



## Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

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

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Kim Gallagher**, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 x 1518

**Brandon Kovnat**, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 x1524

**DATE:** Monday, January 13, 2020 (second Monday)

**TIME: 9:30AM**

**PLACE:** Kinexus (Michigan Works!) **Lighthouse Room**

499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

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#### AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from November 18, 2019 Meeting (*Enclosed*) **Action**
5. Staff Report
6. Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates
7. Public Transit Updates
8. Local Road Project Updates
9. Berrien County Road Department Project Amendments (*Enclosed*) **Action**
  - Marquette Woods bridge
  - Napier Avenue
10. MDOT Project Updates
11. MDOT Project Amendments (*Enclosed*) **Action**
  - Traffic Signals
  - I-94 & I-196/US-31 Interchange Reconstruction
12. US-31 Updates
13. State and Federal Updates
14. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
15. Adjournment

## TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

November 18, 2019 – Kinexus, Lighthouse Room, and 499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

TWINCATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Carolyn Fowler		x	P	P	P		A	P		A	A	A		
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Bill Chickering		x	P	P	P		A	A		P	A	P	P	
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		N	A	A		P	A		A	A	A	A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P	A		P	A		P	P	P	P	
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Brian Berndt	Retired		P	P	A									
	Kevin Stack	x				P		P	P		P	P	A	P	
City of Benton Harbor	Darwin Watson		x	A	A	A		A	A		A				
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	x	x	A	P	P		A	P		A	P	A	A	
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	A	A		A	P		A	P	A	A	
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P	P	P		A	P		P	P	A	P	
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A	A	A		P	A		A	A	A		
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
Disability Network of SW Mich.	(vacant)	x													
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A	A	P		A	A		A	A	A	A	
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P	P		P	P		A	P	P	P	
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	A	P		P	P		A	A	A	P	
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P	A	P		P	P		P	P	A	P	
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P	A		P	A		P	P	P	P	
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt			P		A	P		A	A	A	A	
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P	A		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P	A		P	P		P	A	P	P	
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	A	P		P	A		A	A	P	P	
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		A	A	A		A	P		P	P	A	A	
	Ron Griffin	Alt						P	A		P	A	A	P	
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P	P			P		P	P	P	P	
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Alex Little	x	x	p	p	p									
	Paul Gillespie	x	x								P	A	P	P	
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Bob Lawrence	x	x	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	x	x	A	A	A		P	A		A	A			
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	x		A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		P	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	A	A		A	A		A	A	A	A	
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	A	P	A		A	A		P	A	A	P	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	P	P		A	A		P	P	P	P	
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			P	P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	

Pol. Ch. - Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt - Alternate  
P - Present; N - Not present; A blank spot means the position is vacant.

1. **Call to Order / Introductions**

Policy Committee chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

Kovnat asked to add approval of the 2020 TwinCATS meeting dates to new business. He said that since the December meeting would be canceled, this was the last chance to approve these dates before the end of the year.

Gallagher asked Vince Desjardins if he would like to add airport updates to the agenda. Desjardins said he did not have any updates to add.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2019 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Steve Tilly and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

None.

6. **Transit Updates**

Paul Gillespie said that he met with the other transit operators in Berrien County. They are forming a committee to look at countywide transit service. Gillespie said that Berrien Bus is planning three fixed routes, which will converge, on the TCATA facility.

Gillespie said that he is working on a third fixed route for TCATA, the yellow route, which has been in the works for several years. This route will serve the North Eastern parts of Benton Harbor. With this route and the Berrien Bus fixed routes, there will be six fixed routes using the TCATA facility for transfers. He said that the facility was not designed for bus transfers and he would be looking at acquiring additional property to use as a transfer station.

7. **Public Transit TIP Amendments**

Kovnat presented the changes TCATA proposed for the TIP (See packet for full details). TCATA had originally proposed to replace seven buses in 2020; they now will only replace six buses. One of the buses they had expected to replace will not exceed the mileage limits for useful life this year. In addition, the costs of purchasing each bus is higher than originally programmed.

Kovnat explained that the total cost reduction was less than 25% of the original cost; therefore, the changes were made administratively.

