

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2022

9:30 am

In Person: SWMPC Office
376 W. Main Street, Suite 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9347787681?pwd=a3MrVUUxa3VMSmIPWXJLeU5NUzNjQT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 934 778 7681
Passcode: 687880

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from January 18, 2022 Meeting (*enclosed*) *Action*
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Transit Updates
7. Local Road Agency Updates
8. MDOT Updates
9. New Business (*enclosed*) *Action*
 - FY 2022 MDOT Project Amendments
 - Approval of 2023-2026 MDOT Projects
10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at 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

12.

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

September 20, 2021

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

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Policy Committee Vice Chair, Chris Cook, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kim Gallagher took roll call.

Cook informed the committees that per law, only those in attendances in person could make motions or vote. Those attending virtually will have opportunity to comment or ask questions on all agenda items before a vote is taken.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes from September 20, 2021 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2021 TwinCATS Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Kim Gallagher.

Motion Approved.

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Kovnat presented a summary of the 2021 Obligation report showing the amount of federal funds programed for transportation projects in the TwinCATS area in Fiscal Year 2021.

Gallagher presented on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This is the new Transportation bill, which was passed November 15, 2021, and replaces the FAST Act. She said that more information could be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>. MDOT has announced a FY 2022 estimate under the IIJA which is \$292,574 higher than the previous estimate from the FAST Act. Proposals for using these funds will be discussed during the project updates. MDOT has not yet released estimates for other federal transportation program (e.g. CMAQ, HSIP Etc.) nor have they released revised estimates for 2023-2026.

Boughner added that Congress had not authorized the full IIJA amounts yet. While Agencies were told to program to the full amount the state currently does not have enough fund (Obligation Authority) to fund them.

6. **Local Agency Project Updates and Amendments**

Public Transit: Gallagher announced that Paul Gillespie is no longer working for TCATA. Richard Lee was promoted to the interim director until another director is hired. TCATA had 24 triennial audit finding of which 22 have been resolved. Transit service was suspended last week due to COVID staffing shortages. TCATA's board asked SWMPC to host a training on the roles and responsibilities of the board.

Gallagher said there was an amendment to the TIP to add funding for the mobility management program for FY 2021 fourth quarter, MDOT had to program this as a spate job thus requiring

separate approval from TwinCATS. The mobility movement program was previously approved by TwinCATS for all of FY 2021.

Napier Path – St. Joseph Township: Denise Cook informed the committee that there were about two easement that were still need. Wightman & Associates is working on final designs for the project now. The project has received NEPA & SHPO approval.

Red Arrow Highway- Village of Stevensville: The low bid for the Red Arrow project came in 20% under the programed amount. This was announced after the packet was sent. Because of this, the project is at its minimum federal match and cannot utilize any additional federal funds.

Langley/Broad St. – City of St. Joseph: The project is scheduled for the February letting date.

Kovnat presented a proposal to apply \$123,289 in additional FY 2022 IJA funds toward the Broad/Langley project. He said that He would need to work with road agencies on a proposal to use the remaining \$182,519 (this include bid savings from the Red Arrow Project).

Marquette Greenway: This project is a non-motorized path in the works, through the Northern Indian Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and SWMPC to connect Chicago to New buffalo. NIRPC was awarded approx. \$18 million for the RAISE grant of which \$1 million will go toward the Michigan portion of the project.

A portion of the Michigan portion Marquette Greenway will be within the Michigan City urban Area. MDOT has requested to split the job into an urban and rural section. Since the split requires creating a new job it requires TwinCATS approval.

7. **MDOT Updates and Amendments**

There are no additional updates presented on MDOT projects beyond what was in the packet.

Kovnat explained the request by MDOT to add a signal optimization project in the TwinCATS Area (See packet for details).

Motion by the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve all of the amendments to the TwinCATS 2020-2023 Transportation Implement program as included in the meeting packet. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Chris Cook and seconded by Kim Gallagher. **Motion approved.**

8. **New Business**

FY 2022 Safety Targets: Kovnat gave a presentation about the MDOT safety targets. To set targets, MDOT uses previous years crash data as well as using Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and economic factors to predict the crashes in future years. Based on the model there should have been a reduction in fatalities due to COVID related travel reductions. This did not occur (both statewide and nationally), and researchers are still working to understand what is occurring.

