

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING

Monday, August 15, 2022

9:30 am

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**In Person:** Kinexus (Michigan Works!) **Anchor Room A**  
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**Web:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81976678579?pwd=Sk5IN1pWc0NjaHZ2T1VWYktoMmo2UT09>

**Audio:** Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 819 7667 8579  
Passcode: 430025

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## AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from May 16, 2022 Meeting (*enclosed*) *Action*
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Updates
9. New Business (*enclosed*) *Action*
  - Amendments to the I-94 Reconstruction – Add Noise Walls
  - MDOT 2023 Project Amendments
10. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org) or calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at [gallagherk@swmpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

*TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES*

March 21, 2022

TWINCATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	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							
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V	V	A		A							
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	A	A		A							
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	V	V	V		V							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x					A							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		V	A	V		IP							
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A	A		A							
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	IP	V	IP		IP							
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A	A	A		A							
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	A	IP	V		V							
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A	V	V		A							
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		IP	IP	V		A							
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x		V	V	A		A							
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	A	IP	A		IP							
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		A	V	A		IP							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	V	V	V		IP							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Anita Boughner	Alt	Alt	V	A	A		A							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	A	A	IP		A							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A	V	A		IP							
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	A	V	V		IP							
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	A	A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	V	IP	IP		IP							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		V	IP	IP		IP							
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A	A	A		A							
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		V	A	IP		IP							
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Richard Lee	x	x	A	A	IP	A								
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x					A							
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x	V	V	V		V							
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	IP	V	IP		IP							
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Federal Transit Administration	Cecilia Crenshaw	x	x	A	A	A		A							
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A	A		A							
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	V	V		A							
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	A	A	A		A							
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	IP	V	IP		V							
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			IP	IP	IP		IP							

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

Others Present: Greg Grothous, City of St. Joseph; Cathy Yeats, Benton Township; Alan Smaka for St. Joseph Township; Jerrid Burdue, SWMPC

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kovnat took roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approve Minutes from March 21, 2022 Meeting

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

5. Staff Report

**Unprogramed 2023-2026 federal funds:** Kovnat explained that there were still funds for 2023 through 2026 that had not been programed. The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is a new program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Because the IIJA came out late in the 2023-2026 TIP development process, staff was not able to get a call for projects out. The CRP is similar to the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality improvement Program (CMAQ), except that the CRP targets carbon dioxide emissions instead of Ozone. Many of the uses for the CRP and CMAQ are similar, but there are a few differences. Sturdevant added that the CMAQ program is allocated by county but CRP will be allocated to TwinCATS and any CRP project must be within the TwinCATS planning area. Kovnat said that a Call for CRP funded projects will be sent out in June.

Kovnat said that the unprogrammed Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) was due to increases from the IIJA. The first use would be to lower the local match of a project that has more than the 18.15 percent. The next option would be to look at the approved illustrative list. Kovnat said that future project costs are likely to change due to inflation and the remaining STBG could be used to cover some of this. He proposed to program the STBG each year based on the latest project cost estimates.

**MDOT Federal Buyout Announcement:** The Federal buyout is a program where MDOT will exchange an agency's STBG funds for non-federal funds at a rate of 90 cents on the dollar. To use federal funds agencies must follow certain rules; when the funds are bought out some of the requirements will no longer apply. This provides a significant savings for road agencies as well as more flexibility in how long they have to use the funds. The full rules about the program are still being developed and should be sent out in June. Projects using the buyout must still be on a federal aid eligible road and go through the MPO TIP approval process.

Stack raised a concern that MDOT only had limited funds to use for this and the program was first come first serve. He worried that the program might run out very early with large agencies getting most of the funds.

6. Project Updates & Amendments

**Local Road Agencies:** Stack gave an update on the Napier Bridge. The immediate issues have been fixed and they were monitoring the concrete to ensure safety. The bridge can be opened right now but it will remain closed to accommodate the construction schedule. They are planning for a Memorial Day weekend reopening. Stack said that the Road Department had a fund balance that can cover the extra repair costs. The next step is to replace the bridge Rocker Arms. This should then extend the bridge life by another 40 years.

Smaka said that the Napier Sidewalk's plans were complete and the project is set for a July bid letting

Drews said the Red Arrow Project in Stevensville is under construction and its expected to be completed in June.

