

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes

December 16, 2013

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Richard Lewis, City of St. Joseph Paul Lott, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT-Statewide Planning
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gast, Lake Charter Township John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Bill Purvis, TCATA Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Olson, Village of Shoreham Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani
OTHERS PRESENT	Matt Kodis, Kinexus

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. and led the group in introductions. Richard Lewis introduced himself as the new City Manager with the City of St. Joseph, and new representative on the TwinCATS Policy Committee.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Stauffer with support by Guetschow to approve the minutes of the November 18 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **CMAQ Call for Projects 2015-2019**

Mani said that a new Call for Projects for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) had been issued by MDOT for 2015-2019. In Berrien County, funds would have to be programmed for 2018-2019, so Mani encouraged committee members to develop projects. Mani also said that the purpose of the meetings was to review funding for 2014-2017. Mani said that the funding targets would be around \$598,000 for 2018 and 2019, and that a project selection meeting would be held on **January 23 at 2 PM at the Berrien County Road Commission** in conjunction with the rural task force (RTF) meeting. Mani said that every community would be receiving a packet in the mail. Mani also said that there will be additional money available in 2015 due a project not moving forward.

- **Hagar Township Update**

Mani said that the Adjusted Census Urban Boundaries (ACUBs) had been approved, and that Hagar Township therefore legally is entitled to one voting representative each on TAC and Policy. Mani asked for a motion approving one voting representative on Policy for Hagar Township.

A motion by Panozzo with support by Lynch to approve one voting representative from Hagar Township on the TwinCATS Policy Committee. **Motion passed.**

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani said that staff had assessed the TIP projects for compatibility with the Complete Streets Policy. Mani said that the subcommittee had instructed staff to do a re-draft of the Complete Streets Policy to clarify language regarding exemptions, and to make clear what types of projects the Policy can be applied to. Mani said that a redraft would be available for consideration by the Committees for consideration in January.

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**

None.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**

None.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA)**
Panozzo noted the article in the Herald Palladium discussing service changes and ridership experiences on TCATA. Panozzo encouraged committee members to read the article.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

Important note: At TAC, Berndt noted that the Hollywood Road project will not be using any 2014 STP dollars from the Advance Construct conversion. Therefore, there would be \$286,444 available for use on other projects. Mani said that SWMPC would be in touch with communities regarding use of these funds on other 2014 projects.

Fenderbosch asked Mani if the Village of Shoreham was amending its project limits to make sure that resurfacing was done on both sides of Brown School Road up to the St. Joseph Township limit. Mani said he did not know, but he would look into it.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	March 2013, still in limbo—bus shelters will be outside Michigan Works and Chemical Bank; May 2013- Proposal for city-operated cameras in shelters still needs to go before TCATA board, locations at Main at 12 th St and Triangle Park; July 2013: Under Construction, done by the end of September; October 2013: Pads poured, should be in place shortly; December 2013: Completed.	December 2013		x
2012							
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design; no change	December 2012		x
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Scheduled for October letting; returned to region for funding to move forward; no change; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting July 2013: On hold	July 2013		x

	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; July 2012: Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design; the bridge was made longer to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014; no change; March 2013: Air Quality Plans 99% complete; submitted for letting; June 2013: Design phase completed. October 2013: Will be constructed in 2014 December 2013- work completed for 2013, will pick back up during the spring	December 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); September 2012: Continued Service; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else; December 2012- already been awarded; November 2013: not funded	November 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else July 2013: JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.	July 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else	November 2012		x
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	1/2013- continues to be in limbo due to negotiations with Harbor Shores; no plans yet; 5/2013- Needs to use up EDA funds this	November 2013		

				<p>year, ultimately Harbor Shores' choice as to whether project moves forward. July 2013: Lawsuit between Harbor Shores and New Products- 1 year left to use funds. August 2013- lawsuit ongoing- probably means that project will not go through. November 2013- no change</p>			
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	<p>1/2013: Pre-engineering complete- need 1.3 million. Depending on availability of STP funds, project will get funding in 2013 and 2014. 2/2013- Project will be a go in 2014, pending project selection process, and will be using STP funds in that year; GI package being submitted by May 1; May: GI package ready to submit June 2013: GI meeting has taken place, GI package will be submitted, and there may be possible bid savings. July 2013: Waiting on MDOT approval of administrative modification. October 2013: December 6 letting December 2013: Additional \$286,444 available in 2014, because this project will not use it.</p>	December 2013		
	115751	MDOT	I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)	<p>2 course HMA over scratch course on existing concrete- PE phase, no change</p>	December 2012		

	113585	MDOT	I-94 WB (On I-94 from Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston Road)	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase; no change	December 2012		
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	Bridge Replacement-CON phase-AC project; 11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change; CON August –end of September crossover and temporary widening June 2013: Construction will begin in July, end in October—2 lanes will be closed. August 2013 Construction beginning today.	August 2013		
	119786	MDOT	M-63over St. Joseph River in St. Joseph	Bridge Repair			
		Berrien County	Napier and Union	Traffic Signal; July 2013: GI comments, August 23 rd deadline for ROW. October 2013: November 1 letting; November 2013: pre-construction meeting next week; December 2013: work will begin when weather allows	December 2013		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December; July 2013: Waiting for contract approval	July 2013		
		TCATA	Expanded hours-JARC grant				
		TCATA	Mobility manager grant	11/2012 Purvis stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this	December 2012		
		TCATA	New line haul to Stevensville	Project is continuing; hoping to get state funds in	January 2013		

