

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

January 23, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department John Gast, Lake Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Erin Kercheval, MDOT Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Panozzo, with support by Scherwitz, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 Policy Committee Meeting minutes. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments received.

4. STAFF REPORT:

▪ **Transportation Asset Management Trainings**

Thomas discussed two training opportunities with the Committee members. The first was on the road rating trainings taking place. He highlighted the specific dates that may be of particular interest to Committee members Road Rating training dates have been announced for the upcoming calendar year. This training is necessary if you want be reimbursed for conducting your own local road ratings. Communities are eligible for this reimbursement once every three years. Thomas explained that he attended the training and found the information very helpful in understanding how road ratings are done and what ratings imply about the condition of roads and their appropriate types of maintenance. The classroom training dates are February 28, 2012 in West Branch; February 29, 2012 in Saginaw; March 1, 2012 in Grand Rapids; March 27, 2012 in Kalamazoo; March 28, 2012 in Dearborn; and March 29, 2012 in Lansing. Thomas suggested that those interested in signing up for the training should try to attend the webinar session before the classroom training session.

▪ **Climate Change and Energy Planning for MPOs**

Flowers took part in a Climate Change webinar that focused on learning from the experiences of three communities and how climate change has affected the way that their planning focus has changed. The case studies reviewed New Orleans, Oregon State DOT, and U.S. DOT. They also focused on how the roles of MPO's are changing and that their focus on planning is becoming more regionally focused. In addition, MPOs are poised to be able to respond to the needs of communities with their work with GIS, understanding the regional implications of transportation decisions and networks, and their relationship with multiple agencies. It was interesting that communities are responding to the needs for climate change analysis differently. Oregon has a state DOT led initiative that has set the standards. In the U.S. DOT example, they reviewed the land use practices in Cape Cod, MA and how that could impact the people and land use decisions.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

▪ **Walk and Roll**

Flowers discussed that at the December TwinCATS Policy Committee the members the Committee members discussed that it is important for the subcommittee to stay active to implement the plan. The following items were discussed at the December 2011 Policy Committee:

- The Walk and Roll Plan should be incorporated into the selection of TIP projects, as well as into their design.
- In addition to the general priority list of projects contained in the Walk and Roll Plan, there should be a top ten list of non-motorized projects for the region.
- The region should have a non-motorized benchmarking process, including goals and timeframes, for implementing projects.

Flowers will email the members of the subcommittee that have been involved to set up the next meeting.

- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**
Nothing to report for the month of January.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
Nothing to report for the month of January.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Nothing to report for the month of January.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Meeting dates (keep same or split)**
Flowers stated that the reason for the follow-up discussion on this issue was to give Committee members 1 month to review the pros and cons to splitting up TwinCATS committee meetings. Flowers stated that the reason for the discussion was to ensure that proper notification is given to the public when TIP amendments are present on the agenda. Staff need at least 10 days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to get out the legal notice, which requires a 7-day public comment period.
 - Fenderbosch suggested the possibility of moving the TAC meeting time back to 9:00a.m. And also suggested that communities need to get their projects in on time.
 - Panozzo stated that timing can be an issue if there is a lot to discuss at the TAC meeting.

Motion by Scherwitz with support by Stauffer to keep the meeting schedule as it currently stands, TAC and Policy meeting on the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Motion passed.

The Committee asked staff to get a reminder to communities regarding the date for turning in project changes that need to be approved.