Grothous said that the work on Broad/Langley in St, Joseph will begin in the late summer/fall

There was a discussion about John Beers in Stevensville. There was concerns that the road could not wait for replacement until its programmed date in 2026. Kovnat said he's look into if there are any options to get the project funded sooner.

**Public Transit:** Gallagher gave a brief overview of the additional project TCATA had asked to add to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**MDOT:** Smith gave a brief overview of the prosed amendments to MDOT projects.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Jim Sturdevant, and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook, and seconded by Brian Sanada. **Motion approved.**

7. New Business

**FY 2023 TwinCATS Unified Work Program:** Kovnat explained that the Unified Work Program (UWP) is the annual listing of work SWMPC staff will undertake on behalf of TwinCATS. Kovnat said that the UWP is one of the documents that will be approved by both the TwinCATS Committees and SWMPC Board.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve The TwinCATS FY 2023 Unified Work Program and submit the UWP to the SWMPC board with any minor changes requested by MDOT. Made by Jim Sturdevant, and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook, and seconded by Brian Sanada. **Motion approved.**

**FY 2023-2026 TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program:** Kovnat explain that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a listing of all federal surface transportation programs within the TwinCATS area. The TIP document includes the project list, explanation of the funding sources, and an analysis of projects and how they will contribute to achieving the federal transportation performance measures. Kovnat explained that if TwinCATS Committees approve the TIP, it will then be posted for public review, before it is then voted on by the SWMPC board on June 21, 2022.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve The TwinCATS Policy Committee Approve opening a public comment period for the TwinCATS FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and submit the UWP to the SWMPC board for approval at their June 21st meeting along with any minor changes requested by MDOT or the public. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook, and seconded by Brian Sanada. **Motion approved**

8. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Stuaffer brought up whether a technical advisory committee voting on every item was required. Kovnat discussed the process for amending the TwinCATS bylaws. He said that in late summer, the US Census is expected to release new urbanized area boundaries based on the 2020 census. Kovnat said that he wanted to review the new boundaires to see if any jurisdiction were added (or removed) to the urban area and if the TwinCATS planning area & be membership would change.

9. Adjournment

Kovnat announced that there will be no June TwinCATS meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2022 at 9:30 am.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner*

## **Local Project Amendments**

### **Marquette Greenway JN 2144041**

This is a portion of the Marquette Greenway Trail from US-12 from the Amtrak Crossing at Grand Beach Road, north to Wunderlich Avenue. This portion is within the Michigan City Urbanized Area. The funding year is being moved from FY 2022 to FY 2023. The federal TAP funding is being increased and the local match reduced proportionally.

	Year	Federal TAP	Local Match	Total Cost
Current	2022	\$895,011	\$402,000	\$1,297,011
Proposed	2023	\$1,037,609	\$259,402	\$1,297,011

### **Marquette Greenway – JN211157 Abandon job**

This is a different portion of the Marquette Greenway on Grand Beach Road from the State line north to the Railroad crossing at US-12. This portion of the trail will be funded with a non-federal fund source. The amendment is to remove this project from the TIP.

## MDOT Amendments

### **I-94 W Maintenance – JN128907 Cost and Length change**

This is a multiple course asphalt resurface of I-94 from where the I-94 & I-196 interchange projects ends to the Bainbridge Township Line.

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Length	10.08 miles	5.787 miles
Federal estimate	\$3,439,800	\$3,888,000
State Estimate	\$382,200	\$432,000
Total Estimate	\$3,822,000	\$4,320,000

The change to the programed length is to reflect the actual location where the I-96 interchange project ended. MDOT is increasing the construction budget by \$1.0 million to account for rapid and full reconstruction. In a pre-stage, a portion of I-94 WB will be reconstructed using rapid reconstruction to replace the existing concrete with HMA pavement using nighttime lane closures with WB traffic reduced to one lane. Another section will get a full depth reconstruction.

### **I-94 ITS – JN207433 Cost Change**

This is a project to install CCTV camera on the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) on I-196 and I-94 east of I-96. MDOT is requesting to add replacement of the existing DMS signs. The cost increase is also partially due to increase in pay item costs (ITS and road items) since the original project budget was programed.

