

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
 Joint Technical Advisory and Policy Committee Meeting  
**Minutes**  
 June 18, 2012  
 9:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<p><b>TAC AND POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b></p>	<p>Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township          John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development          Bill Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission          Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC          Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph          Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning          Kenton McAndrew, Abonmarch representing City of Benton Harbor          Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission          John Olson, Royalton Township          Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township          Kevin Reed, Berrien County Road Commission          Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance          Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport          Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham          Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township          Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township          Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)          Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph</p>
<p><b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b></p>	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman          Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township          Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission          Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio)          Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor          Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio)          Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township          Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township          Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region          Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)          Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission          Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission          Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority          Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio)          Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio)          Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman          Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville          Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC</p>
<p><b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b></p>	<p>Suzann Flowers          Trevor Thomas</p>
<p><b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b></p>	<p>Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI          John Proos, Senator 21<sup>st</sup> District</p>

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Judd called the Joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Olson with support by Zebell, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2012 TwinCATS TAC Minutes. **Motion passed.**
- A motion was made by Fenderbosch with support by Merritt, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2012 TwinCATS Policy Minutes. **Motion passed.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments were received for the month of June.

**4. STAFF REPORT:**

- **Berrien County Transit Consolidation Presentation**  
Flowers discussed the presentation made by the consultants working on the study, KFH Group, and that they presented their first technical memo at a meeting at Michigan Works on June 6, 2012. All TwinCATS and NATS Committee members received an invitation to this meeting with the Technical Memo attached. Information regarding the findings from KFH Group was presented to the group and questions were answered. Flowers encouraged anyone that had additional questions to contact Kim Gallagher or Christina Pippin regarding the study.
- **Presentations to MPO communities/agencies**  
Flowers thanked all the member communities who have contacted her regarding presentations to be made regarding the MPO. Flowers had sent letters to all member communities asking them to contact her if they had an interest in having a presentation or discussion regarding the functions and duties that the MPO performs and how it impacts the member community.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Walk and Roll**  
Thomas stated that the Walk and Roll Sub-Committee met again and will be asking for support of the Complete Streets Policy that the group has drafted and that have been made available to the entire Committees for over one month. The Sub-Committee meeting this month focused on developing a Top Ten list for projects that could/should be developed within the MPO and then how that list will be developed. The group is finalizing how to score projects and then will present this information to the full Committees once it has been completed.
- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**  
There were no updates at the June 2012 meeting.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**  
There were no updates at the June 2012 meeting.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**  
There were no updates at the June 2012 meeting.

## 6. PROJECT UPDATES

Flowers asked Zebell about the regarding two City of St. Joseph projects, one that had a bid savings of \$18,000 and the other project that went over the project cap of \$14,000. Zebell stated that the bid savings from the one project could not be shifted to the project that went over budget. And that he will work with Brian Berndt on moving the funds as allowed.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2010	NA			All projects have been completed	12-Mar	
2011		Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	Construction has started	June 2012	
		Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal</del>	Completed	June 2012	
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Lincoln Ave, Lincoln Rd to Maiden Ln</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Pipestone Rd and River Rd</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	<del>Berrien County Road Commission</del>	<del>Napier Ave. 200' section west of I-94</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	108921	MDOT	<del>US-31 freeway signing upgrade</del>	let, construction April-Aug 2012-Completed	June 2012	
	88086	MDOT	<del>I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work</del>	Bridge is open for traffic-complete in August-Completed	June 2012	
	112949	MDOT	<del>I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work</del>	PE phase is complete, add to 5 year plan for 2017 construction Completed-	June 2012	
	113014	MDOT	<del>M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave</del>	June-September construction 2012-Completed	June 2012	
	NA	MDOT	<del>I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	109704	MDOT	<del>I-94 BL Glenford</del>	Completed	12-Mar	

			Rd to Pearl St			
	108174	MDOT	<del>I-94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	109087	MDOT	<del>I-196 under Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	NA	St. Joseph	<del>S State St and Kingsley Ave</del>	<del>done and advanced-construct repayment done</del>	12-Mar	
	NA	Village of Stevensville	<del>John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	will be located at MI Works and at the Triangle Park near the old Mercy Center-purchased, working with Abonmarche on where to set them-the City now wants cameras near the bus shelters and they would cost about \$10,000 a piece. Looking for other funding to purchase cameras.	12-Mar	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012	12-Feb	
2012		St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	construction July 2012, bid savings of \$18,000; Advance construct dollars	May-12	18,000
	114537					
		St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap	May-12	
	112088					
		St. Joseph	<del>South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave</del>	<del>advanced construct-reimbursement done</del>		
	107686					
		Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	Move to 2013	12-Mar	
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	July-September Letting	June 2012	
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	Construction July 23; \$10,000 bid savings; construction started	June 2012	10,000
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	12-Mar	
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside	Schedule for October letting	June 2012	

			facility)			
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase	12-Mar	
	110931	MDOT	I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge)	design moved back to 2013	12-Mar	
	109093	MDOT	I-94 under M-63 (bridge)	Bridge closing today, Construction completed by August 18	June 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	No update	12-Mar	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	No update	12-Mar	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar	

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

▪ **SE Data**

Thomas reviewed that the MPO staff had held two meetings to review the current population data, which had been approved several months ago, and asked attendees to review information for the years 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, and 2040 in regards to employment, household, and population projections. He explained that the years 2015 and 2020 were the most important since the Long Range Plan numbers are reviewed every 4-5 years. Flowers mentioned that as they finished up reviewing the data that was collected that they will be giving that information to Brad Sharlow at MODT who is performing the modeling for Berrien and Cass County and that on the August agenda, we will be asking for full Committee approval on the forecasting numbers for the forecast years.

