



## 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, October 21, 2019

**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 / Introductions
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Presentation on the U.S. Census - Kathy Stady
5. Approve Minutes
  - September 16, 2019 Meeting *(Enclosed) Action*
6. Staff Report
7. Public Transit Updates
8. Road Project Updates
9. New Business
  - 2020 MDOT Project Amendments *(Enclosed) Action*
10. State and Federal Updates
11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
12. Adjournment
  - The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for **November 18, 2019 @ 9:30 am.**

## TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

September 16, 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		N	P			N	N		
Benton Charter Township	Kelli Smith	x		N	N	N		N	N			N	N		
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Bill Chickering		x	P	P	P		N	N			P	N		
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		N	N	N		P	N			N	N		
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P	N		P	N			P	P		
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x	V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Brian Berndt	Retired		P	P	A									
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	X				P		P	P			P	P		
City of Benton Harbor	Darwin Watson		x-a	A	A	A		A	A			A	V		
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P	P			P	P		
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	x	x	N	P	P		N	P			N	P		
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	N	N		N	P			N	P		
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x-a		P	P	P		A	P			P	P		
City of St. Joseph	Tom McDonald	Alt						P	N					N	
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	N	N	N		N	N			N	N		
Disability Network of SW Mich.	(vacant)	x		V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x	V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Kinexus	(vacant)	x		V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	N	N	P		N	N			N	N		
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P	P		P	P			N	P		
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	N	P		P	P			N	N		
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P	N	P		P	P			P	P		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P	A		P	A			P	P		
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt			P			P				N		
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P	N		P	P			P	P		
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P	N		P	P			P	N		
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	N	N	N		N	N			N	N		
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	N	N	P		P	N			N	N		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	P	P		P	P			P	P		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x-a		A	A	A		A	P			P	P		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Ron Griffin	Alt						P	A			P	N		
St. Joseph Charter Township	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P	P			P			P	O		
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P	P	P		V	V			P	N		
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x	V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Village of Shoreham	Bob Lawrence	x	x	P	P	P		P	P			P	P		
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x-a	V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P	P			P	P		
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	NV	NV	N	N	N		P	N			N	N		
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	NV	NV	N	N	N		N	N			N	N		
MDEQ - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		N	N	N		N	N			N	N		
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	NV		P	N	N		N	N			N	N		
MDOT - Passenger Division	(vacant)	NV		V	V	V		V	V			V	V		
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	NV	NV	N	P	N		N	N			P	N		
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	P	P	P		N	N			P	P		
TCATA Local Advisory Committee	(vacant)		NV	V	V	V		V	V			V	V		

Pol. Ch.: Policy Chair; TAC Ch.: TAC Chair; Alt: Alternate; x-a: Alternate available; NV: Non-voting; P: Present; N: Not present; A: Absent-Alternate attending; V: Vacant; O: Observer (Alternate present but not voting because regular member is also present).

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. SWMPC Staff present: Brandon Kovnat and Kim Gallagher.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2019 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Motion made by Jonathan Fisk and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Kovnat presented on the 2019 Berrien County Pavement Condition Report. There is no TwinCATS specific report for 2019. He explained that half of the federal aid eligible roads in the county are rated each year. In 2019, the southern portion of Berrien County was rated. A TwinCATS specific report was produced for 2018 when the majority of the area (excludes Bridgeman & Lake township) was last rated.

Gallagher discussed the results of the survey on education topics. The top results where

- 1) Taking the Mystery Out of Preventative Maintenance Treatments
- 2) Determining the feasibility of four land to three lane conversions
- 3) The MDOT selection process
- 4) The Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF)
- 5) Impact of the U.S. Census on Transportation Funding.
- 6) Public Transit in and Around Berrien County

At the October meeting, Kathy Stady from the Berrien Community Foundation will speak about the U.S. Census.

6. **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

Stauffer said that the Schuler property had qualified for the brownfield tax increment-financing program.

7. **Airport Updates**

None.

8. **Public Transit Updates**

Gallagher presented TCATA's FY 2020 projects. She said that they would be replacing seven buses in 2020. There was a question about using hybrid or electric buses. Gallagher said that had converted several gasoline buses to propane. However, electric or hybrid buses had not been feasible for TCATA's fleet. John Hodgson added that TCATA's director, Paul Gillespie, attends a regional sustainability group. While working as a taxi commissioner in San Francisco Gillespie had worked to switch all taxis to hybrids.

9. **Road Project Updates**

**2019 Berrien County Road Department projects**

- a) **Napier Avenue - River to Colfax:** Stack said that the contractor they hired, Reith-Riley, is still in an on-going strike. Reith Riley is only doing minimal work on other projects with their non-union labor crew.

Napier will be delayed until next year. In 2020, they will attempt to construct from the river all the way to M-139.

