

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES MEETING
Monday, October 16, 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 September 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes *(Action)* Page 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Road Agency Updates
7. Local Agency Amendments *(Action)*
 - Add Marquette Greenway Phase 2 Page 5
 - Subcommittee Recommendations for 2024-2026 STBG Funds Page 7
8. Transit Updates
9. Transit Project Amendments *(Action)* Page 9
10. MDOT Project Updates
11. MDOT Project Amendments *(Action)* Page 10
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 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
 September 18, 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			
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Ray Bell		x	V		A		A		V		V			
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	(Vacant / Dan Fette)	x		A		A						A			
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	A		A		A		A		A			
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(Vacant)		x	A											
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		IP		IP		A		IP		IP			
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A		A		A		A		A			
City of Benton Harbor	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A		IP		IP		IP		V			
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	IP		A		IP		IP		IP			
City of Bridgman	(Vacant)	x	Alt												
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	A		A		A		V		A			
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		A		V		V		V		IP			
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A		A		A		A		A			
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x		A		IP		A		A		A			
Hagar Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lake Charter Township	(Vacant)	x	x												
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	IP		A		IP		IP		IP			
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		IP		A		IP		A		A			
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	IP		IP		IP		A		IP			
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Richard Bayus	Alt	Alt	A		A		A		A		A			
MDOT – Southwest Region	Josh Grab	x	x	V		V		IP		A		A			
MDOT – Southwest Region	Madee Thorburn	Alt	Alt							IP		IP			
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	V		V		V		A		V			
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x			A		A		A		A			
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x			A		A		A		A			
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x			A		A		A		A			
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	IP		IP		IP		IP		IP			
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		IP		IP		IP		IP		IP			
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		IP		IP		IP		IP		A			
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Oliver Lindsey	x	x	A		IP		A		A		A			
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			
Village of Stevensville	Kacey Dominguez		x	IP		V		V		IP		V			
Village of Stevensville	Tim Drews	x	Alt	A		IP		A		IP		V			
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A		A		A		A		A			
Federal Transit Administration	Kathleen Russel	x	x	A		A		A		A		A			
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A		A		A		A			
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A		V		V		A		A			
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	A		A		A		IP		A			
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	IP		IP		IP		IP		A			
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			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: Alan Smaka

Minutes
TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
JOINT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 18, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Changes to the Agenda

Kacey Dominguez requested to eliminate Item 7, Local Project Amendments, from the agenda. She explained that although MDOT had verbally indicated plans to repave John Beers in 2024 as part of the I-94 reconstruction, she preferred to wait for a written commitment before removing the project from the Transportation Improvement Program.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2023 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Roger Seely and seconded by Juan Ganum. **Motion approved.**

5. SWMPC Staff Report

Brandon Kovnat presented the staff report.

Transportation funding presentation recap: on September 12th, Bill Hamilton, A Senior House Fiscal analyst gave a presentation about state transportation funding. The event was well attended. For additional information, Hamilton has written several briefs on transportation funding available at <https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/transportation.asp>

Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB): SWMPC staff, local agencies, and MDOT are meeting tomorrow, Sep. 19, to make adjustments to the census urban areas. The proposed ACUB maps will be included in the October TwinCATS packet and TwinCATS will vote on their approval at the meeting on October 16th. Kovnat explained that the urban boundary changes due to shifts in population and development since the last census, along with updates to the Census Bureau's defines urban/rural classification methodology.

Amendment Schedule: Kovnat presented the FY 2024 SWMPC amendment scheduled outlining when requests need to be sent to SWMPC and when TwinCATS will vote on amendments. The SWMPC schedule compliments MDOT's project planning guide to show when the last time an amendment can be made to meet a desired letting date.

6. Local Road Agency Updates

FY 2023 Project Updates:

Stack gave update on Berrien County Road Department projects.

- Napier Ave. Plaza Dr to Crystal Ave is complete.
- John Beers Rd . Eidson Road to M-139 is under construction.

Drews gave an update on the Benton Harbor projects.

- The Pipestone and market St. signal is under construction
- The Pipestone resurfacing was let with bids coming in under the engineer's estimate. Construction will occur in the spring.

Zebel provided an update on the St. Joseph's Lake Street Project; the bids have been released, and construction is scheduled for the upcoming spring.

FY 2024-2026 Funding Update (*Refer to packet page 6*): Kovnat presented TwinCATS revised Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) allocation for 2024-2026. Dominguez mentioned that MDOT told her they would repave John Beers Road in Stevensville as part of the I-94 reconstruction in 2024. This would leave approximately \$900,000 available in 2024. There was a discussion about moving the Colfax project from FY 2025 to 2024. Stack requested a subcommittee meeting to discuss the details of how to split the remaining FY 2024 funding, and to add a project from the illustrative list in FY2025.