Gallagher said that TwinCATS has an option to set their own target is they could show how they were set. The other option is for TwinCATS to support the statewide targets which would not incur any penalty to TwinCATS if the state fails to meet the targets and requires no local data.

Kovnat said that the TwinCATS Long Range Plan had more detailed analysis of crashes. He also said he can find information at michigancrashfacts.org

Motion by the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the resolution for TwinCATS to adopt and support the 2022 statewide safety targets. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Chris Cook and seconded by Kim Gallagher. **Motion approved.**

2023-2026 Surface Transportation Program (STP) funded projects: Kovnat reminded the committees of the projects where were already programed for 2023. He then gave brief overview of the 2024-2026 call for projects. On November 15, 2021 a project review subcommittee met to discuss the projects and agreed upon a list of projects to recommend that the full TwinCATS committees to vote on.

The projects not selected are place on an illustrative list in the event additional funding becomes available before the 2026-2028 call for projects. It still requires a vote to move a project from the illustrative list to the funded list. But the list does make it easier to find additional projects since there is no need for a new call for projects and all for the projects were already vetted & scored.

Kovnat also presented the 2024-2026 CMAQ projects that are within the TwinCATS area. CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) are funds for reducing transportation emissions and are allocated by county. There was a Berrien County CMAQ meeting in November. FHWA requires all federally funded surface transportation projects to be approve by an MPO (i.e. TwinCATS) and added to the Transportation Improvement Program. Therefore, TwinCATS has to vote to include the Berrien County CMAQ

Motion by the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee:

- Include the FY 2023 projects in the TwinCATS 2020-2023 TIP in the 2023-2026 TIP
- Add the 2024-2026 recommended list of projects as presented to the 2023-2026 TIP
- Add the CMAQ projects as presented to the 2023-2026 TIP
- Approve the ranked list of illustrative projects

Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion Approved**

Motion by the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical advisory Committee. Made by Chris Cook and seconded by Kim Gallagher. **Motion approved.**

9. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Chris Cook announced that this might be his last meeting. He is moving to a part time role with Abonmarche. Tim Drews will represent Benton Harbor and Stevensville. A new vice policy chair will need to be voted on at the next TwinCATS meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner

MDOT Amendments to the TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program

Add the following projects phases to FY 2022

Job #	Project Name	Limits	Description	Phase	Federal Budget	State Budget	Total phase Budget
214931	I-94	Bridges over Nickerson, M-13 & Friday Roads	Seal cracks in deck & joints. Sweep deck	PE	\$7,200	\$800	\$10,000
				PES	\$14,400	\$1,600	\$20,000
214992	US-31	under Napier Ave	Seal cracks in deck & joints. Sweep deck	PE	\$4,500	\$500	\$5,000
				PES	\$18,000	\$2,000	\$20,000
				CON	\$121,499	\$13,501	\$135,000
215028	I-94	under Napier Ave	Epoxy Overlay Joint Seal, Paint Bearings, Deck Sweep, Beam Patching	PE	\$9,000	\$1,000	\$10,000
				PES	\$27,000	\$3,000	\$30,000
				CON	\$405,001	\$45,001	\$450,000
215059	I-94	Roslyn Rd over I-94	Seal cracks in deck & joints. Sweep deck	PE	\$9,000	\$1,000	\$10,000
				PES	\$18,000	\$2,000	\$20,000

All projects funded through the Bridge Formula program for Interstates (BFPI).

MDOT Projects for 2023-2026 within the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Boundary

