

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING

Monday, July 19, 2021

9:30 am

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

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/93365671720?pwd=QTBxTVlpWjhTVHNnckRvMUR2V2dKQT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 933 6567 1720
Passcode: 194561

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes from May 17, 2021 Meeting (*enclosed*)
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Agency Updates (*enclosed*)
 - Public Transit
 - Local Road Agencies
 - MDOT
7. New Business
 - Transit Safety Targets (*enclosed*) Action
 - 2024-2026 Project Scoring Methodology (*enclosed*) Action
8. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
9. 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

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

May 17, 2021 via Zoom

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal	x	x	P		P		P							
Berrien Co. Board of	Ray Bell		x	A		P		A							
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A				A							
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P		P		P							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P		P		P							
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A		A		A							
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P		P		P							
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A		A		A							
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P		P		A							
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P		P		P							
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P		P		P							
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A		A		A							
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A		A		A							
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x		P		A		A							
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x	A											
Kinexus	(vacant)	x		A											
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A		A		A							
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P		P		P							
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P		P		P							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P		P		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P		P		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A		A		A							
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P		P		P							
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	A		A		A							
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A		A		A							
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A		A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P		P		P							
	Roger Seeley	x		A		A		P							
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A		A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P		P		P							
	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P		P		P							
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority		x	x												
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Schnable	x	x	A		P		P							
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x	A											
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P		A		P							
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A		A		A							
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A		A		A							
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A		A							
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A		A		A							
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan.	Scott Weber	x	x	A		A		A							
Southwest Michigan Planning	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P		P							
Southwest Michigan Planning	Brandon Kovnat			P		P		P							

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is

Others Present: Anita Boughner, MDOT

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

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

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes from March 15, 2021 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

- a) **Timeline for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development:** Gallagher showed how SWMPC staff sends multiple calls for projects to develop a multitude of transportation programs. She said applications for TwinCATS projects would be released in June with a September due date.
- b) **Traffic Count & PASER updates:** Gallagher explained that PASER and traffic counts were the main data needed for project applications. She said SWMPC would rate 100% of the federal aid eligible roads over the summer. SWMPC also has a limited capacity to rate local (non-federal aid) roads upon request. SWMPC will also be taking traffic counts upon request.
- c) **Land use/new development updates:** Gallagher presented on several developments occurring in the area. Lipset said that any of the developments along MDOT roads would need approval from the Coloma TSC for driveway access and approval from the Lansing signals unit if they wanted to add traffic signals. She said that MDOT has the right to determine where driveways are located.

Gallagher highlighted how the developments were impacted by transportation options with developments in Benton Harbor having better bus access and with industrial development choosing sites based on the US-31/I-94 connection.

Gallagher explained how the stormwater elements of the Orchards Mall redevelopment fit into the Ox Creek watershed and encouraged members to learn more at <https://sustainoxcreek.org/>

6. **Agency Updates**

- a) **Public Transit:** TCATA is addressing FTA's comments on their Public Transit Safety Plan. They will bring that plan to TwinCATS at the next meeting for the committee to vote on whether to support TCATA's safety targets. TCATA had applied for a grant to purchase an electric bus.
- b) **Local Road Agencies**
 - Berrien County Road Department:** Stack said that the bid for Washington Ave. was awarded to Reith Riley for \$479,877. Stack said that all of his projects were coming in lower than estimated.

City of St. Joseph: Zebell said that Langley was in Phase 1b. Langley is closed to through traffic.

- a) **MDOT:** Smith added that the work on M-139 over Buckthorn had tree clearing completed and work can begin after July 4th. The I-94 variable speed limit sign project was let with the bid coming in 5.5% above the estimate.

Lipsett provided an update on the I-94/US-31 construction. She said that the bridge removal went smoothly with a temporary closure of I-94. A detour route on Benton center was resurfaced. Lipsett said that MDOT was planning on repairing I-94 from exit 23 to Britain Avenue and also from I-196 to M-140 in the same year. This would be two major work zones close together. An alternative would be to push back one of the projects. She asked the group whether they would prefer to have a longer delay in a single year or to have construction over more years. The general consensus was to get it over with sooner. Lipsett said she was proposing to work with Indiana and Ontario to have signs early so long distance travelers could make detours.