Kovnat announced that TwinCATS has \$138,00 in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding available in FY 2024, and a call for projects will be sent out shortly.

8. Transit Updates

Rufus Adams was hired as the Director of TCATA.

9. MDOT Project Updates

Refer to packet page 9. There were no additional updates beyond what was included in the meeting packet.

10. MDOT Project Amendments

Refer to packet page 10. The amendments were present as included in the meeting packet. There were no additional comments or questions.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy Committee approve the amendments to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. 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 Dick Stauffer and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

11. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Napier Ave, between I-94 and US-31 is currently under MDOT's jurisdiction since it was classified as an extension of US-31. Stack announced that, since US-31 now directly links to I-94, MDOT will transfer ownership to the County Road Department, and fund the road's reconstruction.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM The next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 16, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC transportation Planner

Request to Add Marquette Greenway Phase 2 to the TWINCATS TIP 2025

Berrien County Road Department

The Marquette Greenway is a multi-use path that will connect New Buffalo to Chicago (~58 miles). The Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway will be built in 2 phases. Phase 1 includes a trailhead in downtown New Buffalo at Mechanic and Smith Streets and a 10-foot wide multi-use path along US12 to Grand Beach Road. Phase 1 is scheduled to be let in December with construction starting March 2024 and completed by the end of 2024. This request is for the 2nd phase of the Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway (see details below). For more information on the Marquette Greenway visit

<https://www.berrientrails.org/marquettegw.asp>

Project Name: Marquette Greenway Phase 2

Project Description: Construct a 10-foot-wide multi-use path in Grand Beach Road ROW

Limits: Indiana State Line to Grand Beach Road/US12 intersection located in New Buffalo Township and Grand Beach Village

ROW Jurisdiction: Berrien County and Grand Beach Village

Estimated Construction Start Date: Spring 2025

Funding: Federal - RAISE grant being administered by NIRPC \$889,013;

Local: \$265,549 (*New Buffalo Township has an application pending with the MDNR Trust Fund; awards announced December 2023; if not awarded, New Buffalo Township will utilize The Pokagon Fund*)

Note: In the attached map, the safety areas on each corner at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and US 12 will be built as part of Phase 1 with construction starting Spring 2024.

Marquette Greenway – Grand Beach Detail

The Marquette Greenway through Grand Beach will be located between Grand Beach Road and the Amtrak Railroad. It will be a 10-foot-wide asphalt path separated from the road by 5 feet of grass. There will be a fence between the trail and Amtrak Railroad. There will be safety areas at the intersection of Grand Beach Road and US 12 on each corner. There will be marked paved shoulders on the road across the Amtrak railroad. The path can be used by non-motorized users – walkers, hikers, bikers, roller bladers, etc. The trail will be maintained by New Buffalo Township.



TwinCATS 2024-2026 STBG Funded Projects

As Currently Programed

FY 2024

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2024 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,143,000		
Berrien CRD	Lincoln Ave from M-63 to Maiden Ln.	\$241,500	\$58,500	\$300,000
Stevensville	John Beers Road from Red Arrow Highway to west village limits—Reconstruction	\$675,262	\$149,738	\$825,000
FY 2024 Total Programed		\$916,762		
FY 2024 Balance		\$901,500		

FY 2025

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2025 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,166,000		
Benton Harbor	Colfax Ave from Market St. to Main St.	\$673,000	\$356,100	\$1,029,100
St. Joseph	Botham Ave from State St. to Niles Ave.	\$395,000	\$211,500	\$606,500
FY 2025 Total Programed		\$1,068,000		
FY 2025 Balance		\$98,000		

FY 2026

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2026 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,228,000		
Berrien CRD	Red Arrow Hwy from Bridgman city limits to the DC Cook entrance.	\$640,000	\$1,919,566	\$2,559,566
FY 2026 Total Programed		\$640,000		
FY 2026 Balance		\$588,000		

TwinCATS 2024-2026 STBG Funded Projects

Recommendation from the Subcommittee on 10/9/2023

FY 2024

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2024 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,143,000		
Berrien CRD	Lincoln Ave from M-63 to Maiden Ln.	\$241,500	\$101,693	\$560,291
Benton Harbor	Colfax Ave from Market St. to Main St.	\$901,500	\$257,795	\$1,420,356
FY 2024 Total Programed		\$1,143,000		
FY 2024 Balance		\$0		

