

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING**  
**Monday, November 20, 2023**  
**9:30 am**

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**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

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes *(Action)* Page 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report Page 6
6. Local Road Agency Updates
7. Transit Updates
8. MDOT Project Updates Page 7
9. MDOT Project Amendments *(Action)* Page 8
10. Approval of the 2020 ACUB *(Action)* Page 9
11. Approval of the 2024 TwinCATS Meeting Dates *(Action)* Page 11
12. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
13. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
October 16, 2023 Meeting Attendance

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal	x	x	V		V		A		V		V	A		
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V		A		A		V		V	V		
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	(Vacant / Dan Fette)	x		A		A						A	A		
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(Vacant)		x	A									A		
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		IP		IP		A		IP		IP	A		
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A		A		A		A		A	IP		
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A		IP		IP		IP		V	IP		
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	IP		A		IP		IP		IP	V		
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A		A		A		V		A	IP		
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		A		V		V		V		IP	IP		
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy Gray	x		A		IP		A		A		A	IP		
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lake Charter Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	IP		A		IP		IP		IP	IP		
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		IP		A		IP		A		A	A		
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	IP		IP		IP		A		IP	IP		
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A		A		A		A		A	A		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V		V		IP		A		A	A		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Madee Thorburn	Alt	Alt							IP		IP	IP		
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V		A		V	V		
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x			A		A		A		A	A		
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x			A		A		A		A	A		
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x			A		A		A		A	A		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	IP		IP		IP		IP		IP	IP		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		IP		IP		IP		IP		IP	IP		
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		IP		IP		IP		IP		A	IP		
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Oliver Lindsey	x	x	A		IP		A		A		A	V		
Village of Grand Beach	(Vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Schnable	x	x	IP				A		A					
Village of Shoreham	Mike Allard	x	x			V		A		A		V	V		
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	IP		V		V		IP		V	IP		
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A		IP		A		IP		V	IP		
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	A		
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	A		A		A		A		A	V		
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A		A		A		A	A		
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A		V		V		A		A	A		
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	A		A		A		IP		A	A		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	IP		IP		IP		IP		A	IP		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			IP		IP		IP		IP		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: Rufas Adams, TCATA; Jay Murphy-Allen (Virtual)

**Minutes**  
**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 16, 2023**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and Kim Gallagher conducted roll call.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of September 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

5. SWMPC Staff Report

Gallagher gave an update on the Adjusted Census Urban Boundaries (ACUB). Originally, staff planned to present the revised ACUB for approval at the October meeting, but due to delays at MDOT, this has been postponed until November. The proposed 2020 ACUB can be found online by searching "MDOT 2020 ACUB." Staff will send the official PDF map before the November meeting. The ACUB is used to classify roads as urban/rural for road funding purposes. Transit uses the Census defined urban boundary.

6. Local Road Agency Updates

Gallagher reminded the committee that the funding estimates for 2024-2026 had been updated based on the 2020 census.

7. Local Road Agency Amendments

**Subcommittee Recommendations for 2024-2026 STBG Funds:** A Subcommittee comprised of Tim Drews, Tim Zebell, and Kevin Stack, met on October 9th to develop a recommendation for how to utilize TwinCATS unprogrammed 2024-2026 (*See Meeting packet page 7 for details*).

Additional details about adding Cleveland Avenue for St. Joseph in 2026 were discussed. This is a top project on the TwinCATS illustrative list. mentioned that the federal funding amount of \$228,000 was based on his estimate from a couple of years ago, and the current estimate has not been calculated yet. To legally approve a project, the total estimated cost must be presented. TwinCATS will have all the details to approve this project when they approve the entire 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.

Cleveland Avenue south of hilltop was also a top illustrative project. Stack had told the subcommittee he didn't want to wait till 2026 for repairs and would fund a project locally.

**Marquette Greenway Phase 2:** Gallagher explained that this was being funded in 2025 by a RAISE grant awarded to the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), who partnered with SWMPC for the Michigan portions of the Trail (*See Meeting packet page 5 for details*).

**Motion** for the technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Local Road project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Cindy Gray. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the technical Advisory Committee. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by John Hodgson. **Motion approved.**

8. Transit Updates

Gallagher introduced Rufas Addams, the new TCATA director.