7. New Business

- b) **Approval of projects to utilize Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds:** Kovnat said that a project review subcommittee is recommending to split HIP funds between two projects which are on the illustrative list. Both projects extend from the limits of projects already programmed in the TIP. Zebell added that the portion of Broad street was taking extra damage from the construction on Langley.

Motion for the technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the split of Highway Infrastructure funds as presented and amended the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program accordingly. Made by Terrie Smith and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by John Hodgson and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion Approved.**

- c) **MDOT Amendments:** there were no updates to add beyond what is contained in the Packet.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project Amendments to 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion Approved.**

- d) **Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Work Plan:** Gallagher said that the Unified work Program (UWP) is the annual list of work activities for the SWMPC staff does for TwinCATS. she said most of the items in the UWP were federally required. The main focus for FY 2022 will be the development of the 2023-2026 TIP. Staff will also begin work with MDOT on updating the travel model for the next Long Range Plan.

Gallagher presented some of the comments made by MDOT about the UWP. One item was to replace the term "non-motorized" with the more specific terms pedestrians and bicycle. This recognizes the actual mode of transportation and does not any user in relationship to automobile users.

Sturdevant asked that the motion to approve the UWP include the changes recommended by MDOT review

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution in support of the TwinCATS Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Work Program. This will include technical corrections requested by MDOT or FHWA. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the resolution supporting the TwinCATS FY 2021 Unified Work Program and submit the UWP to the SWMPC board. Made by Eric Lester and seconded Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

e) **2023-2026 Project Scoring Methodology:** Gallagher said that a scoring methodology is needed to show how the committees use performance measures when choosing projects. Kovnat explained the prosed changed from the scoring methodology used in 2020-2023. Zebell said he had several comments and suggested a separate meeting to discuss them.

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

Boughner said that MDOT had committed 95% of the federal urban fund already. Kovnat said that this wouldn't effect TwinCATS because all of the project are obligated.

9. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2021.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC associate Planner

DRAFT

TwinCATS 2021 Project Status Reports – July 12, 2021

MDOT Updates

Contact: Jon Smith, MDOT Engineer SmithJ29@michigan.gov

Project Name	Limits	Project Description	Update
I-94	I-94 BL (Exit 23) to the St. Joseph River	Reconstruction	Design in Progress, scheduled let date of March 2022.
M-139	Over Buckhorn Creek, north of Rocky Weed Rd.	Culvert Replacement and Road Reconstruction	Culvert work will start on/after the July 6th and will be expected completion by end-September (full detour).
I-94	I-94 west of Van Buren County	Variable Advisory Speed Limit System along I-94 in Van Buren Co.	Construction starts on/after May 10th and expected completion by mid-December.
M-43 / Regionwide	I94 WB OFF RAMP @ M139	Modernizing signalized intersection to current standards	Design in progress, scheduled let date of December 2023.
Regionwide	M-139 from Royalton/Oronoko Twp Line to pavement change north of St. Joseph River	Crack seal, chip/fog seal, micro-surfacing and HMA milling and overlay	Design in Progress, scheduled let date of November 2021.

Local Road Agency Updates

[City of St. Joseph](#)

Contact: Tim Zebel, City of St. Joseph Engineer tzebell@sjcity.com

Work on Langley Avenue is progressing with water and sewer replacements. Phase 2 of the project, the paving of Wolcott Avenue to approximately Mohawk Lane will begin at the end of July. Updates are added on the City's website at: <https://www.sjcity.com/government/departments/city-engineer>

[Berrien County Road Department](#)

Contact: Kevin Stack, County Engineer kstack@bcroad.org

Washington Avenue was let in May with an accepted bid of \$479,881 which is 13% less than the estimated cost. Construction began in June with an estimated end in October.

The Napier Bridge project was let in June with an accepted bid of \$1,668,057 which is 3% less than the estimate. Construction is expected to begin in July and completed by the end of October.

Twin Cities Area Transportation Safety Performance Targets

The Federal Transit Agency (FTA) requires operators of public transportation systems that receive federal funds under FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants to develop Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASPs) which include targets for transit safety performance measures. These targets must be specific numerical targets set by agencies themselves.

For the purposes of this plan, TCATA will set performance targets that focus on the areas based on data delivered to the National Transit Database (NTD), as follows:

A. Fatailities

- Total number of reportable fatalities
- Rate of reportable fatalities per total vehicle revenue miles

B. Injuries

- Total number of reportable injuries
- Rate of reportable injuries per total revenue miles

C. Safety Events

- Total number of reported safety events
- Rate of reportable safety events per total vehicle miles traveled.

