

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING
Monday, May 15, 2023
9:30 am

In Person: Kinexus (Michigan Works!) **Anchor Room A**
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047
Passcode: 000619

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes *Action* Pg.2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Road Agency Updates & Amendments *Action* pg. 7
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Project Updates & Amendments *Action* pg. 8
9. CMAQ Total Emission Reduction Targets *Action* pg. 10
10. FY 2024 Unified work Program *Action*
https://www.swmpc.org/tcats_uwp.asp
11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
12. 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
 March 20, 2023 Meeting Attendance

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	V										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V	A										
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	(Vacant / Dan Fette)	x		A	A										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	A	A										
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		IP	IP										
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A										
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A	IP										
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	IP	A										
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A	A										
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		A	V										
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A										
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x		A	IP										
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(Vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A	A										
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	IP	A										
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		IP	A										
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	IP	IP										
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A	A										
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V	V										
MDOT – Southwest Region	(Vacant)	Alt	Alt												
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V	V										
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	IP	IP										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		IP	IP										
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		IP	IP										
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Oliver Lindsey	x	x	A	IP										
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Schnable	x	x	IP											
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x		V										
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	IP	V										
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A	IP										
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A										
Federal Transit Administration	Susan Webber	x	x	A	A										
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A										
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	V										
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	A	A										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	IP	IP										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			IP	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.

Others: Allan Smaka, Wightman & Associates on behalf of St. Joseph Township

Minutes
TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 20, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee Vice Chair, Denise Cook, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kim Gallagher took roll call. Mike Allard announced that he was replacing Mike Schnable as the representative for the Village of Shoreham.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Kovnat requested to add a vote to change TwinCATS funding from capped to uncapped for the remainder of FY 2023. This will be discussed along with agenda item nine: amendment requests

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2023 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

5. SWMPC Staff Report

FY 2024 Unified Work Program (UWP): Gallagher explained that the Unified Work Program (UWP), layouts out what staff will accomplish for NATS in Fiscal Year 2024, along with the planning budget. SWMPC staff met with MDOT and federal partners on March 9th to review the current progress on the FY 2023 UWP and discuss the goals for the FY 2024 UWP. For FY 202,4 SWMPC requested additional funding to hire a consultant to write an EV readiness plan. This plan would focus on charging infrastructure needs, unlike the statewide plan which only identifies general locations along the Interstate. The UWP will be voted on at the May TwinCATS meeting.

The M-139 Project: Gallagher announced that the project is in there early design phase. There were two stakeholder meetings in February and March. A public meeting is scheduled for April 2023.

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP): Gallagher reminded the attendees that a 2023-2026 call for projects for the CRP was sent last June; only one application for a 2026 project was submitted. Another call will be sent to solicit applications for 2024, 2025, and 2026 projects. She expected this to be sent within a month and the selection to occur in August 2023.

6. Local Road Agency Updates

Benton Harbor: Drows explained that the original application for the Pipestone Signal was for an expensive design that included cellular control. Upon further design, they realized they wouldn't use this feature, and only needed to sync the signals along pipestone. The revised design will be far cheaper.

Drows said that the Pipestone Resurfacing: was on track and would easily meet obligations this fiscal year.

St. Joseph: Zebell said that the Lake Blvd. and Broad St. Resurfacing is on schedule. The GI meeting is scheduled for March 24.

Bridgman: The Lake St. Reconstruction was let in February with a bid about 6% above the estimate. Construction will begin in June.

Berrien County Road Department: Stack said that the Napier Ave. project was obligated with the Estimate about 6% above the programmed amount. The John Beers project was obligated 1.3% below programmed. Both projects are on the April 7th letting date.

7. Transit Updates

Oliver Lindsey introduced himself as the interim director for TCATA. He said his top priority is to lead the search for a permanent director.

8. MDOT Project Updates

There were no updates beyond what is included in the meeting packet.

9. Discussion on TwinCATS being uncapped for the remainder of FY 2023

Kovnat explained that due to the lower cost for the Pipestone Signal, there will be \$137,081 in FY 2023 STBG funds unprogrammed. It is not possible to add a new project for FY 2023 at this time. Three FY 2023 STBG-funded projects have not been obligated yet. All these projects are programmed with the maximum federal funding of 81.15% and no more federal funds can be programmed.