FY 2025

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2025 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,166,000		
St. Joseph	Botham Ave from State St. to Niles Ave.	\$687,540	\$152,460	\$840,000
Berrien CRD	Lincoln Ave from M-63 to Maiden Ln. ACC	\$217,398	NA	NA
Benton Harbor	Colfax Ave from Market St. to Main St. ACC	\$261,062	NA	NA
FY 2025 Total Programed		\$1,166,000		
FY 2025 Balance		\$0		

FY 2026

Agency	Project	Federal	Match	Total
FY 2026 Target Allocation (Jun 2023 Update)		\$1,228,000		
Berrien CRD	Red Arrow Hwy from Bridgman city limits to the DC Cook entrance.	\$1,000,000	\$1,559,566	\$2,559,566
St. Joseph	Cleveland Ave. from Hilltop Rd. to Lakeshore Dr. ADD from the Illustrative List	\$228,000	TBD	TBD
FY 2026 Total Programed		\$1,228,000		
FY 2026 Balance		\$0		

TCATA Amendments

JN 207278 – 5339 Funded Transit Capital. Move Job From 2023 to 2024

Project	Description
Admin/Maintenance Facility improvements	Rehabilitation and renovation activities comprised of parking lot repair, electrical vehicle infrastructure, concrete repair, restroom, and office renovations, walking paths, safety railings, floor drainage, windows, HVAC, and roofing

Currently Programed in TIP		
FTA	CTF	Total
\$242,694	\$60,674	\$303,368

Proposed for TIP		
FTA	CTF	Total
\$281,757	\$70,440	\$352,197

Move from 2023 to 2024

JN 208004 – 5307 Funded Transit Capital. Move Job from 2023 to 2024

Project	Description
Admin/Maintenance Facility Improvements	Rehab and renovation activities including parking lot repair, electrical infrastructure, concrete repair, restroom, and office renovations
Consulting Services	Resources to assist TCATA with management activities of a limited nature. Services will include Federal and State Compliance and Reporting
Preventive Maintenance	Maintenance labor and other preventative maintenance-related expenses (parts, supplies, and safety items)
Computers (hardware and software)	Dispatch System
Office Equipment	Furniture & office equipment
Misc. Support Equipment	Replace office components such as furniture, copiers, computers & accessories, software, and other miscellaneous equipment
Total for JN 208004	

Currently Programed in TIP		
FTA	CTF	Total
\$92,000	\$23,000	\$115,000
\$100,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
\$320,000	\$80,000	\$400,000
\$96,000	\$24,000	\$120,000
\$28,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
-	-	-
\$636,000	\$159,000	\$795,000

Proposed for TIP		
FTA	CTF	Total
\$115,000	\$28,750	\$143,750
\$125,000	\$31,250	\$156,000
\$400,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
-	-	-
-	-	-
\$191,220	\$47,805	\$239,025
\$831,220	\$207,805	\$1,038,775

Note: TCATA is replacing the separate lines for Office Equipment and Computer Hardware/Software and combining these into a single category for Miscellaneous Support Equipment.

Add a New Job for 5307 Funded Transit Capital in FY 2024

Project	Proposed for TIP		
	FTA	CTF	Total
Architectural & Engineering (A&E) Services	\$60,000	\$15,000	\$75,000

This Job will be combined with the A&E funds contained in JN207274, which was approved in FY 2022.

MDOT Amendment Requests

October 2023

- Project Description:** Bridge Rehabilitation on I-196 under Riverside Road and Central Avenue. Construction obligated in 2026 –JN 211253

Amendment: Add Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Structural Engineering (PES) Phases for FY 2024

PE Phase Cost

	PE Phase	PES Phase
Federal Bridge (BOI)	\$81,000	\$203,400
State	\$9,000	\$22,600
Total	\$90,000	\$226,000

Explanation: Previously programed only state funds for the PE & PES phases and therefore was not included in the TIP

- Project Description:** Reconstruction of M-139 from 0.44 miles south of I-94 to I-94 BL. Construction obligated in FY 2026. –JN 210875

Amendment: Add ROW Phase for FY 2024

	ROW Phase
Federal National Highway (NH)	\$122,775
State	\$27,225
Total	\$150,000

Explanation: Previously programed only state funds for the ROW phase and therefore not included in the TIP

- Project Description:** Road Rehabilitation on I-94 W from the pavement change east of I-196 to Benton and Bainbridge Township Line. Construction in FY 2025. –JN 128907

Amendment: Increase CON phase cost for FY 2025:

	Current	Proposed
Federal Interest Maintenance (IM)	\$5,299,591	\$7,181,481
State	\$588,843	\$797,942
Total	\$5,888,434	\$7,979,423

The cost shown is for the portion within the TwinCATS area only. Total CON = \$39,897,117

Explanation: Project was delayed from 2024 to 2025 and a revised budget was calculated based on the latest unit prices and factoring in inflation.