- **Long Range Plan Revenue estimates**
Thomas explained that MDOT had released Long Range Plan revenue estimates for the purposes of planning. He further stated that new numbers will be given to staff in 2013. The base year numbers, which are representative of the planned 2011 dollars, do not change in years 2012 and 2013 and then increase by 2%.
-A question was raised about what a TMA versus small mpo meant. Lenze stated that the NATS area is part of the South Bend, IN transportation management area, which is mpos with a population size of 200,000. The money noted on the handout shows the portion of the TMA funds used for the NATS region. A small mpo, such as TwinCATS have populations over 50,000 but fewer than 200,000.
- **CMAQ update**
Thomas stated that CMAQ applications have to be to their respective agencies by February 1, 2012 to be submitted to MDOT. Communities from Berrien County would submit their projects to Brian Berndt. Thomas also mentioned that there will be a call for CMAQ projects for 2015 and beyond coming up in November 2012 and that staff will keep Committee members of the

request once it is received. Thomas was also instructed by Lenze that until the CMAQ projects are given authorization from FHWA that those projects should be moved into the illustrative list.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

▪ **TIP Amendments**

○ Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority

Amending in 2013 the replacement of 3 transit buses using CMAQ funds. Federal cost was 162,000 and is reduced to 139,000; State cost was 41,000 and will be 35,000; total project cost was 203,000 and now will be 174,000.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Zebell to approve the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority TIP Amendment for the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP.

Discussion began on what projects should be added to the 2011-2014 TIP project list and illustrative list. Lenze stated that CMAQ projects that have not yet received state and federal approval should be placed in the Illustrative List, so any CMAQ projects currently in the TIP that do not yet have full approval should be transferred to the Illustrative List. Zebell stated that he had received verbal confirmation from FHWA for the St. Joseph FY 2012 CMAQ signal upgrade, and the committee agreed that this should be sufficient to allow the project into the full TIP.

Motion by Cook with support by Woolcock to move the Twin Cities Area Transit Authority 2013 3 bus replacement project into the 2011-2014 TIP Illustrative List and to allow the City of St. Joseph FY 2012 signal upgrade at Langley and Napier into the 2011-2014 project list due to verbal confirmation from FHWA.

▪ **Amend Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Project List into TIP and LRP**

Flowers stated that Scherwitz asked that the new 8 year project list for the Southwest Regional Airport be incorporated into the appropriate documents in the MPO. Flowers stated that on page 28 in the TIP there was an existing table that the new projects can be added to, and that in the LRP on page 91 the project table can be added. Scherwitz explained that no federal or state highway funds are used for his projects and that he received money from the Federal Aviation Authority and the Bureau of Aeronautics. This money is meant to be shown as a pass through.

Motion by Merritt with support by Fenderbosch to approve the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Project List into the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority TIP Amendment for the 2011-2014 and the 2035 TwinCATS Long Range Plan. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Annual Report**

Flowers stated that the Annual Report was completed and that the SWMPC Board will be taking action on the Annual Report on January 31, 2012. She asked for any comments or modifications from the Committee members.

A motion was made by Panozzo with support by Woolcock to approve the fiscal year 2011 TwinCATS Annual report. **Motion passed.**

8. **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- Woolcock stated that the bridge work programmed to happen on M-63 over I-94 will hold a public meeting on February 8, 2012 from 3-6:00p.m. at St. Joseph Township Hall. Construction is planned to take place from May 29-mid July 2012. She further explained that a press release will go out and local businesses will be contacted.
- Flowers discussed the completion of the 9 county non-motorized map and plan and that cities and villages would be receiving their share of the maps over the next several weeks. Townships were not included in the allocation because there were so many in the 9 county regions. Flowers encouraged people to go to their local bike shops, city, village, and parks departments if they wanted to obtain a map. Flowers also mentioned a workshop that was being held on low impact development and planning for water quality. Flyers for the events were at the meeting.
- Woolcock also mentioned the reinvention at MDOT at that some of her duties and duties from the Coloma TSC have changed.
- Judd discussed the planning activities surrounding the Senior PGA tour happening in May 2012 and how underutilized parking spaces will be used such as the Orchards Mall and Lake Michigan College.
- Merritt suggested adding a spot on the agenda for legislative type updates. Merritt believes that this will help the Committee stay better informed of what is happening at the state and federal level.

9. **ADJOURNMENT: 11:24 a.m.**

- Next meeting is **February 27, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by Trevor Thomas and Suzann Flowers, January 2012