9. Transit Amendments

Oliver Lindsey presented the amendment request for TCATA (*See Meeting packet page 9 for details*). He said TCATA needed to request additional funding mainly due to the increase in the price of products and services.

Transit funding can be spent within a 4-6 year period after appropriation, unlike road funding, which must be spent in the year it was allocated. The state's match for Transit projects is derived from the current year's state budget, and the TIP reflects the year when state funding is approved. This is the reason that TCATA projects will be shifted from 2023 to 2024 in the TIP but will still be covered by TCATA's 2019 or 2023 FTA grant.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the transit project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

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

10. MDOT Project Updates

Smith gave an update on the following Projects:

**M-139 form I-94 to Main Street/I-94 BL**

- Final report completed, encompassing early preliminary engineering phase and stakeholder outreach.
- Scheduled meetings with engineers to discuss municipal utility replacements.

**M-63/Main Street in St. Joseph**

- Contract in place.
- Discussions with the city of St. Joseph are occurring in November.
- Public engagement will occur in January 2024.

**Lakeshore Drive and Niles Projects:**

- These are 100% state-funded resurfacing and drainage adjustments.
- Collaboration with the city of St. Joseph for water service replacements.
- Agreement with the city to resurface two park and ride areas.

**I-94 Paving Between 23 and 27 Eastbound:**

- Temporary paving used for maintaining traffic during the reconstruction of I-94 on 2024.

11. MDOT Project Amendments

Amendment requests are included in the Meeting Packet page 10. No questions or comments were made.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Tim Zebell. **Motion approved.**

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

12. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

None.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 20, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC transportation Planner*

DRAFT

## TwinCATS Carbon Reduction Program

### TwinCATS CRP Allocation 2024-2026

2024	2025	2026
\$138,000	\$141,000	\$144,000

### Application Summary

Year	Agency	Project	Total project Estimate	Approved Federal	CRP request
2024	Berrien CRD	Countywide signal replacement	\$990,000	\$159,894 CMAQ	\$138,000
2024	Benton Harbor	Empire & Market St. signal replacement	\$385,000	\$288,320 CMAQ	\$26,803
2025	Berrien CRD	Lakeview Trail	\$2,010,957	\$925,306 TAP	\$141,000
2026	Lincoln Twp Berrien CRD	John Beers path from Roosevelt Rd. to Demorrow Rd.	\$863,000	\$400,000 CMAQ	\$144,000
2024	TCATA	EV Infrastructure/Electirfication	\$101,434.	New Project	\$81,147.00
2025	TCATA	EV Charging Stations	\$57,147	New Project	\$45,718.00
2026	TCATA	EV Charging Stations	\$69,232	New Project	\$57,803

The signal projects and non-motorized projects are requests to add the CRP funds to a project which have already been approved using CMAQ or TAP funds. The three requests from TCATA for EV infrastructure are new projects

Applications are posted online at: <https://www.swmpc.org/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=384>

**Next Steps:** A project review subcommittee will be scheduled in November or early December to discuss the project and make a recommendation for funding. The TwinCATS Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee will have the final vote on awarding the CRP funds.

# MDOT PROEJCT STATUS

## FY 2023 FUNDED PROJECTS

**Reconstruction of I-94 from exit 23 to Brittan Ave:** The project was let in June 2023 and came in 10.18% over the engineers estimate. Prep work is in progress until mid-November to install temp crossovers and culverts, temporary paving, and deliver traffic control items. The mainline I-94 work will start in spring of 2024. The Washington Avenue over I-94 bridge is being worked on in August 2023 and will be closed for approx. 3 weeks. **PREP WORK COMPLETED**

**Replacement of 17 dynamic messaging signs and adding CCTV cameras I-94 and I-196:** **PROJECT COMPLETE**

**Culvert Replacement on M-139 over Big Meadow Drian (north of Tanglewood Trl.:** The Project was let in January 2023. Construction will begin in January 2024 with tree removals. **Culvert work requiring the detour begins in May 2024 through August 2024.**

