

**Minutes**  
*Twin Cities Area Transportation Study*  
*Policy Committee Meeting*  
 December 20, 2010  
 10:30 A.M.  
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, TCATA Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham
<b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Ron Carter, City of Benton Harbor John Egelhaaf, SWMPC Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township John Gast, Lake Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Planning Commission
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMI

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:44 A.M.

**2. MINUTES:**

- *A motion was made by Fenderbosch, seconded by Scherwitz, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2010 Policy Committee meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*

**3. STAFF REPORT:**

- **TIP project selection meeting minutes**
  - Thomas passed out the minutes from the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) project selection subcommittee meeting on October 25, 2010, which had been held to reconsider the prioritization of spending of STP (surface transportation program) funds for 2011 through 2014 for the Twin Cities area. He explained that amendments would be proposed later in this meeting to correspond with the recommendations from the project selection subcommittee meeting.
- **CMAQ meeting minutes**
  - Thomas passed out the minutes from the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) meeting on November 10, 2010, which had been held to discuss the Hilltop Rd non-motorized path project and reprioritize the projects for Berrien County for 2011

through 2014. He explained that amendments would be proposed later in this meeting to correspond with the recommendations from the CMAQ committee, contingent upon the status of the Hilltop Rd project.

- **Transportation Funding 101 workshop update**

- Rahtz passed out a summary of the workshop that had been held on November 22, 2010. She added that the workshop had been extremely popular, and that a sequel workshop is tentatively being scheduled for Monday March 28, 2011. The sequel workshop will follow up on advanced topics that were briefly mentioned at the first workshop, as well as allow the legislators to provide an update on their progress with transportation.
- South noted that he would email Rahtz with feedback on the follow-up questions for the 201 workshop.

- **New board member training?**

- Rahtz explained that she had received feedback from several new committee members that they did not have a clear picture of what a TwinCATS member's responsibilities are or the exact mission or work tasks of the committees. She passed out the committee bylaws and asked if anyone had any other suggestions of what staff should be doing to orient the new committee members.

- **Transit projects update**

- Rahtz announced that the SWMPC office had begun work on two new transit projects:
  - Pokagon Transit Study – a tribal transit feasibility study for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, which will include an assessment of: the transportation needs of tribal citizens and non-tribal citizens in Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, and St. Joseph (IN) counties; the possibility for coordination between the Tribe and existing transportation providers; the unmet needs; the possibility of tribal transit benefiting non-tribal citizens; and a vision of what tribal transportation could look like. This is expected to be approximately a nine-month planning process.
  - Berrien Transit Consolidation Feasibility study – a detailed study that will be conducted by a consultant, which will involve: an alternatives analysis of various levels of coordination that are possible between the four transit agencies in Berrien County, with detailed assessment of each transit agency's finances, operations, current level of service, and projected future levels of service. This will be a three-year planning process.
- Purvis noted that he will sit on the selection committee for the hiring of the consultant for the Transit Consolidation Feasibility study.

#### 4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Benton Harbor Local Match update**

- Rahtz announced that the City of Benton Harbor's local contribution to TwinCATS had been received in full.
- Scherwitz noted that after he had met with the City's Emergency Financial Manager Joseph Harris, Mr. Harris had immediately resolved the issue.

- **Walk and Roll update**

- Thomas gave an update on the Walk and Roll planning process. Meetings have been held with representatives of each municipality to obtain input on the current maps of proposed facilities as well as to begin prioritizing projects for each community. Only two meetings are left to be scheduled, so the process should be finished by February 2011. At that time, the Walk and Roll subcommittee can reconvene and plan the two to three regional public input sessions, which are tentatively being planned for the spring of 2011.

- **Rail update**

- Rahtz distributed a draft letter that the SWMPC office is writing to submit to MDOT as part of the public comment period for the Statewide Rail Plan Update. She asked for comments back on the letter by the next month's meeting, so that the staff can submit the letter to MDOT.

- **State Transportation Budget – Enhancement**

- Rahtz noted that the guidance for the Transportation Enhancement grants is being revised by

spring 2011, to state that communities with complete streets policies will be favorably looked upon for receiving Enhancement grants. She added that SWMPC staff are planning to hold an informational workshop in the spring of 2011 about how local governments can get started writing complete streets policies.

