

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

July 15, 2013

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA 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) Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (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 Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Olson, Village of Shoreham 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	Matt Kodis, Kinexus Paul Lott, MDOT-Statewide Planning

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and led the group in introductions. Paul Lott introduced himself as the new MDOT-Statewide Planning representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, and noted that he was glad to be back working with the MPOs in the Southwest Region again after working here ten years earlier. John Lanum introduced himself as the Policy Committee representative from MDOT-Statewide Planning, having recently joined that section.

2. MINUTES:

Flowers advised that committee members make sure to read the minutes carefully, as we had an error recently that resulted in the wrong funding amount being transcribed in the TIP e-file.

- A motion was made by Bennett with support by Panozzo to approve the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting from June 17, 2013.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. STAFF REPORT:

▪ TIGER grants update

Mani noted that three entities in the Southwest Michigan region had applied for TIGER grants: the St. Joseph River Harbor Authority (through Berrien County), the City of New Buffalo, and the Pokagon Fund. Flowers noted that we had not heard anything about the status of these applications. Lott said that he would check in with FHWA about a timeline regarding grant decisions.

▪ CMAQ Update

Mani said that Berrien County would be having another CMAQ meeting Thursday, August 8, at 10 AM at the Berrien County Road Commission. Mani said that the purpose of the meeting was to fill large, unprogrammed balances in 2015 and 2016. There is also money left over in 2014 and 2017. Flowers and Mani both reiterated that funding is not guaranteed beyond 2014, but that programming the funds ahead of time would be the best way of making sure that CMAQ funds do not leave the county or our region.

Stauffer asked about the status of the Roosevelt Road CMAQ project, in terms of it being advanced from 2015 to 2014. Mani said he would check in with Edward Fowler at MDOT to see if the year change had been approved, but the project had in fact been approved in 2015. Lott said that he would also look into this matter with Edward. Guetschow asked Stauffer if there were ways that Stevensville and Lincoln Township could better work together to increase non-motorized connections.

- **Meeting Reminders**

Mani said that a joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting would take place Monday, August 19th, at 9:30 AM. The reason for the joint meeting is to discuss the results of the climate change study that was done by SWMPC’s partners at MSU-Extension and GLISA.

Flowers noted that the joint NATS and TwinCATS meeting would take place September 30 from 1-4:30 PM at Berrien RESA in Berrien Springs. Rail safety and transit provision are both on the agenda, and it is an opportunity to share progress reports in each MPO. This meeting would be **in lieu of** the regularly scheduled meetings that month.

Mani stated that the Greentown workshop on Friday, October 11 in South Bend is open for registration. Mayors, environmental groups, health organizations, and business leaders from throughout Michigan and Northern Indiana will be attending. This will be a good opportunity to learn about the latest economic development techniques that simultaneously improve health and environmental outcomes.

- **Traffic Count Reminders**

Mani noted that it is not too late to request traffic counts this summer. If a jurisdiction requests a count now, SWMPC’s field team will likely get to it by the end of the summer.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani said that the Walk and Roll subcommittee would be getting back together, at the request of committee members. Flowers suggested that the subcommittee meeting take place prior to the regularly scheduled TwinCATS meeting in October. Scherwitz noted that the 8:00 AM meeting time worked well in the past.

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

None.

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

Panozzo stated that the consultants on the consolidation and coordination study were continuing their work, and that the transit agencies in Berrien County had already success with coordination through initiatives like a single reduced fare card for all agencies. Flowers stated that transit coordination was already a topic on the agenda for the September joint MPO meeting.

- **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	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; July 2013: Under Construction, done by the end of September	July 2013		x
2012							
	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; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting July 2013: On hold	July 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	May 2013		x

				else; December 2012-already been awarded; May 2013- Still going			
		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 July 2013: JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.	July 2013		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; 5/2013- Needs to use up EDA funds this year, ultimately Harbor Shores' choice as to whether project moves forward. July 2013: Lawsuit between Harbor Shores and New Products- 1 year left to use funds	July 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	July 2013		

				submitted, and there may be possible bid savings. July 2013: Waiting on MDOT approval of administrative modification			
	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 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.	June 2013		
	119786	MDOT	M-63over St. Joseph River in St. Joseph	Bridge Repair			
		Berrien County	Napier and Union	Traffic Signal; July 2013: GI comments, August 23 rd deadline for ROW.	July 2013		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December; July 2013: Waiting for contract approval	July 2013		
		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	January 2013		

				to get state funds in 2014			
		TCATA	Bus operations	Not submit yet			
	116924	SWMPC	Berrien County- Rideshare	In progress			

7. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **TIP Amendments**

Mani noted that there were a total of six MDOT projects being added this month, though four of them were separate phases of the same two jobs. In addition, one MDOT project was being modified. Locally, TCATA was adding five projects that use TwinCATS’ 5339 allocation in 2013.

A motion by Stauffer with support by Bennett to approve the July amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP pending the end of the official public comment period on July 19.

- **FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP)**

Mani noted that SWMPC staff had made edits, and SWMPC’s Executive Director had updated the financial information. Mani said that indirect cost rates would be updated between now and submittal, but that this was an issue between SWMPC and MDOT, and that it would not affect the substance of the document for the purposes of the TwinCATS committees.

A motion by Bennett with support by Purvis to approve the FY 2014 UWP.

- **FY 2014 Meeting Dates**

October 21, November 18, and December 16, 2013 and January 27, February 24, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, 2014.

Mani noted that these dates were the third Monday of every month, and that Policy Committee meetings would be at 10:30 AM. Mani said that the only two meeting dates that deviated from this pattern were in January and February, when MLK Day and President’s Day holidays pushed these meetings back to the fourth Monday of the month.

A motion by Stauffer with Bennett by McAndrew to approve the FY 2014 meeting dates for the TwinCATS Policy Committee.

- **LRP, TIP, and UWP Resolutions of Support**

Mani wanted to inform committee members that he would be having Robert Judd, Policy Chair, sign resolutions expressing the Policy Committee’s approval of the three documents, just as has been done with other documents and initiatives in the past.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal –**

- Kodis noted that a new transportation secretary had been sworn in, Anthony Foxx, former mayor of Charlotte, NC.

- **State – None.**

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Stauffer raised the issue of the condition of I-94 near the Michigan state line, and how it always gets worse when crossing into Michigan from Indiana. Lott acknowledged this issue, stating that conditions were similar in Southeast Michigan along the Michigan-Ohio border. If the state is going to be promoting tourism, the deterioration of roads right at the boundary line is particularly bad.

Panozzo noted that the US-12 Heritage Route World's Longest Garage Sale would be taking place August 9-11, which provides a good opportunity to get great bargains and explore US-12. Information can be found at www.us12heritagetrail.org

Jolivette noted that the Coloma TSC had a new office manager who previously worked at INDOT and that he would be coming to meetings over the next few months.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:22 a.m.

- Next meeting is **August 19, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. (Joint TAC and Policy Meeting)**

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