- b) **John Beers Rd:** On track for construction in 2019.
- c) **Napier Avenue - US-31 to Morgan Rd:** This project is funded through the rural task force, not TwinCATS funding. It is on track for construction in 2019.

#### **2020 Berrien County Road Department projects**

- a) **Napier Avenue Resurfacing:** Stack said that as noted previously the project would now combine the 2019 & 2020 funding and resurface Napier from the river to M-139.
- b) **Marquette woods Bridge:** Abonmarche is currently working on the design. The existing timber bridge structure is still in good shape. The project will be combined with the resurfacing on Marquette woods. Berrien County Road Department applied for a state TEDF grant for additional funding.
- c) **Napier and Crystal avenue signal:** This signal will be the first in a series of signals that are interconnected and allow for remote control. Stack said this would allow the road department to change signals remotely to respond to unexpected traffic congestion.
- d) **Linco road guardrail:** This project is funded through a competitive safety grant. The ditch can be 10 feet deep and is serious safety hazard.

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

- a) **Napier Avenue Amendment:** Kovnat reminded the members that the original plan for Napier Avenue was to alternate resurfacing between the river going east and I-94 going west. The Berrien County Road department changed this plan so they could continue the lane reconfiguration from the river up to M-139.
- b) **MDOT amendments:** MDOT requested to add two project phases to the TIP to add traffic signal projects (see meeting packet for details). The new signals would add vehicle detection abilities and vehicle to signal communication. Kovnat mentioned that the locations of these signals were the areas of highest congestion identified in the travel demand model, which was run for the 2045 Long Range Plan.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as presented in the meeting packet. Motion made by Juan Ganum and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to accept the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by John Hodgson and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

#### **11. State And federal Update**

Jim Sturdevant (via phone) said that the amendment to the Unified Work Program made last month had been approved.

#### **12. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Stauffer said that the Cleveland Avenue bridge over I-94 was now open. He complimented MDOT on the project, which added 5 ft. shoulders on both sides of the road.

Bob Lawrence brought up that the rail crossing on Hilltop Road was in such poor shape that it posed an unsafe hazard. Stack said that they had received funding to repair it a while ago but are having issues coordinating with CSX.

Juan Ganum related that he also had issues dealing with CSX. He was unable to get CSX to repair the crossing at Baldwin road. The city posted on Facebook requesting residents all call CSX. He was recently informed that CSX had closed the crossing without any prior notification.

Ganum also said that all jurisdictions pay CSX for crossing maintenance. For Bridgeman it is a couple thousand a year. Ganum said he was surprised to find that this payment is mandated by a state law.

13. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner*

DRAFT

## Brandon Kovnat

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**From:** Sanada, Brian (MDOT) <SanadaB1@michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 11:17 AM  
**To:** Brandon Kovnat  
**Cc:** Lipset, Amy (MDOT)  
**Subject:** TwinCATS TIP Amendment Request (October 2019)  
**Attachments:** TwinCATS\_MDOT TIP Amendment Request\_10.11.19.xls

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Brandon,

Please see the attached list of amendments and modifications to MDOT's projects in the TwinCATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. I compiled and reviewed the list on 10/11/19. This list does not contain any changes to a project which alters capacity, therefore the entire list should be considered exempt from air quality analysis.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Brian Sanada  
Transportation Planner  
Southwest Region Office  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
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[sanadab1@michigan.gov](mailto:sanadab1@michigan.gov)



October 21, 2019 TwinCATS TAC/Policy  
MDOT TIP Amendment Request 10.14.19

Fiscal Year	Job#	Project Name	Limits	Primary Work Type	Phase	Fed Proposed Amount	Cost Change Federal	State Proposed Amount	Cost Change State	Total Proposed Amount	Cost Change Total	Fund Source	Type of Change
2022	201978	US-31	Millburg Carpool Lot, US-31 at Exit 24	Roadside Facilities - Preserve	CON	\$55,658	\$18,825	\$12,342	\$4,175	\$68,000	\$23,000	ST	Budget increased over 24%
2020	203692	I-94BL	I-94 to Glenlord Road	Road Capital Preventive Maintenance	CON	\$594,231	\$159,792	\$131,769	\$35,433	\$726,000	\$195,225	NH	Phase Budget over 24%
2020	203693	I-94BL	St. Joseph River to Fair Avenue	Road Capital Preventive Maintenance	CON	\$450,175	\$153,442	\$99,825	\$34,025	\$550,000	\$187,467	NH,HIPS	Phase Budget over 24%
2020	200684	M-139	Over Buckhorn Creek, north of Rocky Weed Rd.	Reconstruction	ROW	\$25,046		\$5,554		\$30,600		NH	Fiscal Year Moved from FY'19 to FY'20

The cost change is the amount increased above the previous estimate.