D. System Reliability

- Mean distance between major mechanical failure

Service Mode	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100K VRM	Injuries	Injuries per 100K VRM	Safety Events	Safety Events per 100K VRM	System Reliability VRM/Failures
Demand Response	0	0	1	.3	9	2,74	54,600
Fixed Route	0	0	0	0	6	2.9	20,000

TCATA will make its safety performance targets available to applicable state agencies and metropolitan planning organizations, and, to the maximum extent practicable, will coordinate with both in the selection of safety performance targets.

The performance measures and the safety performance targets will be referenced in updates to the TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the TwinCATS Long Range Transportation Plan

**RESOLUTION OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TO SUPPORT THE TRANSIT SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES TARGETS
AS SET BY THE TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR**

WHEREAS, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph urban area according to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, as amended; and

WHEREAS, SWMPC had delegated authority to Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) Policy Committee to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive ("3C") multimodal transportation planning process as mandated by congress in Titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.; and

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. 150(c) requires the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to establish national performance measures for safety, infrastructure condition, system performance, freight, and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has established regulation (49 U.S.C. 5329(d)) requiring operators of public transportation systems that are recipients or subrecipients of federal financial assistance under the Urbanized Area Formula Program (49 U.S.C § 5307) to develop Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) which include performance targets based on the safety performance criteria for each mode of transportation provided; and

WHEREAS, under 23 C.F.R. § 450.306 Metropolitan Planning Organizations shall establish the performance targets no more than 180 days after the date on which the providers of public transportation establish their performance targets; and

WHEREAS, the twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) set the following targets for transit safety:

Service Mode	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100K VRM	Injuries	Injuries per 100K VRM	Safety Events	Safety Events per 100K VRM	System Reliability VRM/Failures
Demand Response	0	0	1	.3	9	2,74	54,600
Fixed Route	0	0	0	0	6	2.9	20,000

WHEREAS, MPOs are required to reference the safety performance targets and agency safety plan in their Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRPs) updated or amended after July 20, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study agrees to set Public Transportation Safety Targets by supporting the targets contained in the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, as updated on July 9, 2021

Richard Stauffer, Chair
TwinCATS Policy Committee

Date

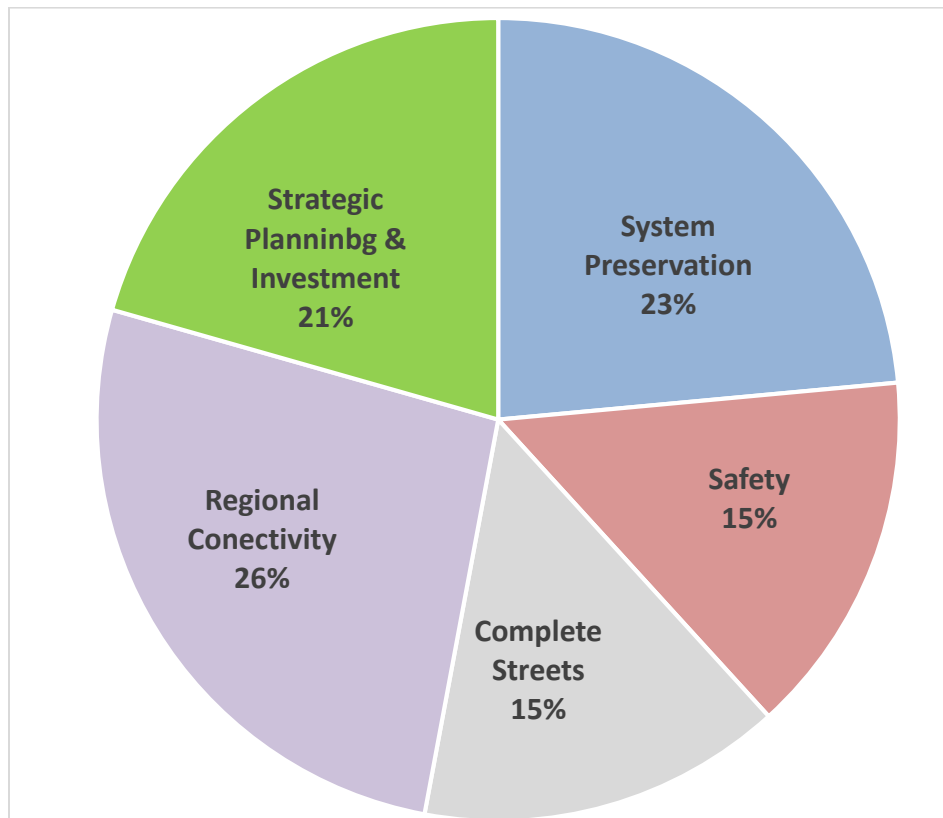
TwinCATS Road Project Prioritization System for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

