m.**

Next meeting is **April 15, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**

*Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013*