▪ **TwinCATS Walk and Roll Complete Streets Policy**

Thomas reviewed what the purpose of the Policy was to be and how Zebell had raised a concern at the May meeting. Thomas presented a newly drafted version of the policy item that concerned Zebell and it read as follows

“IV: Exemption

A) Complete Streets Exemption-

7. The costs of including accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians can be demonstrated by the applicant agency to be greatly disproportional to the projected benefits from their inclusion or to result in disproportional harm from foregone infrastructure projects”. Zebell stated that he was happy with the proposed Policy change.

-Scherwitz also stated the importance of having member communities incorporate complete streets language into their community planning documents.

-Judd stated that there was a grammatical error on Page 1 that should say mowing instead of moving. Thomas will make the corrections.

-Tupica also stated that there are many MPOs in the state that are passing Complete Streets policies.

-Lenze added that the Michigan Complete Streets Advisory Council has to have their Policy strategies completed by August.

A motion was made by Zebell with support by Olson, to recommend to the Policy Committee to pass the TwinCATS Complete Streets Policy. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made by Panozzo with support by Fenderbosch, to approve the TwinCATS Complete Streets Policy. **Motion passed.**

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

### ▪ **Presentation by Larry Merritt from Berrien County Road Commission**

Merritt from the Berrien County Road Commission presented information on the Better and Safer Roads in Berrien County millage request that will appear on the ballot for Berrien County residents in November. Merritt discussed the complexity of transportation funding in Michigan, how much money goes to the PA 51 agencies (county road commissions, cities, and villages) and how much money would be leveraged with a local millage. He also explained how those funds would be distributed within the county. Many questions were asked regarding when the funds collected would be made available for projects, and Merritt's understanding was that funds would be available for construction in 2014.

### ▪ **TIP Amendments**

○ **MDOT** (*all TIP amendments details can be found in the handout for the June 2012 meeting*).

#### ▪ 2012

- Amending JN 103293, CON phase roadside facility at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township lot 711005 a change in federal cost from 25,000 to 19,644; change in state cost from 5,000 to 4,356; resulting in a total phase cost reduction from 30,000 to 24,000 and a total project cost reduction from 35,000 to 30,500.
- Moved JN 110779, CON phase of I-94 bridge replacement over Hickory Creek, from FY 2013 to FY 2012.

#### ▪ 2013

- Adding trunkline GPA for pre-construction phases with a federal cost of 9,000 for a total project cost of 9,000.
- Adding I-94 PE phase, JN 116708, for a federal cost of 9,000 and state cost of 1,000 for a total phase cost of 10,000 and total project cost of 75,000.
- Adding GPA for Program development scoping on trunkline, EPE phase for federal cost of 39,000, state cost of 12,000 for total phase and project cost of 51,000.

#### ▪ 2014

- Adding JN 115754, I-196 bridge replacement PE phase for federal cost of 165,000, state cost of 18,000 for total phase cost of 183,000 and total project cost of 5.075 million.
- Adding JN 115754, I-196 bridge replacement SUB phase for federal cost of 267,000, state cost of 30,000 for total phase cost of 297,000 and total project cost of 5.075 million.

- Approved amendment to remove JN 110931, CON phase for multiple bridge repairs over I-94 from TIP, as it has been rescheduled to FY 2015. (Note: this same amendment was approved by the TAC and Policy Committee in February 2012, and it has already been incorporated into the state and federally approved 2011-2014 TIP.)

A motion was made by Gruchot with support by Smith to recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the above listed 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made by Stauffer with support by Fenderbosch to recommend to the Policy Committee to approve the above listed 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

#### ▪ **Legislative Updates**

##### ○ **Federal**

Flowers reminded members that the current federal transportation bill extension ends on June 30. Congress is still in conference committee. Tupica added that it appears that we will receive another transportation extension and that a new bill will not be done by the June 30 extension date.

-Lenze added that there is a nonbinding resolution where Michigan would receive 0.95 cents of every dollar that currently gets sent to Washington, D.C instead of the current 0.92 cents. Merritt commented that we would then need to have more matching dollars to account for the increase in the 20% matching requirements.

##### ○ **State**

Senator John Proos attended the meeting and updated the attendees as to the status of SB 351 which will ensure that the state of Michigan has their federal match requirement for roads. According to a publication from Proos' office dated June 17, 2012 "this bill would direct \$100 million of those additional funds to the State Trunkline Fund, used to generate federal transportation matching funds". Proos discussed how there was always an issue of raising the matching funds money each year and that this should take away that issue. SB 351 has the support of CRAM and the Governor.

-Merritt asked about the potential completion of US 31 in Berrien County and that MDOT is now willing to talk about this issue once again.

-Proos also mentioned the will to change the structuring of PA 51 formula since there is no support to increase taxes at the pump in the legislature at this time.

#### **9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

There were no comments received during the month of June.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT at 11:00 a.m.**

Motion by Olson with support by Fenderbosch to adjourn the meeting.

- Next meeting is **July 16, 2012 at 9:30am**

*Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, May 2012*