8. **Road Project Updates**

Kevin Stack gave updates on the following Berrien County Road Department projects:

- a) **Napier Avenue** – The 2019-funded portion and the 2020-funded portion will both be constructed in 2020. The 2019-funded portion has already been bid. Therefore, the 2019 and 2020 portions cannot be rebid as a single project, and there will not be savings from doing the project in single summer instead of over two years. The 2019-funded portion is expected to be constructed by Memorial Day. The 2020 portion is expected to be complete by mid-summer.
- b) **Marquette Bridge:** The bridge structure is in decent condition; therefore, the bridge will not be completely replaced. A separate bridge for non-motorized use will be constructed. The Berrien County Road Department is trying to get additional funding from the State Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF).
- c) **Signal Replacement at Napier and Crystal Avenue.** – Stack said that there was discussion about a hotel development at the Napier and Crystal Avenue intersection. The section of Crystal Ave. south of Napier is

privately owned and is currently closed. The new signal will be constructed to have four sides in the event that the southern segment of Crystal Avenue is reopened to traffic. Stack said that this southern segment of Crystal Avenue would need to be redesigned to the Berrien County Road Department's specifications. Currently, the road is 20 ft. wide but will need to be a minimum of 24 ft to meet the Berrien County Road Department's specifications. In addition, the developer would need to provide more right of way for potential sidewalks. Any sidewalk construction would be up to Benton Township discretion.

- d) **Linco Rd. guardrail**– Stack reminded the committees that this project was awarded Highway Safety Improvement funding (through the High Risk Rural Road category – HRR) because of a fatal crash that occurred last year. The road department had applied for guardrail before but until the crash occurred, the safety statistics of the site were not enough to qualify for the safety award.

#### 9. **TIP Amendments**

MDOT presented two amendments to the 2020-2023 TIP (See packet for full details):

- a) A cost decrease to a Regionwide sign replacement project.
- b) The Addition of an engineering phase for a project to add safety improvements to ramps on I-94.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve the TIP amendment as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Terrie Smith and seconded by Kevin Stack. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Steve Tilly and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

#### 10. **New Business**

- a) **Safety Performance Targets:** Gallagher and Kovnat presented background information about safety performance measures. A resolution was presented, which was to have TwinCATS adopt the state's safety performance targets for 2019 (see resolution in meeting packet).

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the resolution for TwinCATS to adopt the state safety targets for 2019. Motion made by Kevin Stack, seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by Steve Tilly, seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

- b) **2020 Meeting dates:** Kovnat presented the meeting dates for calendar year 2020. He noted that the January meeting will be the second Monday of the month because the third Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the 2020 meeting dates. Made by Amy Lipset, seconded by Steve Tilly. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by Amy Lipset, seconded by Steve Tilly. **Motion approved.**

Gallagher announced that the December 2019 TwinCATS meeting was cancelled due to lack of new business.

#### 11. **State and Federal Updates**

Jim Sturdevant (by Phone) said that he was following up on FY 2019 fourth quarter billings. He added that there was not much to update because TwinCATS is up to date on the TIP and the Long Range Plan.

#### 12. **Privilege of the floor**

Terrie Smith asked if the Berrien County Road Department had considered adding a guardrail on the east side of Niles Rd. at Glenlord Rd. Stack replied that Niles is an MDOT maintained road and he would discuss this with Jonathon Smith. Stauffer asked about the guardrail on Glenlord Rd. near the Washington Avenue (near the Glenaire manufactured home park). Stack said that currently it would take approximately \$12 million to replace all of the county's entire old guardrail. To construct a new guardrail, the Road Department has to use the safety grants, which prioritize the high-risk locations with reoccurring crashes. He said that the safety grants look at the return on investment. A value is applied to each injury type (fatal, serious, injury, and property damage only). The value of the injuries potentially avoided is compared to the cost of the project. Tim Zebell added that the city of St. Joseph was able to get a safety project funded based only on a high number of property damage and minor injury crashes without any fatalities.

Stauffer asked about the state's study on using toll roads in Michigan. Lipset said that, currently, there is only a proposal from the state legislature to hire a consultant to do the study; the study will not be conducted by MDOT.

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate planner*



**Jason Latham**  
Managing Director

# Berrien County Road Department

2860 E. Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: 269-925-1196  
Fax: 269-925-8098  
[www.bcroad.org](http://www.bcroad.org)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Mr. Brandon Kovnat  
SWMPC 376 W Main  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

RE: Marquette Amendment Request

Dear Mr. Kovnat:

Berrien County Road Department is requesting the following change to the Marquette Woods Road Project. We would like to change the local match from \$379,000.00 to \$175,000.00. We are making this adjustment due to the fact that we had the bridge inspected and determine it does not need to be replaced. We can simple add to pedestrian bridges to either side of the structure for a more cost effective price. By doing this we are only spending approximately \$250,000.00 of the \$485,000.00 we have to spend. We asking to increase the scope of this work to replace a 14 foot diameter culvert that is 500 feet further east of the bridge that will need to be replaced to widen the road in 2021.