MDOT suggested TwinCATS could change to *uncapped*. Currently, if a project is obligated or bid above the programmed amount, any extra costs are paid for solely by the local agency. This is called *capped*. Kovnat explained that an MPO can choose to be *uncapped*, also known as *pro-rata*. This means federal funds increase proportionally with the total cost. These extra funds come out of the MPOs carryover balance, which is comprised of the unspent STBG funds from previous years. An MPO can program projects up to its current year allocation, but if uncapped may spend up to the total budget (carryover plus the current year's allocation).

The risk of being uncapped is that if the MPO utilizes all of its budget, there may not be enough funds to cover every project at the programmed amount. All funding is taken from a shared amount known as the statewide Obligation Authority (OA). Overages from one MPO will mean that the statewide OA will run out sooner potentially affecting other agencies across the state

Kovnat said that the proposal is only for unobligated 2023 projects, and it's highly unlikely the three projects would go over by a combined \$136,000. Sturdevant added that MDOT brought this up because they do not foresee the statewide OA running out completely this Fiscal Year.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee designate that TwinCATS funding will be uncapped/pro-rata for the remainder of FY 2023. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

10. Amendment Requests

See the meeting packet for amendment details.

Zebell gave a brief update on the M-63/Main St. project in St. Joseph. They are in the process of selecting a consultant, and the conceptual design will occur this year.

Lindsey explained the requests from TCATA.

- The facility improvements are for a variety of repairs to their administrative/maintenance facility. Some of the costs are to cover higher estimates for facility improvements which are programmed for FY 2022.
- The project management was to hire a consultant for a transit contract to help with agency management and the hiring of a permanent director.
- The rolling stock will be to purchase Transit Vans. These are cheaper to purchase, and drivers do not need a CDL to operate them. He said that hiring drivers with a CDL was a challenge.
- He said that preventative maintenance was for vehicle maintenance and staffing costs.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant, and seconded by Oliver Lindsey. **Motion approved.**

11. Road & Bridge Condition Performance Targets

Kovnat discussed the *TwinCATS 2022 Pavement Condition report*. He explained that the report summarizes the PASER ratings within the TwinCATS area, including the 10-year trends, and ratings by jurisdiction.

Kovnat presented the national pavement performance measure which FHWA requires all states to set targets for. This measure uses Pavement Condition Metrics (PCM) which are a combination of the International Roughness Index (IRI), Cracking Percentage, and Rutting/Faulting. The current statewide PCM for 2021 was shown along with the 2yr & 4yr statewide pavement condition targets. Kovnat discussed how the PCM differs from PASER, and why the same road is classified as poor under PASER but can be fair under the PCM. The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) uses PASER as the statewide measure for Pavement condition. Therefore, the TAMC reports sent to the Michigan Legislature will show that the state has a large portion of the interstate and other National High System (NHS) roads in poor condition, while the data sent to the federal government show that the state has very few roads in poor conditions.

Kovnat briefly explained how bridges are rated, and presented the statewide bridge condition from 2021 along with the 2yr & 4yr statewide bridge condition targets.

There was a question about why certain targets were lower than the existing conditions. And given the true condition of the roads should MDOT set more ambitious targets. Kovnat replied that there are penalties from FHWA if a state fails to meet its targets, which encourages states to set the lowest target they can justify. The alternative to adopting the MDOT targets is for TwinCATS to set its own area-specific targets. This requires significant work for the MPO staff to justify separate targets. If the state fails to meet the statewide targets there are no TwinCATS specific penalties; But if TwinCATS sets its own targets, then there will be penalties for the TwinCATS area. All MPOs across the state have approved MDOT's statewide pavement and bridge condition targets.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the 2022-2025 Statewide Pavement and Bridge condition targets as developed by MDOT and included in the meeting packet. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant, and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

12. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Cindy Gray discussed the numerous complaints she receives about TCATA. Among the issues are extensive wait times. Passengers must wait in the cold, often for hours beyond when the bus is estimated to arrive. Even if they are at Meijer, they cannot wait inside because if they are not visible when the bus arrives it will leave immediately. Riders have requested a ride, waited a long time then when they call back been told they had never reserved a ride – or they are just hung up on. Other complaints are riders who request a wheelchair lift but are not accommodated, as required by the ADA.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April, 17th, 2023 at 9:30 am.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

DRAFT

NEW BERRIEN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Contact: Kevin Stack, *Engineering Supervisor* – kstack@bcroad.org

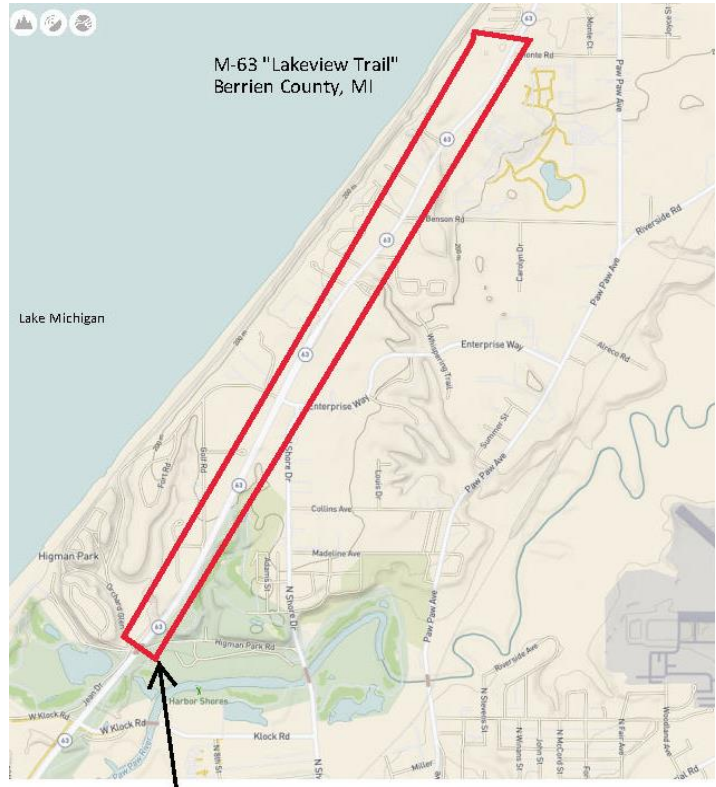
M-63 Lakeview Trail – FY 2024

Construct 2.5 miles of a 10ft wide asphalt non-motorized trail along M-63 from Higman Park Rd. to Monte Rd.

The trail is a joint effort between Abonmarche, Whirlpool, SWMPC, Cornerstone Alliance, and Berrien county. The Berrien County Road Department will act as the official Act51 agency to accept funding.

On April 20, 2023, the project was awarded statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for FY 2024.

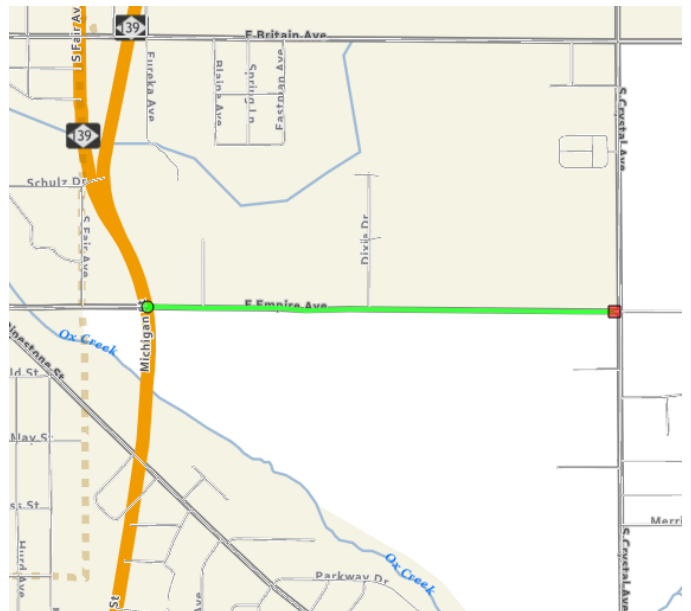
Federal TAP	\$ 1,608,766
<u>Local Match</u>	<u>\$402,191</u>
Total Cost	\$2,010,957



Shoulder widening on Empire Ave. – 2024

The Berrien County Road Department will widen shoulders on Empire Avenue from M-139 to Crystal Ave. It is funded by the Vulnerable Road Users Program (VRU).