**Reconstruction of M-139 from approx. .44 miles south of I-94 to Main Street/I-94 BL:** Currently finalizing the engineering report for the EPE phase. The PE phase will begin in September/October. MDOT has resolutions of support from Benton Township and City of Benton Harbor for the MDOT preferred alternative and will be moving forward with that in design. Plan completion is expected in May 2025 for an October 2025 letting. **Construction is scheduled for 2026.**

**Bridge repairs for overpasses on I-94 at M-139, Nickerson, & Roslyn and US-31 at Napier:** Design (PE) is in progress. Plan completion is expected in August 2024 for a January 2025 letting. **Construction is scheduled for 2025.**

## FY 2024 FUNDED PROJECTS

**Wrong Way Movement Prevention on I-94 at exits 16,23 27,& 28:** Design (PE) in progress. Plan completion expected in August 2023 for a December 2023 letting. **Construction is scheduled for 2024.**

**Bridge Rehabilitation for the Red Arrow Bridge over I-196:** Design (PE) will begin soon in FY 2024. Plan completion May 2026 for October 2026 letting. **Construction is currently scheduled for 2027**

**Reconstruction of M-63/Main St. from Central Ave. to the Blossomland and Bicentennial Bridges:** Early Design (EPE) phase is currently underway with field work and stakeholder engagement happing this fall/winter. PE phase will start next year. **Plan completion is April 2026** for September 2026 letting. **Construction is currently scheduled for 2027.**

**Maintenance on I-196 from Coloma Rd. to Central Ave.:** Design (PE) is in progress. Plan completion is September 2023 for a December 2023 letting. **Construction is currently scheduled for 2024.**

# MDOT Amendment Requests

**Fiscal year:** 2025 **Phase:** CON **Job Number:** 218815

**Project:** Durable all-weather markings with centerline and shoulder corrugations

**Location:** M-51 from Harger Street (Niles) (Berrien County) to Indian Lake Road (Cass County), M-51 from Dowagiac to South of Decatur (Cass and Van Buren Counties), M-51 from 75th Avenue to I-94 (Van Buren County), M-40 from M-216 (Cass County) to 950 feet south of 72nd Avenue (Van Buren County)

**Amendment:** An update to the base map caused an automatic recalculation of the project length, which has increased by over 1/2 mile.

Original Length  
61.1 miles

Revised Length  
62.3 miles

**Fiscal year:** 2024 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 218749

**Project:** Intersection sign upgrades on multiple roads in Berrien and Van Buren Counties.

**Location:** TwinCATS Portion is M-63 from Port St. north. M-62 from M-139, and north

**Amendment:** Add project with the following cost:

	PE	CON	Total Estimate
Federal Safety funds	\$2,562	\$68,634	\$71,196
State	\$284	\$7,626	\$7,910
Total	\$2,847	\$76,260	\$79,107

