

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
Policy Committee

**Minutes**

May 20, 2013

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

## 2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Stauffer with support by Purvis to approve the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting from April 15, 2013.  
**Motion passed.**

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Griffin discussed an issue he observed where Handicapped Parking often does not have adequate space for the driver or disabled passenger to get out of the vehicle and onto the ramp. Often spaces next to handicapped spaces are designated for this purpose, but enforcement is poor and people park their cars there. Griffin suggested the possibility of new signs at the church in question. Judd suggested that cross hatching might be effective. Stauffer also suggested that highly visual signs depicting how the ramp is used might keep non-disabled motorists from encroaching on the space. Flowers noted that the issues here might not simply be related to building codes, but also ADA regulations and other laws on a state and federal level.

## 4. STAFF REPORT:

### ▪ **Public Meetings Update**

Mani stated that the second public meeting on April 17 was a bit more successful in terms of turnout, with six or seven people attending. Some pretty thorough comments were gathered, and that information will be available on the website by the end of the formal public comment period. Mani noted that the final public comment session would be on Wednesday, May 22 from 5-7 PM at Michigan Works!

### ▪ **Joint MPO Meeting in September**

Mani said that SWMPC staff were considering the idea of a joint meeting between the TwinCATS and NATS MPO committees in September, when the six documents MPO staff are completing will have been submitted. SWMPC staff are working on figuring out a potential meeting location and time that would be as convenient as possible for individuals in both MPOs. Mani said that one purpose of this meeting would be to figure out how to best use funding pools that extend countywide, and to figure out potential areas for future partnership. Flowers said that another purpose of the meeting would be just to share information on projects going on in each other's MPOs. In terms of urbanized boundaries, TwinCATS and NATS are growing closer to each other, particularly around Berrien Springs and Oronoko Township, and growth trends suggest that this might continue. Flowers and Mani both made clear that SWMPC staff are not proposing or even suggesting any type of MPO consolidation at this time, and that if the MPOs did ever consolidate, it would either be due to committee members' decision making or mandatory boundaries created by the Census Bureau.

### ▪ **Climate Change Grant Update**

Mani said that the second public input session took place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Turnout was about half of what it was at the February meeting, and once again, a wide variety of opinions were expressed. Mani said that our partners with GLISA and MSU-Extension would be producing a final report by July based on their data and public feedback, and would be presenting to the MPO committees in August.

- **CMAQ Meeting Reportback**

Mani stated that a CMAQ meeting was held Thursday May 16 to advance a couple of projects in the CMAQ program due to a 2013 Benton Harbor project being moved from the program to the illustrative list. These advancing projects are covered in the TIP amendments. Mani noted that in 2015 there is \$450,000 in CMAQ funds available, and in 2016, there will be nearly \$400,000 because Berrien Bus will not be able to make any of their previously scheduled bus replacements that year. Mani said that the next CMAQ meeting would be August 8 at 10 AM at the Road Commission, with the idea of allocating the leftover funds in the 2014-17 program. Mani hopes that this will give local jurisdictions time to develop some more projects for consideration. Flowers noted that while we don't know about the funding situation beyond 2014, this is a good time to think about creative ways to use the funds and to propose projects. The Committees can always modify programmed projects later based on funding constraints.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani noted that in the TAC meeting, Cook suggested that the Walk and Roll subcommittee get back together, potentially before a TwinCATS meeting over the next couple of months. Cook feels that it has been a while since progress was made on Walk and Roll, and he is a bit unclear on next steps. Flowers said that such a meeting would need to take place after July 23.

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**

None.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**

None.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**

Ridership, particularly on the fixed routes, is continuing to increase every month.

## 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	March 2013, still in limbo—bus shelters will be outside Michigan Works and Chemical Bank; May 2013- Proposal for city-operated cameras in shelters still needs to go before TCATA board, locations at Main at 12 <sup>th</sup> St and Triangle Park	May 2013		x

		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012; contract has been awarded; March 2013- 3 buses in. May 2013- Completed.	May 2013		x
2012							
	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 Construction, construction is underway <b>May 2013-</b> Signal in place; be careful about new flashing yellow light phase turning left onto Napier.	May 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)	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; <b>March 2013:</b> Air Quality Plans 99% complete; submitted for letting	April 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	May 2013		x

				the state will match buses but nothing else; December 2012-already been awarded; May 2013- Still going			
		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
<b>2013</b>	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; 5/2013- Needs to use up EDA funds this year, ultimately Harbor Shores' choice as to whether project moves forward.	May 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. 2/2013- Project will be a go in 2014, pending project selection process, and will be using STP funds in that year; GI package being submitted by May 1; May: GI package ready to submit	May 2013		
	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; <b>11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change; CON August –end of September crossover and temporary widening</b>	April 2013		
		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			

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **TIP Amendments (for 2011-2014, including 2014 projects that need to be kept)**

Mani stated that in addition to MDOT projects being added, all 2014 projects need to match in both the 2011-2014 TIP and the 2014-2017 TIP. In case there is a delay in approval of the 2014-2017 TIP, we will continue to operate under the 2011-2014 TIP, potentially well into FY 2014. Mani said that this was the last opportunity for committee members to make modifications, deletions, and additions to FY 2014 projects, including those that are already programmed in the 2011-2014 TIP.

Mani said that the 2013 Berrien County Road Commission Napier and Union traffic signal project and the 2014 Lincoln Township Hidden Pine non-motorized path project were both CMAQ projects advancing from later fiscal years. Mani said that Berndt noted one change to the limits of the Village of Shoreham project in 2014. Flowers thanked the TwinCATS group for submitting new projects and amendments in a timely manner given the time frame of each fiscal year. Stauffer noted that the Roosevelt Road/Hidden Pine project is part of the Lincoln Township master plan and coordinates with other projects on Marquette Woods Road that are in the TIP.

A motion by Purvis with support by Hodge to approve the TIP Amendments, with the Napier at Union Traffic signal project and the Hidden Pine trail (both CMAQ projects) pending the end of the public comment period on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

▪ **2014-2017 TIP Draft Document**

Mani stated that committee members had seen a draft of this document before, but that certain updates had been made. The performance measures had been copied from the LRP into the TIP, based on state and federal guidance. In addition, the air quality section had been modified based on guidance. The project list in the TIP is now updated to reflect the project list that the committee had approved over the last several months. The biggest change is the completion of the MPO TIP financial plan, the largest piece of the document. Flowers had completed the MPO TIP financial section, and Mani thanked the committee members for providing data on revenues and expenditures. Flowers noted that the TIP financial section served as a document detailing what we can expect in terms of available funding over the next four years.

A motion by Stauffer with support by Bennett to approve the 2014-2017 TIP Document for the mandatory public comment period.

▪ **2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Mani stated that Committee members had seen each of the sections of the document previously. The only section that had seen a substantial update was the Environmental Mitigation section, where maps had been created to show potentially impacted natural features. Flowers added that with Committee approval, the plan and TIP would also go out for consultation, which would overlap with the mandatory public comment period. Mani said that while he still needed to go back in and add footnotes, and continue proofreading and editing the document, the substance of it was still there.

A motion by Hodge with support by Fowler to approve the Long Range Plan for the mandatory public comment period.

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal** – Mani noted that Anthony Foxx, former Mayor of Charlotte, NC, had been nominated as Secretary of Transportation, and that a confirmation vote would be coming soon. Foxx has been a huge advocate for public transit as mayor.
- **State** – None.

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:16 a.m.**

- Next meeting is **June 17, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**

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