Road Department Match	\$175,000.00
<u>STUL</u>	<u>\$485,000.00</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$660,000.00</b>

Thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions, please call.

Best Regards,  
Berrien County Road Department

Kevin Stack, P.E.  
Engineering Supervisor



Project Update Sheet

Filled out by: Kevin Stack

Date: 01/02/2020

Project Name:	Marquette Woods Road Pedestrian bridge & Culvert Replacement
Fiscal Year of award:	2020
Responsible Agency:	Berrien County
MDOT Job Number:	
Project Limits	Cleveland Ave to 1600' west
Project Length:	.30
Location:	Lincoln Twp
Primary Work Type:	Pedestrian Bridge installation and Culvert Replacement
Phase	CON

Project Description:

Installing two 6 foot wide pedestrian bridges on either side of Marquette Woods Road and replacing a 14 foot diameter culvert under Marquette Woods Road.

Fund Source	Federal	State/Local	Total
STUL	\$485,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$660,000.00

Activity	Estimated Date	Actual Date
Resolution of Support for Local Match Submitted to SWMPC	January 2020	
Project Application Submitted to MDOT	January 2020	
Grade Inspection Package Submitted to MDOT	February 2020	
Grade Inspection Meeting Scheduled	March 2020	
Final Plan and Estimate to MDOT	April 2020	
Project Obligated	April 2020	
Project Letting	May 2020	
Construction Start	June 2020	
Project Completion	October 2020	

Project is:  On Schedule  Behind Schedule (explain below)

Briefly describe the work done to date:

Pedestrian Bridge's added to both sides of Marquette Woods Road over hickory Creek and culvert replacement to accommodate pedestrians with the future road widening project.



**Jason Latham**  
Managing Director

# Berrien County Road Department

2860 E. Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

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Fax: 269-925-8098  
[www.bcroad.org](http://www.bcroad.org)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Mr. Brandon Kovnat  
SWMPC 376 W Main  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

RE: Napier Avenue Amendment Request

Dear Mr. Kovnat:

Berrien County Road Department is requesting the following change to the Napier Avenue Project. We would like to change the local match from \$104,000.00 to \$350,628.00. We are switching the project dollar to reflect current prices that are anticipated for 2020.

Road Department Match	\$350,628.00
<u>STUL</u>	<u>\$470,719.00</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$821,347.00</b>

Thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions, please call.

Best Regards,  
Berrien County Road Department

Kevin Stack, P.E.  
Engineering Supervisor





Project Update Sheet

Filled out by: Kevin Stack

Date: 01/02/2020

Project Name:	Napier Aveune
Fiscal Year of award:	2020
Responsible Agency:	Berrien County
MDOT Job Number:	
Project Limits	Colfax Ave. to M-139
Project Length:	.93
Location:	Benton Twp
Primary Work Type:	HMA Mill & Fill
Phase	CON

Project Description:

HMA Mill & Fill with structure reconstructs and Road Fabric

Fund Source	Federal	State/Local	Total
STUL	\$470,719.00	\$350,628.00	\$821,347.00

Activity	Estimated Date	Actual Date
Resolution of Support for Local Match Submitted to SWMPC		
Project Application Submitted to MDOT	January 2020	
Grade Inspection Package Submitted to MDOT	February 2020	
Grade Inspection Meeting Scheduled	March 2020	
Final Plan and Estimate to MDOT	April 2020	
Project Obligated	April 2020	
Project Letting	May 2020	
Construction Start	June 2020	
Project Completion	July 2020	

Project is:  On Schedule  Behind Schedule (explain below)

Briefly describe the work done to date:

Roadway Rehabilitation include HMA Mill and Fill with Structure reconstruction, Concrete Pavement Joint Repair, and Road Fabric.

# MDOT TIP Amendment Request

For the January 13, 2020 TwinCATS TAC & Policy Meeting

## I-94 & I-196/U-31 interchange reconstruction in 2020 – Cost Increase

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Federal	\$66,859,875	\$115,470,315	\$48,610,440
State	\$7,428,875	\$12,830,035	\$5,401,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,288,750</b>	<b>\$128,300,350</b>	<b>\$54,011,600</b>

## Traffic signal modernization at M-63 & Washington Ave. in 2020 – Cost Increase

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Federal	\$856,160	\$1,151,257	\$295,097
State	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$856,160</b>	<b>\$1,151,257</b>	<b>\$295,097</b>

## Traffic signal modernization for the I-94 & M-139 off ramp – Add PE phase for 2021

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Federal	\$59,583 (PE only)
State	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$59,583</b>

Note: Construction phase will occur in 2024.