Pavement and Bridge Improvement Projects

Year	Phase	Road	Limits	Length	Project Description	Federal Fund Source	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	CON	M-139	Over Big Meadow Drain Tributary, north of Tanglewood Trail.	0.22	Culvert Replacement and Road Reconstruction	NH	\$1,637,000	\$363,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,340,000
2023	CON	I-94 W	Pavement change east of I-196 to Benton and Bainbridge Township Line	5.375	Repair Existing & Multiple Course HMA Overlay	IM	\$3,439,800	\$382,200	\$3,822,000	\$19,825,000
2024	CON	I-94	Bridges over Nickerson, M-13 & Friday Roads	NA	Seal cracks in deck & joints. Sweep deck	BFPI	\$198,860	\$22,096	\$220,956	\$295,000
2024	CON	I-94	Roslyn Rd over I-94	NA	Seal cracks in deck & joints. Sweep deck	BFPI	\$47,100	\$5,233	\$52,333	\$350,000
2025	CON	M-139	0.44 miles south of I-94 to I-94 BL	4.372	Reconstruction	NH	\$19,962,806	\$4,426,695	\$24,389,500	\$29,329,000
2026	CON	I-196	I-196 under Riverside Road and Central Avenue	NA	Railing Replacement, Epoxy Overlay, Deck Patching, Beam Repair, Substructure Patch, Approaches	BOI	\$1,840,500	\$204,500	\$2,045,000	\$2,361,000
2026	CON	I-196	I-196 under Red Arrow Highway	NA	Deep Overlay, Full Depth Patching, Railing Replacement, Beam Repair	IM	\$1,258,200	\$139,800	\$1,398,000	\$1,610,000
Total							\$28,384,266	\$5,543,524	\$33,927,789	

Traffic Flow and Safety Projects

Year	Phase	Name	Limits	Project Description	Federal Fund Source	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	CON	I-94 E	I-94, I-196 Existing DMS	Install seventeen (17) CCTV cameras on existing DMS.	NH	\$32,884	\$7,292	\$40,176	\$411,723
2023	CON	I-94 Ramps	I-94 @ Exit 16, 23, 27, 28	Wrong Way movement prevention at freeway par-clo ramps	HSIP	\$147,134	\$16,348	\$163,482	\$448,812
2024	CON	Signal Upgrades	I94 WB OFF RAMP @ M139	Modernizing signalized intersection to current standards	STG	\$295,525	\$0	\$295,525	\$3,960,771
2024	CON	M-139 M-63	M-139 & M-63	Durable all-weather markings with centerline and shoulder corrugations	HSIP	\$519,625	\$57,737	\$577,361	\$661,324
2024	ROW	Signal Upgrades	M-139 @ Britain, M-63 @ Lincoln, M-139 @ Pipestone, I-94BL @ M-139, M-63 @ Klock, M-63 @ St Joseph River	Modernize signals to current standards	STG	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$3,898,248
2026	CON					\$2,000,043	\$0	\$2,000,043	
2025	PE	I-94	Construct two crash investigation sites in Berrien county	Construct crash investigation sites on I-94 and ramp extension at Exit 66.	NH	\$30,403	\$6,742	\$37,145	\$2,386,326
2026	CON					\$211,873	\$46,982	\$258,855	
Total						\$3,247,487	\$135,101	\$3,382,587	

Pavement Marking Projects funded with Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funds

Year	Phase	Project	Location	Fed Estimated Amount	State Estimated Amount	Total Phase Estimate	Total Project Estimate*
2023	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$1,990,000
2023	CON			\$197,802	\$21,978	\$219,780	
2023	PE	Special pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$520,000
2023	CON			\$50,949	\$5,661	\$56,610	
2023	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$1,099	\$122	\$1,221	\$11,000
2024	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$2,265,000
2024	CON			\$225,275	\$25,031	\$250,305	
2024	PE	Special pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$395,000
2024	CON			\$38,462	\$4,274	\$42,735	
2024	CON	Pavement marking Retroreflectivity readings	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$1,099	\$122	\$1,221	\$11,000
2025	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$2,115,000
2025	CON			\$210,290	\$23,366	\$233,655	
2025	PE	Special pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$320,000
2025	CON			\$30,969	\$3,441	\$34,410	
2025	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$1,099	\$122	\$1,221	\$11,000
2026	PE	Longitudinal pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$2,090,000
2026	CON			\$207,792	\$23,088	\$230,880	
2026	PE	Special pavement marking application	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$999	\$111	\$1,110	\$395,000
2026	CON			\$38,462	\$4,274	\$42,735	
2026	CON	Pavement marking retroreflectivity readings	All trunkline routes in the TwinCATS MPO	\$1,099	\$122	\$1,221	\$11,000

Total	\$1,012,389	\$112,489	\$1,124,874
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*Total project estimate includes all phases. It may also include locations outside of the TwinCATS area.