

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Federal Funding Requirements

SWMPC developed a Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan which describes the actions taken in support of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as well as procedures in place if a complaint ever be filed. Specifically, Title VI provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Amendments have been added to include sex, age, creed, and disability. Although initially requested by MDOT, the SWMPC document serves to cover all our currently federally funded programs and is a general guideline to compliance:

www.swmpc.org/transportation.asp

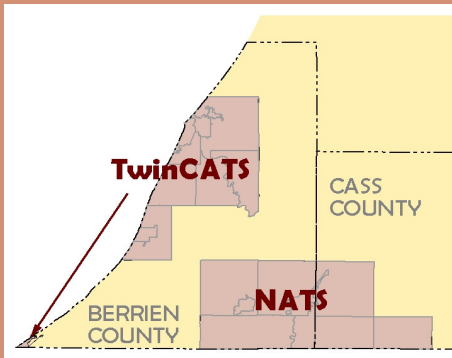
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS)

Cities: Bridgman, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph

Townships: Benton, Lake, Lincoln, Royalton, Sodus, St. Joseph

Villages: Shoreham, Stevensville, Grand Beach, Michiana

(Satellites, part of Michigan City Urbanized Area)



Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study (NATS)

(Michigan portion of the South Bend Urbanized Area)

Cities: Buchanan, Niles

Townships: Buchanan, Howard, Milton, Niles, Ontwa, Bertrand

Village: Edwardsburg

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for a process that is cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing and that encompasses all modes of transportation. The SWMPC coordinates the two MPO areas shown **at left** in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and member municipalities.

TwinCATS and NATS completed the following documents, which can be viewed at www.swmpc.org/twincats_docs.asp and www.swmpc.org/nats_docs.asp:

- Unified Work Programs of tasks for the year ahead
- Annual Reports of activities completed
- Public Participation Plan of policies and practices to involve the public in the transportation development process (updated every four years and reviewed annually)
- Conducted NATS member survey evaluating progress of public participation efforts and presented results

Long Range Transportation Plan

Work continued on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which provides a region-wide vision to meet transportation needs for over twenty years in advance. There are many aspects of this document that are updated on a regular basis. Two public input meetings were held regarding the development of the 2013-2040 LRTP. Outreach included engaging high school students and teachers in this process. Participation is welcome at www.swmpc.org/2013lrp.asp.

Asset Management

SWMPC Traffic Engineering Staff inventoried and rated approximately 900 miles of federal aid eligible roads throughout the region, and the complete ratings of local roads in Benton Harbor, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, New Buffalo, and St. Joseph. Local asset management plans have begun with the cities of Benton Harbor and New Buffalo, with the goal of streamlining their road maintenance efforts and becoming more cost effective.

Staff conducted approximately 120 **traffic counts**, uploaded the data to the SWMPC website and reported to MDOT.



TRANSPORTATION MODE FOCUS: BIKING AND WALKING

SWMPC continues to advance transportation options as part of an integrated network of bike lanes, trails, sidewalks and rails.

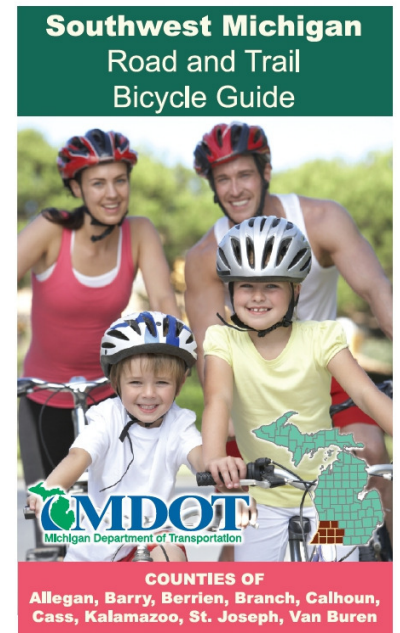
Walk & Roll Twin CATS is an initiative of local governments and the public to determine the needs for pedestrians and cyclists in the Twin Cities area. The final plan is included in the current Long Range Transportation Plan, and it is now in the implementation phase. Find out more at www.swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp.

Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Map

Funded by MDOT, this project built on public input to create a comprehensive vision in support of non-motorized transportation in nine SW Michigan counties. The data gathered during the plan development process was used to revise the 2005 map and the new publication is available at local bike shops and at www.swmpc.org/smart_plan.asp.

Non-Motorized policy and infrastructure planning included the following activities:

- Coordinated with Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance on **Complete Streets** workshops.
- Drafted a **Bike to Work Week** resolution and attained the approval of 20 municipalities.
- Held seven **Bicycle safety workshops**
- Researched impacts and developed strategies for addressing **climate change** in the area.



TRANSPORTATION MODE FOCUS: TRANSIT PLANNING AND MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

SWMPC fosters livable communities by ensuring public transportation and mobility options are accessible, integrated and efficient. SWMPC continued implementation of the Berrien County Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. Working with the Berrien County Transportation Coalition, SWMPC staff developed the following solutions to barriers that were identified in the plan:

MyWayThere:

Created and launched an accessible “One Stop” website called www.MyWayThere.org. The site offers mobility resources and tools for travel within and outside the region. The site is targeted to seniors, people with disabilities, people with low income, veterans, and Tribal citizens.

Travel Training Video:

Partnered with the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) to create a video that was released in October 2011 to various media outlets – Comcast, YouTube, MyWayThere.org and Facebook.

Regional Reduced Fare Card:

Staff led an effort to create and launch a Regional Reduced Fare Card Program to provide people with disabilities and seniors a more seamless travel experience in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties.

Ridership Analysis: Partnered with TCATA and conducted a detailed ridership analysis to improve performance, availability and accessibility of transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

Transit Development Studies:

Staff assisted in the development of the Niles-Dial-a-Ride Transportation Development Plan by providing consultants with data and recommendations for the long term sustainability of the service.

Berrien County Consolidation Feasibility Study:

SWMPC staff continued to work with KFH consultants and local stakeholders by facilitating meetings and providing data and technical assistance for the study.