- Merritt and South commented there no is no additional funding available for complete streets, and that the financial impact of the Complete Streets legislation is still unknown.
- It was added that the Governor appointed members of a statewide Complete Streets Task Force, which has not yet met. That task force will be outlining a statewide plan for implementing the legislation.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS:

### • MDOT 5-year Program of Projects

- Rahtz noted that MDOT's 5-year program of projects is up for public comment and distributed copies.

### • Proposed 2011 Meeting Dates

- Thomas passed out copies of the proposed 2011 meeting dates, based on the same schedule that had been used in past years.
- *Motion by Scherwitz, seconded by Purvis, to approve the list of calendar dates for the calendar year 2011 TwinCATS Policy Committee meetings. Motion approved unanimously.*

### • Appointment of officer nominating subcommittee

- Rahtz asked if there were two volunteers to sit on a subcommittee to nominate the new chair and vice-chair at the January 2011 TwinCATS meeting.
- Fenderbosch and Merritt agreed to sit on the subcommittee.

### • TIP Amendments

- Berrien County Road Commission
  - Amend in FY 2011, the project named Lincoln Ave. Limits change from "John Beers Rd to Maiden Ln" to "Linco Rd to Maiden Ln," and length changes from 2.50 miles to 4.50 miles. Project description changes from "Resurface road" to "hot patching and single seal coat." Federal cost (STUL) changes from \$450,506 to \$76,900, county cost changes from \$99,898 to \$17,052, total phase cost changes from \$550,404 to \$93,952, and total project cost changes from \$660,000 to \$116,000.
  - Add in FY 2011, the project named Benton Center Rd and Red Arrow Hwy, for "hot patching and single seal coat" resurfacing on Benton Center Rd from Napier Ave to Red Arrow Hwy and on Red Arrow Hwy from Benton Center Rd to Euclid Ave. Length is 5.68 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost (STUL) is \$76,900, county cost is \$17,052, total phase cost is \$93,952, and total project cost is \$115,000.
  - Add in FY 2011, the project named Pipestone Rd and River Rd, "hot patching and single seal coat" resurfacing on Pipestone Rd from Naomi Rd to East Sodus Township line and on River Rd from Naomi Rd to Pipestone Rd. Length is 4.68 miles. Construction phase. Federal cost (STUL) is \$76,900, county cost is \$17,052, total phase cost is \$93,952, and total project cost is \$115,000.
- City of St. Joseph
  - Amend in FY 2011, the project named S. State St and Kingsley Ave. Limits change from "S. State St from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and Kingsley Ave from S. State St to 225 feet East of S. State St" to "S. State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and Kingsley Ave from S. State St. to Niles Ave." Length changes from 0.19 miles to 0.30 miles. Federal cost (STUL) changes from \$208,000 to \$403,000, city cost changes from \$683,300 to \$782,000, total phase cost changes from \$891,300 to \$1,185,000, and total project cost changes from \$1,069,500 to \$1,482,354. Comments: Kingsley Ave is removed from Illustrative List of Projects.
  - Amend in FY 2012, the project named S. State St and Kingsley Ave. Limits change from "S. State St from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave and Kingsley Ave from S. State St to 225 feet



vehicle replacement. Project description changes from "replacing three buses" to "replacing two buses." Federal cost (5307) changes from \$154,000 to \$102,000, state cost (CTF) changes from \$38,400 to \$26,000, and total phase cost changes from \$192,400 to \$128,000.

- *Motion by Fenderbosch, seconded by Merritt, to approve the above four amendments in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, conditional upon the FHWA approval of the 2011 CMAQ applications for Berrien County. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
  - Amend in FY 2012, the project named Public Transportation for public transit urban operations. Federal cost (5307) changes from \$710,000 to \$640,000, state cost (CTF) changes from \$615,000 to \$657,584, local cost changes from \$457,619 to \$473,924, and total phase cost changes from \$1,782,619 to \$1,771,508.
  - Add in FY 2012, the project named New Line Haul Route. Primary work type is Transit operations, T-ops phase. Federal cost (5316) is \$88,000, state cost (CTF) is \$88,000, and total phase cost is \$176,000. Comments: continuation of 2010 and 2011 project.
  - Add in FY 2012, the project named New Expanded Hours. Primary work type is Transit operations, T-ops phase. Federal cost (5316) is \$79,000, state cost (CTF) is \$79,000, and total phase cost is \$158,000. Comments: continuation of 2010 and 2011 project.
  - Add in FY 2012, the project named Mobility Manager. Primary work type is Transit operations, T-cap phase. Federal cost (5317) is \$60,000, state cost (CTF) is \$15,000, and total phase cost is \$75,000.
  - Amend in FY 2012, the project named Transit vehicle replacement. Federal cost (CM) changes from \$162,000 to \$180,000, state cost (CTF) changes from \$40,500 to \$45,000, and total phase cost changes from \$202,500 to \$225,000.
  - *Motion by Fenderbosch, seconded by Purvis, to approve the above five amendments in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Johnson announced that the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan is starting a Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG). The TAGs have been successful in other counties in which the Disability Network works. The purpose is to convene transit riders to advocate for public transit in the region.