DRAFT

The following pages present a methodology to score projects submitted for consideration for TwinCATS' allocation of Surface Transportation Program (STP) dollars for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This project prioritization system serves as a guiding document in project selection, but project selection will be made only after debate in an open and public process. A project selection subcommittee will recommend projects to the Technical Advisory Committee, who will then recommend projects to the TwinCATS Policy Committee. During the initial project selection process. The public will have an opportunity to inform project selection at each stage of the process. The ultimate authority for project selection still lies with the TwinCATS Policy Committee.

Each of these scoring categories corresponds to the relevant section on the TIP Application.



System Preservation (8 points possible total)

PASER Rating (5 points possible)

5 points if the most recent PASER rating is 2-3 and the project was applied for previously when the PASER was 4 or higher

3 points if the most recent PASER is 2-3 and this is the first application for this project.

3 point is the most recent PASER is 4

1 point if the most recent PASER is 5-6

0 Point if the most recent PASER is 7-10

Project Category per MDOT's "Guidelines for Geometrics on Local Agency Project" (3 points possible)

3 points if the project follows the MDOT 4R guidelines

2 points if the project follows the MDOT 3R guidelines

1 point if the project follows the MDOT Preventative Maintenance guidelines

Safety (5 points total possible)

Safety Countermeasures (3 points possible)

1 point per traffic safety countermeasure included in the project, up to 3 points maximum

Addressing High Crash Location (2 points possible)

2 point if the project address crashes on a road segment that is 20% higher than the MPO median

1 point if the project address crashes on a road segment that is within 20% of the MPO median

0 points if all road segments in the project are below 20% of the PO medium.

Complete Streets (5 points possible total)

Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities (3 Points)

1 point if the road currently has facilities to accommodate pedestrians or cyclists and the project will not improve conditions further

2 points if the road currently has facilities to accommodate pedestrians or cyclists and the project will add additional facilities

3 points if the project add pedestrian or bicycle facilities where none existed previously.

Improving Non-motorized Connectivity (2 points)

Any added pedestrian or bicycle facilities connect to existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities or those that can reasonably expect to be completed during 2023-2026, thus improving regional connectivity.

Regional Connectivity (9 Points total possible)

Traffic Volume (5 points possible)

5 points if ADT is more than 10,000 vehicles per day

4 points if ADT is between 5,000 and 9,999 vehicles per day

3 points if ADT is between 2,000 and 4,999 vehicles per day

Functional Classification (3 points possible)

3 points if project is located on a Principal Arterial

2 points if project is located on a Minor Arterial

1 point if project is located on a Major Collector

Fixed Route Transit (1 point possible)

1 point if a fixed route transit uses the road.

Strategic Planning & Investment (7 points possible)**Asset Management (3 points possible)**

Using the Asset Management Readiness Scale:

1 point if the projects is listed in an asset management plan for roads/stormwater

1 point if there is an asset management plan covering other utilities along the limits of the project

1 point if staff at the agency have asset management training

Local Planning Document (1 point possible)

1 point if the project is identified in another local planning document other than an asset management plan such as a master plan or a parks and recreation plan.

Project Continuity (1 points possible)

1 point if the project continues resurfacing, reconstruction or Preventative Maintenance on a segment of roadway adjacent to a segment with a PASER of 7 or higher.

Additional local match (2 points possible)

1 point if the agency contributes 24-40% of the estimated construction costs

2 points if the agency contributes 40%+ of the estimated construction costs

Coordination with sewer and water projects (No Points)

If there are known water or sewer issues, the project must coordinate utility and road fixes.

Cross Jurisdictional Coordination (No Points)

The project crosses jurisdictional boundaries (i.e. city to township) and it is arranged in such a way to be bid as a single project.

Project Readiness (No Points)

If the project requires relocation of utilities, purchase of ROW, environmental sensitivity or railroad crossing permits, these items must be addressed in the application and indicated on the project schedule.