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Work Description	Install CCTV cameras on the existing Dynamic Message Signs (DMS)	Install CCTV cameras and replace Dynamic Message Signs (DMS)
Federal estimate	\$32,884	\$78,542
State Estimate	\$7,292	\$17,417
Total Estimate	\$40,176	\$95,959

### **Modernizing signalized intersections – JN209414 Add ROW Phase**

This is a project to modernize the intersections of I94BL (Lakeshore Dr.) at Maiden Ln. and M-63 (Lakeshore Dr.) at Klock (Upton) The amendment is to add a Right of Way (ROW) phase in 2023 for the I94BL (Lakeshore Dr.) at Maiden Ln. intersection.

**ROW Cost:** \$2,000; 100% federal Surface Transportation Program funds (STG)

### **M-139 Reconstruction – JN210875 Add PE Phase**

This is a full reconstruction of M-139 from 0.44 mi south of I-94 to I-94BL(Main Street). The Amendment is to add a engineering phase (PE) in 2023. The PE was originally programed using only state funding. New guidelines for MDOT are to use federal funds for any pre-construction phases over \$500,000

#### **Add PE Phase**

<b>Federal Source</b>	<b>Fed Programed Amount</b>	<b>State Programed Amount</b>	<b>Total Programed Amount</b>
National Highway (NH)	\$1,294,049	\$288,952	\$1,795,000

## I-94 Reconstruction – Adding Noise Abatement Walls

This project is a reconstruction of I-94 from Exit 23 to Brittan Avenue. MDIT is funding it in FY 2022, but construction will occur in 2023 and 2024 split between Eastbound and Westbound. The project is split between two job numbers between the portion from exit 23 to the St. Joseph River (JN 2132824) and The River north to Britain Ave (JN131843). The amendment is to add noise abatement walls and increase the project cost. For more information see the [I-94 Traffic Noise Report](#) published by MDOT.

	Federal	State	Total
<b>JN 132824 – Exit 23 to the St. Joseph River. Funded by the Rebuilding Michigan Bond Program</b>			
Current	\$0	\$83,304,000	\$83,304,000
Proposed	\$0	\$108,241,000	\$108,241,000
<b>JN 131843 –St. Joseph River to Britain Avenue. Funded by the National Highway Program and the National Highway Freight Interstate Program</b>			
Current	\$51,045,466	\$5,671,718	56,717,184
Proposed	\$57,555,629	\$6,395,069	\$63,950,698
<b>Total Reconstruction Cost estimate</b>			
Current	\$51,045,466	\$88,975,718	\$140,021,184
Proposed	\$57,555,629	\$114,636,069	<b>\$172,191,698</b>

Approximately \$7.8 million of the increased costs is attributed to the installation of the noise abatement walls. The remaining approximately \$14.4 million is attributed to unit price increases between the initial estimate and the final plan completion.

The length of the project was split into ten areas. MDOT analyzed these for potential noise impacts. The recommended noise wall locations are listed below:

	Description / Location	2022 Impacts	2042 Impacts	Noise Abatement Recommendation
CNE-1 (1 wall)	South of I-94, Puetz Rd. to St. Joseph Ave. Residential & commercial	12	13	None
CNE-2 (1-wall)	South of I-94, St. Joseph Ave. to Cleveland Ave. Residential, cemetery, commercial, & vacant land	34	39	Wall 2 is recommended
CNE-3 (2-walls)	South of I-94, Cleveland Ave. to M-63 Residential	53	60	None
CNE-4 (2-walls)	South of I-94, M-63 to Pipestone Rd. Residential, commercial, & vacant land	17	19	None
CNE-5 (1-wall)	South of I-94, Pipestone to Britain Ave. Residential, municipal, % vacant land	11	12	None
CNE-6 (1-wall)	North of I-94 Britain Ave. to Pipestone Rd. Residential, commercial, and vacant land	29	32	Wall 6 is recommended
CNE-7 (2-walls)	North of I-94, Pipestone rd. to M-63 Residential, Commercial, hotel, & parks/recreational	31	35	None
CNE-8 (3-walls)	North of I-94, M-63 to Cleveland Ave. Residential, Church, and vacant land	84	90	Wall 8a and wall 8c are recommended
CNE-9 (3-walls)	North of I-94, Cleveland Ave. to Red Arrow Hwy Residential, Assisted living, Commercial, & vacant land	44	48	Wall 9a recommended
CNE-10 (2-walls)	North of I-94, Red Arrow Hwy to Puetz Rd. Residential & Commercial	15	16	None

Votes for or against the recommended walls are still being received. The amendment is based on the engineers estimate if the recommendations go forward. The final plans and costs may change based on the outcome of the votes.