## 7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Purvis announced that Homeland Security had visited his office. They have recently conducted a review of rail facilities and now they are beginning to review bus transit facilities. The representative was satisfied with the security of the TCATA facility and buses.
- Purvis added that the new surveillance system is up and working on all buses. He demonstrated the software system for the committee members, which can play clear audio and video as well as show the GPS location of the bus at any point in time in the video. He was asked whether signs have been posted in the buses to notify riders that they are being recorded, and he responded yes.
- Purvis showed the new punch cards that are being sold so that riders and agencies can purchase multiple rides at one time in advance.
- Purvis added that TCATA's overall ridership was up 17 percent from November 2009 to November 2010. It was asked if this had to do with the Red, Green, and Blue routes. He responded that the line haul ridership was up to 400 people per day in the summer but is down during winter because riders would rather be picked up at their door.
- Scherwitz announced that as the airport runway expansion project will be completed in 2012, he is thinking about how the local transportation system can tie into future events that are happening in the region, such as the Senior PGA tournament at the Jack Nicklaus golf course at Harbor Shores in 2012, equestrian events that will be held at the new equestrian center on M-139 in 2012, and other upcoming events that will be held at both of these venues. He noted that he will have to close an entire runway to park all of the private jets that will be coming for these events. He added that the completion of US-31

from Napier Ave to the bypass would be key in connecting future visitors in to the I-94 corridor to reach the airport and most of the area's hotels.

- Scherwitz added that the arena at the equestrian complex will hold 7,200 people and will be used for other types of events such as concerts and conventions. More information about the facility is available at [www.expoarena.org](http://www.expoarena.org).
- Merritt asked if the developer of the equestrian facility is required to have a traffic study conducted. It was mentioned that because the facility is being developed inside the Youth Fairgrounds it has not yet undergone planning commission review with Berrien Springs and Oronoko Charter Township but it will have to undergo some sort of review to obtain building permits.
- Rahtz asked how visitors to the area usually travel from the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport to their destination, and Scherwitz responded that his clientele usually request limousine service or rent cars. He has also spoken with Advance Cab about needed improvements to their vehicle fleet. He added that there could be a good partnership with public transit, and Purvis responded that it is legally difficult for a public transit agency to provide charter service.
- Scherwitz added that he does not want the region to fall behind the curve of figuring out how the transportation system will keep up with development, as it did with the Hollywood Road corridor. Scherwitz added that the local communities should be thinking about what the impact of these new developments will be on their communities, including the transportation impacts and the market potential, such as the growing demand for hotel beds, etc.
- Soteriou added that the development of the equestrian center has already caused the development of another equestrian center nearby in Royalton Township, and the township is currently reviewing that project.
- Judd asked if additional capacity (including non-motorized) can be incorporated into the design of the replacement of the Niles Road bridge over I-94. South responded that the Federal Highway Administration design team is looking at that bridge replacement project. He added that MDOT is doing beam end repair on the bridge in 2012 to preserve it before it is replaced. The bridge will be closed during construction for six to seven weeks, and will be reopened before the PGA tournament.
- South added that a study is currently being done of the traffic on Niles Road/M-63, and it is being found that the majority of the traffic is through traffic, not from the interstate. Signal coordination may be needed to improve the flow of through traffic along Niles Road.
- Merritt announced that the Berrien County Road Commission will be holding its second steering committee meeting to discuss how to fund local road projects in Berrien County, on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. at Andrews University, Chan Shun Hall. The meeting is open to the public and all ideas are welcome. Part of the meeting will be focused on the idea of Complete Streets and how to address it through the distribution of funding from a potential countywide road millage.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:28 A.M. Next meeting is January 24, 2011 at 10:30 A.M.