

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

June 17, 2013

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Fenderbosch with support by Hodge to approve the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting from May 20, 2013. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lynch introduced himself as the new representative of the Berrien County Road Commission on the TwinCATS Policy Committee. Other members of the group introduced themselves.

4. STAFF REPORT:

▪ **Pipestone Interchange Stakeholder Meetings**

Flowers stated that there had been three meetings to discuss a redesign of the Pipestone interchange to accommodate a new bridge over I-94, and that the next step would be a public meeting. Currently, trucks turning left off of I-94 in the westbound direction might cause traffic to be backed up in all directions at Pipestone. Flowers pointed out that the bridge would need to be raised 2 feet, which would add costs. Stauffer asked about property acquisition costs. Scherwitz said that land acquisition costs could also be quite significant depending upon final design. Flowers noted that pedestrian and bicycle facilities were discussed as a high priority during the small group sessions at the meetings. Johnson asked about what elements of pedestrian design were eventually incorporated. Flowers noted that none were at the moment, and that this project was slated for no earlier than 2019, in the next TIP cycle. Bennett noted that many users of the hotels in the area wanted to be able to walk to shops rather than get back in their cars. Flowers said that in many cases currently, ADA-compliant ramps and sidewalks led to nowhere, and so future planning would need to be considerate of the entire non-motorized network. Flowers said that these presentations were available online.

▪ **Joint MPO Meeting in September**

Flowers said that the Joint MPO meeting between the TwinCATS and NATS Committees would take place on September 30 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the Berrien RESA in Berrien Springs. Flowers noted that the agenda was still being developed in consultation with FHWA, but would hopefully include a speaker on rail safety and ways to implement the long range plan so that it remains an active document. Flowers noted that she would be sending future reminders regarding this meeting date.

▪ **MTPA Registration and Other Meeting Reminders**

Mani noted that the early-bird deadline for Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA) registration was coming up on July 2nd, and encouraged interested committee members to attend. Mani encouraged interested committee members to book their hotel rooms now, as these would sell out in Muskegon and the surrounding area very shortly.

▪ **TIGER Grants Update**

Flowers noted that three jurisdictions within SWMPC area had applied for TIGER grants. Berrien County had applied for the grant to fund a TIGER project that would promote more efficient freight movement throughout the area. New Buffalo applied for a project that would assist in rail connection. Finally, the Pokagon Band was planning to apply for a bridge replacement project near Dowagiac. Flowers noted that SWMPC staff would monitor developments on all three of these projects.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**
None.
- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**
None.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
Panozzo stated that she had met with the four transit agencies within Berrien County and the KFH consultants undertaking the consolidation study. The consultants had a long term vision, while the transit agencies asked for a more realistic set of actions that they could take in the short term. Work is continuing so that the final study meets the needs of the transit agencies.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Panozzo noted that the TCATA Board was in the process of deciding how to best use the available software packages to make the system more reliable and efficient. Panozzo said that software would allow dispatchers to keep track of no-shows, but also keep a record of specialized needs of individual dial-a-ride users, and direct people to fixed routes where that is the most convenient option.

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 th 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	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13; bid spring 2013; CMAQ	June 2013		x

				funds let, spring construction; March 2013: April Construction, construction is underway May 2013- Signal in place; be careful about new flashing yellow light phase turning left onto Napier. June 2013: Once base painting is done, the project will be completed.			
	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; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting	March 2013		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 to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014; no change; March 2013: Air Quality Plans 99% complete; submitted for letting; June 2013: Design phase completed.	June 2013		x
		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; May 2013- Still going	May 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding	November 2012		x

		Authority		seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else			
		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; 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 June 2013: GI meeting has taken place, GI package will be submitted, and there may be possible bid savings.	June 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 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; 11/2012	June 2013		

				starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change; CON August –end of September crossover and temporary widening June 2013: Construction will begin in July, end in October—2 lanes will be closed.			
		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			

7. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

▪ **Public Comments and Consultation on the TIP and LRP**

Mani noted that many of the comments focused on the need for greater, safe options for transportation beyond the automobile. In particular, corridors of concern were along Fairplain Drive and Mall Drive, Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw Avenue, and Napier Avenue. In addition, comments centered around modal connectivity through allowance of bicycles on Amtrak, and use of golf carts and low speed electric vehicles. Mani stated that these concerns had all been expressed in previous settings, and just re-affirmed the need to commit to a transportation planning system that takes into account the needs of all modes. In addition, consultation comments noted the need to dispose of construction materials in an environmentally responsible manner, and to pay attention to environmental hazards using the Environmental Mapper tool online.

A motion by Fenderbosch with support by Bennett to approve SWMPC staff to respond to the public comments on the LRP and TIP. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Joint TAC and Policy Committee Meeting in August**

Mani noted that our partners in the climate change grant would like to come to present the final report on their findings. The report will contain impressive maps and useful tools for the Committee to use in the future. Mani said that the most efficient way to allow them to present

would be to have a joint TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committee meeting in August. The meeting will be at **9:30 a.m. on August 19 at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport**, as usual.

A motion by Hodge with support by Bennett to approve a joint Policy and TAC Committee meeting on August 19 at the usual location. **Motion passed.**

▪ **FY 2014 UWP (for Public Comment)**

Mani stated that the Unified Planning Work Program (UWP) was going out for public comment this month, and apologized for committee members not having a chance to review the document prior to this meeting. Mani said that this document outlines TwinCATS' projects and work objectives for the next fiscal year, in consultation with MDOT. Flowers noted the details regarding funding that are outlined in the UWP, and said that SWMPC's executive director John Egelhaaf still needed to finalize the budget numbers. Mani said that SWMPC had been receiving requests after the last election from new elected officials in several jurisdictions about what exactly their transportation planning local match funds were contributing to improvements in their communities. Mani said that this document would be quite a straight forward one to show to any individuals who did have these questions. Mani welcomed committee member comments prior to next month's meetings.

A motion by Bennett with support by Stauffer to approve the draft of the 2014 UWP for public comment. **Motion passed.**

▪ **2014-2017 TIP Document**

Mani said that now that the public comment and consultation period were over, MPO staff did need final approval on the TIP document. No content has been changed since committee members last saw the document. Mani noted that there were still formatting and some grammatical issues to be corrected, but the substance of the document was there as it currently stands.

A motion by Bennett with support by Boyd to approve the 2014-2017 TIP Document. **Motion passed.**

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

Mani noted that MPO staff also needed final approval on the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

A motion by Bennett with support by Boyd to approve the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal –**

- **State** – Boyd said that MDOT’s FY 2014 budget has been finalized and it is a total of \$351 million, whereas the initial request was for approximately \$1.2 billion. Out of these funds, \$121 million will go to the MTF fund to match federal aid. \$115 million will go to the priority roads investment program. The remaining \$115 million will go towards the Roads and Risk Reservation fund, which is a still somewhat vague program area. This funding will not be apportioned until February 1, 2014.
Boyd also said that it is possible that a sales tax increase will pass the state legislature in September, in which case it will appear on the ballot in the next election.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Boyd noted that Ray Lenze had passed away, and that his family would still appreciate condolence cards and warm wishes. Boyd said that her section at MDOT would be getting two new planners, one of whom would be working with the TwinCATS MPO and the NATS MPO.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:40 a.m.

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

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