The cost shown is only for the portion within TwinCATS

**Fiscal year:** 2024 **Phase:** PE & CON **Job Number:** 215059

**Project:** Bridge preventive Maintenance for I-94 overpasses

**Location:** Roslin Road over I-94

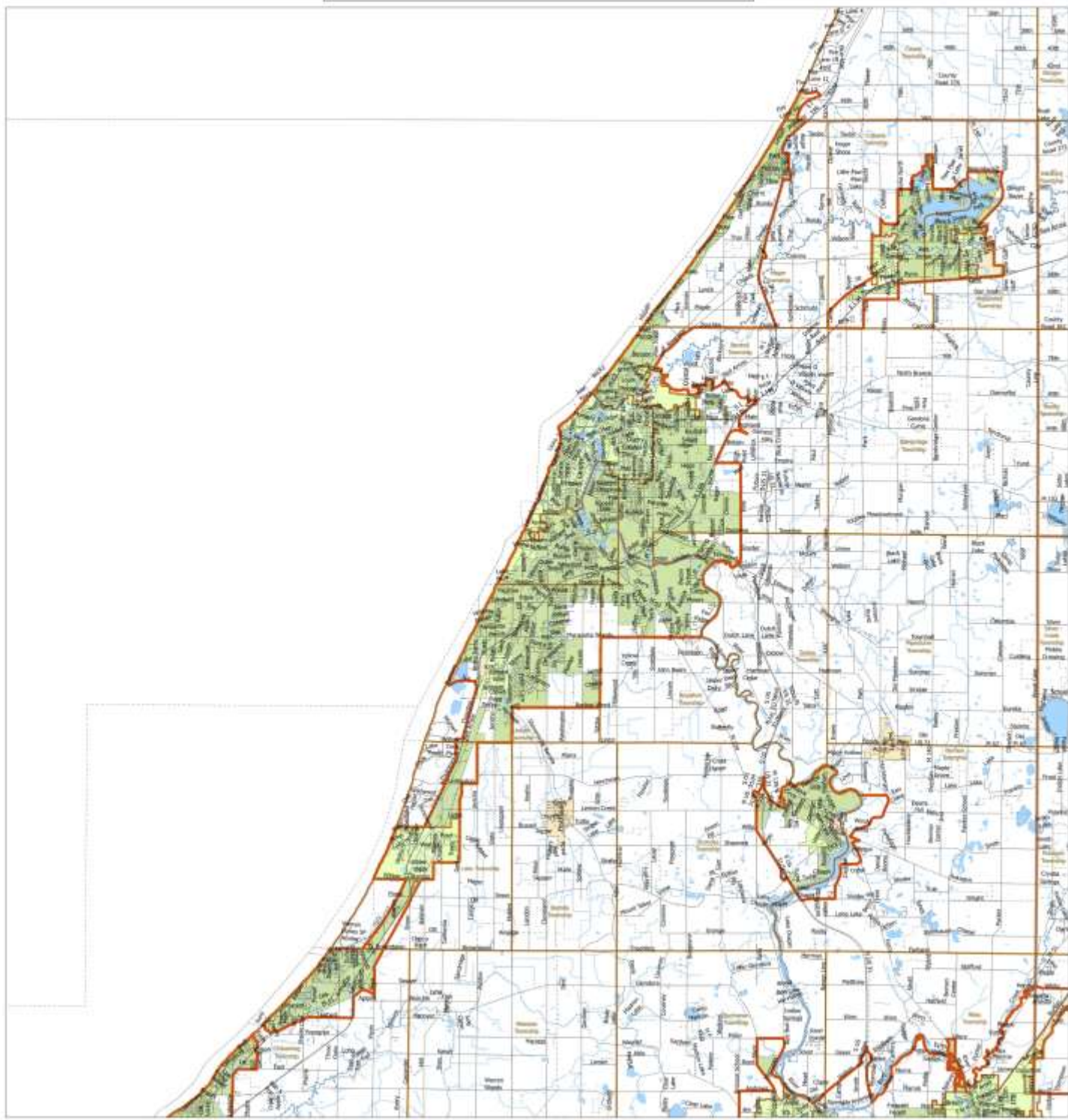
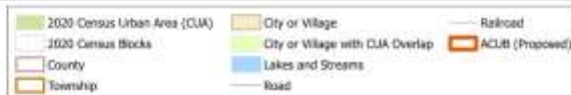
**Amendment:** Cost Increase based on latest estimated unit prices

Current				Proposed			
	Federal	State	Total		Federal	State	Total
PE	\$1,800	\$200	\$2,000	PE	\$3,813	\$424	\$4,237
PE-S	\$3,150	\$350	\$3,500	PE-S	\$9,266	\$1,030	\$10,296
CON	\$23,837	\$2,649	\$26,486	CON	\$41,400	\$4,600	\$46,000
Total Estimate	\$28,787	\$3,199	\$31,986	Total Estimate	\$54,480	\$6,053	\$60,533