				2014			
		TCATA	Bus operations	Not submit yet			
	116924	SWMPC	Berrien County- Rideshare	In progress			
2014	112087	Benton Harbor	Broadway Avenue Resurfacing	Final plans ready; still need the city's commitment. November 2013: Resolution approved. December 2013: trying to get GI meeting scheduled	December 2013		
	121011	Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade	November 2013: Resolution approved	November 2013		
		Berrien County	Date Road Bridge Replacement	GI plans have been submitted	December 2013		
	121002	Berrien County	Roosevelt Road Non-Motorized Extension	Plans will be ready over next few months; survey work will take place in spring	December 2013		
		Berrien County	Brown School Road Resurfacing	Plans in Progress; GI submittal in January	December 2013		
		Village of Shoreham	Brown School Road Resurfacing	Construct in June of 2014	October 2013		

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bylaw Review**

Mani said that staff wanted committee members to continue to review the bylaws, and that the best way to move forward with the review was to have a working group to look at the TAC bylaws first, examining who needs to be at the table and what function TAC should have. However, Policy Committee members should continue to take a look at the bylaws.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Climate Change- Land Use**

Mani thanked committee members for a robust discussion of the public health and water section of the report from GLISA and MSU-Extension. Mani said that this month's topic was the land use section of the report. Mani said that this section primarily had strategies that would be useful to individual municipalities, but there were some tie-ins to the MPO.

Mani noted that at the TAC meeting, the issue of intelligent transportation systems was discussed. At TAC, Mani asked Lott whether MDOT was planning to display more types of information on existing ITS boards in light of increased precipitation events and other safety concerns. Lott said that no changes were on the way at the moment, but that these issues were also not ones that the people who operate the ITS systems had considered up until now.

At TAC, Griffin had raised the issue of the recent accident between Exits 27 and 28 on I-94, where a semi-truck spilled oil on the roadway and severely damaged the guardrail on the bridge over the St. Joseph River. Griffin also said that the bridge is in extremely poor condition. Griffin suggested that better use of ITS may have helped reroute traffic around the accident. Jolivette said that after the November TwinCATS meeting, she did ask her co-workers at the Coloma TSC about better use of ITS, and there are definitely ways to improve its use. Jolivette noted that MDOT relied on its engineers to determine when a bridge absolutely needs replacement. The engineers acknowledged that this bridge is in poor condition, but there are other bridges that absolutely must be replaced because they are in worse condition. Jolivette said that they would be replacing the guardrail as soon as possible however,

Panozzo raised the issue of whether ITS systems can connect to 911 dispatch services to help improve response times. Lott said that 911 systems are usually run by the county, so it would be up to county officials to look into whether it was possible to uplink their dispatch systems to ITS, and to weight the advantages of doing so.

Scherwitz added that it would be more useful to have travel times to destinations within Southwest Michigan, particularly for those entering from Indiana, or those going up I-196 towards South Haven and Grand Rapids. Currently, the sign near Hartford states travel time to Indiana. Scherwitz asked about who decided on sign placement. Lott said that he did not know exactly who met to discuss the signs, but MDOT did hold extensive meetings. Lott acknowledged that it would be helpful if these signs could reflect travel time changes due to weather conditions more accurately, instead of simply saying “rain and snow, go slow.”

- **Targeted Transportation Planning Ideas**
Mani said that SWMPC staff welcomed ideas for transportation topics on which committee members wanted to learn more. These topics could potentially form the basis for speakers at the next joint MPO meeting in April or sooner.
- **CMAQ Supplemental Questionnaire**
SWMPC staff are proposing a list of supplementary questions for those projects that are within the MPO. Mani said that this set of supplemental questions would accomplish two goals: ensure that CMAQ projects are compatible with MPO Long Range Plan goals, and helps streamline the application process by ensuring that committee members do not have to fill out two separate whole applications to get their projects in the TIP. Mani said that this would be an action item in January.
- **Implementing the LRP and TIP**
Mani said that SWMPC staff would be taking committee members’ suggestion of having working sessions at SWMPC offices on the Long Range Plan and TIP into account. Staff will be contacting individuals at various times when their consultation is needed on making these documents useful.
- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**
 - **Federal** – Dewey said that the 2014-2017 TIPs had been approved. SWMPC staff will be posting these documents to the web shortly.
 - **State** – None.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Fenderbosch re-iterated the issue of bridge conditions between Exits 27 and 28 on I-94. Fenderbosch also raised the issue of traffic backups on the on and off-ramps at Exit 27 near the Panera Bread in St. Joseph Charter Township. These backups only become worse if there is an accident nearby on I-94.

Jolivette reiterated that maintenance staff work with local police and state police to clear accidents and handle emergencies. Ultimately, however, it is up to county emergency preparedness planning. Berrien County does have a hazard mitigation plan that deals with weather-related emergencies and potentially toxic or flammable spills.

Lynch commented that MPO committee member talking points had been helpful in allowing members to convey back information to their respective boards and commissions.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:40 a.m.

- Next meeting is **January 27, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013

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