Federal VRU	\$369,000
<u>Local Match</u>	<u>\$ 41,000</u>
Total Cost	\$410,000



MDOT 2023 PROJECT UPDATES - MAY 2023

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

Project	Phase	Estimated Cost	Update
Reconstruction of I-94 from Exit 23 to Britain Avenue	CON	\$196,828,500	Plans turned in for the Jun. 2023 letting. Main construction years will be 2024-2026 with additional pre-work in 2023.
Replacement of 17 dynamic messaging signs and adding CCTV cameras I-94 and I-196.	CON	\$95,959	Construction of DMS boards are complete, finishing up messaging.
Culvert Replacement on M-139 over Big Meadow Drian (north of Tanglewood Trl.)	CON	\$3,250,000	Project let in Jan. 2023. Construction begins in Jan. 2024.
Signal / intersection upgrades of I-94 BL (Lakeshore Dr.) at Maiden Ln.	ROW	\$10,000	Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion Jun. 2023 for Dec. 2023 letting. Construction in 2024.
Wrong Way movement prevention at freeway ramps on I-94 Exit 16	CON	\$163,482	Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion May 2023 for Oct. 2023 letting. Construction in 2024.
Reconstruction of M-139 from the south of I-94 to I-94BL (main St.).	PE	\$1,581,000	Early design (EPE) phase in progress. Field work (survey, geotechnical, drainage, etc.) completed. Stake holder engagement and public meetings have been held. Finalizing EPE report. Design (PE) phase will begin in FY 2023. Oct. 2025 letting.
Bridge repairs for overpasses on I-94 at M-139, Nickerson, & Rosyln. US-31 at Napier.	PE & PES	\$94,500	Design (PE) will begin in FY 2023. Construction in 2026.

MDOT PROJECT AMENDMENTS

JN	Project Description	Location	FY	Phase	Amendment	Fed Source	Cost	Total	Federal	State
207367	Special Pavement Markings	All trunkline in TwinCATS Area	2023	CON	Abandon	HSIP	Current	\$56,610	\$50,949	\$5,661
211815	Durable All Weather Pavement Markings	M-139 / M-63 from US-31 to I-94	2025	CON	Add to TwinCATS Area	HSIP	Proposed	\$80,820	\$72,738	\$8,082
218731	Vulnerable Road Users Safety Audit	Main Street (I-94 BL and M-63 from Niles Ave. to Crystal Ave.)	2025	EPE	New Project	HSIP	Proposed	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$5,000
211812	Durable All Weather Pavement Markings	Parts of M-139 & M-63	2025	PE	Cost Reduction	HSIP	Current	\$32,083	\$28,875	\$3,208
							Proposed	\$700	\$630	\$70
			2026	CON	Cost Reduction	HSIP	Current	\$285,184	\$256,666	\$28,518
							Proposed	\$85,511	\$76,960	\$8,551

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement

Total Emission Reduction Performance Targets for 2023

The *Total Emission Reduction Performance Measure* (23 CFR 490 Subpart H), requires MPOs, which receive CMAQ funding due to being within a non-attainment area, to set 2-year and 4-year targets for the reduction of criteria emissions. Statewide targets for the effected MPOs to adopt were developed by MDOT through coordination with each MPO in Michigan that is within a non-attainment area (MACC, SEMCOG, SWMPC, and WMSRDC).

Total Emission Reduction Targets for On-Road Mobile Source Emissions

Cumulative 2-year and 4-year targets, measured in kg/day

Performance Measure	Baseline Values 2021	2-yr. target 2023	4 yr. Target 2025
State Total Emission Reduction: PM2.5	1,527.49	595.00	1,191.00
State Total Emission Reduction: NOx	13,118.82	5,227.00	10,455.00
State Total Emission Reduction: VOC	5,246.55	2,295.00	4,590.00