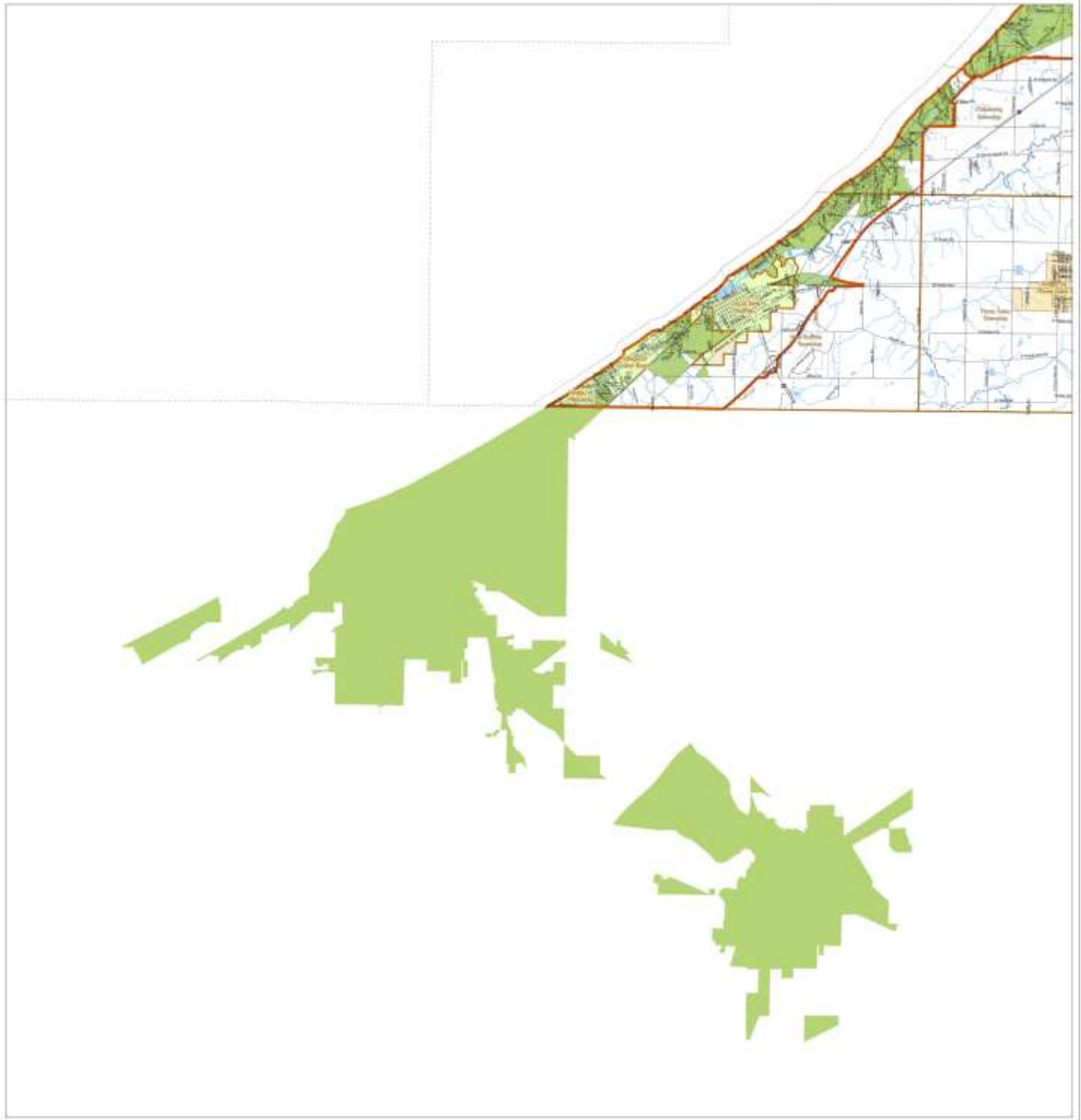
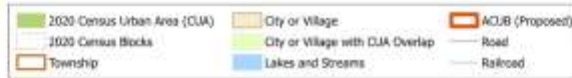
The Project will funded/let in FY 2024, while construction will occur in 2025



# Benton Harbor--Lincoln--St. Joseph 2020 Proposed ACUB



# Michigan City--La Porte 2020 Proposed ACUB





# Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

## **Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) 2024 Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, January 16th \*  
Tuesday, February 20th \*  
Monday, March 18th  
Monday, April 15th  
Monday, May 20th  
Monday, June 17th  
Monday, July 15th  
Monday, August 19th  
Monday, September 16th  
Monday, October 21st  
Monday November 18th  
Monday, December 16th

### **Location**

Kinexus/Michigan WORKS! at  
499 W. Main Street Benton Harbor, MI.

### **Meeting Time**

9:30 am

Please check <https://www.swmpc.org/twincatsmeetings.asp> for meeting information.  
Meeting location and date changes will be noticed.

\*Due to a Monday holidays the January and February TwinCATS meetings will be moved to the third Tuesday of the month.

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

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