

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Policy Committee

**Minutes**

March 16, 2015

10:30 A.M.

Kinexus Anchor Rooms A+B

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</b></p> | <p>Denise Cook, St. Joseph Charter Township<br/>                 Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township<br/>                 Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township<br/>                 John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning<br/>                 Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Board of Commissioners<br/>                 Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport<br/>                 Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township<br/>                 Kris Welch, MDOT-Statewide Planning</p>   |
| <p><b>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</b></p>  | <p>Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)<br/>                 John Gast, Lake Charter Township<br/>                 Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township<br/>                 Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio)<br/>                 John Egelhaaf, SWMPC<br/>                 Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township<br/>                 William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission<br/>                 Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan<br/>                 Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC<br/>                 Deb Kavanaugh, Hagar Township<br/>                 Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region<br/>                 Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission<br/>                 John Olson, Village of Shoreham, Stevensville, and Royalton Township<br/>                 Bill Purvis, TCATA<br/>                 Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville<br/>                 Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region<br/>                 Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township<br/>                 Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)<br/>                 Roger Seeley, St. Joseph Charter Township<br/>                 Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio)<br/>                 Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township<br/>                 Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor<br/>                 Representative, Cornerstone Alliance</p> |
| <p><b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b></p>    | <p>Kim Gallagher<br/>                 Gautam Mani<br/>                 Patrice Rose</p>   |

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Stauffer called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Panozzo with support by Scherwitz to approve the minutes of the February Policy Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

### 4. STAFF REPORT

#### ▪ **Traffic Count Requests**

Mani said that traffic count request are coming in, so it was definitely not too early to request counts. Communities that are looking to reclassify roadways on the NFC system need to have a recent traffic count. They should mark that they are looking at reclassification on the count request form online: <http://www.swmpc.org/trafficcountform.asp>. Mani said that for special count requests, he is happy to walk applicants through the form. Sometimes count requests do not quite match the fields labeled on the form, but SWMPC does have some flexibility in what counts it can do.

Stauffer and Fenderbosch wondered whether it was time to reclassify Maiden Lane as a federal-aid eligible road rather than a local one, based on the number of trucks using the road. There would only be a portion of the roadway requiring reclassification. Gallagher said that she would put together a traffic count request on the specific segment of Maiden Lane where the change needed to occur.

#### ▪ **Spring Asset Management Conference April 30**

Mani said the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) would be hosting the Spring Asset Management Conference from 8-4 at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport. Mani strongly recommended that engineers, managers and elected officials attend. The conference is a great way to learn the latest best practices in pavement management and data collection, and it is also a week before the ballot proposal up for a vote. The ballot proposal for transportation funding will be a topic of discussion. Mani said he would forward on the agenda and registration information to committee members when they were available, but he was sure that registration for public agencies would be discounted.

#### ▪ **ADARS/IRT Reporting**

Gallagher noted that Act 51 agencies were supposed to be tracking their investments using ADARS and IRT reporting. Statewide, however, participation in the tool is only at 30%. Gallagher said that SWMPC would be compiling a list on which jurisdictions in our region had and had not participated and were available to assist Act 51 agencies with reporting.

#### ▪ **Asset Management Annual Report for Berrien County**

Mani gave a presentation on the Asset Management Annual Report for Berrien County. This is a report that SWMPC produces that catalogs the change in road conditions from 2003 to the present year. It shows extremely sharp deterioration in pavement conditions across the state and within Southwest Michigan. Mani said that committee members were free to use these data and the presentation in any way they saw fit. The report is available at: <http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/annualreportberrien20042014.pdf>

Stauffer showed photographs of a chunk of bridge that fell off of I-94 over Puetz Road in Lincoln Township. He said that if someone's car had been directly under when it fell off, it would have caused a lot of damage. Stauffer distributed materials from the Michigan Township Association regarding their position on the ballot measure, and said that he could not understand

why someone would vote no on the ballot measure. Lanum suggested that Stauffer contact the TSC, and said that he had done so already.

Mani made clear that SWMPC has not adopted an official position on the ballot measure, and that the MTA materials being distributed did not represent SWMPC's position.

A more complete version of the presentation than given at TwinCATS is available at: [http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/asset\\_management\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/asset_management_presentation.pdf)

- **2016 Pre UWP Updates**

Mani shared updates from SWMPC's annual pre-Unified Planning Work Program meetings with MDOT and FHWA. This meeting was in the lead-up to the MPO work plan for FY 2016. The main items for MPO members to note are that the next TwinCATS Long Range Plan is due in July of 2018, due to air quality standard revocations. In addition, the next TIP would likely be due in June of 2016, meaning that project selection would be coming up within the next year.

Lanum said that performance measurement would a major role in the next TIP and LRP processes. Mani said that we would likely need to develop a project selection procedure so that they can justify investments based on performance targets. It would no longer be justifiable to select projects without a clear governing procedure, and other MPOs had developed procedures that we might look to. Mani said that MPO staff would be learning more at a Peer Exchange in late April.

Mani and Gallagher told committee members that if there were work activities that they would like to see SWMPC do on behalf of the MPO that they are not currently doing, they should definitely suggest them, as these could be included in the FY 2016 work plan.

- **Travel Demand Model Updates**

Mani also said that they had met with MDOT Travel Demand modelers last week to discuss the state of the model for the TwinCATS area. For the next Long Range Plan, we would likely only be making minor adjustments to the employment and housing data. Unless there is a big change in development patterns in the area, we will not redo the model until after the next decennial census.

However, with the current travel demand model we have the opportunity to run possible scenarios of what would happen to travel patterns with particular roadway treatments. For example, TwinCATS could examine what a road diet on a particular corridor would do to travel patterns, or the completion of US-31.

- **Local Resolutions of Support for FY 2016 Projects due in April this year**

Mani said that for any jurisdiction with an FY 2016 project that has a local match component, resolutions of support would be due at the end of April this year. The resolution must be from the community board or council and must state that the community will be able to provide local match in FY 2016. Gallagher said that SWMPC would be sending out reminders to communities that have projects in FY 2016 that a resolution will be due.

## 5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Gallagher said that SWMPC is waiting to hear whether the grant application for a Countywide Service Planning grant was successful. If it is successful, we will be able to issue an RFP.

- **TCATA Updates**

None

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No report

## 7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

8. Gallagher reported that the Health Dept. move combining 4 facilities to one on Napier in Benton Township has taken place. After much discussion, public transit to the site is available via TCATA, but it is entirely a Dial-A-Ride service.

## 8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Obligation Thermometer** – Mani reports that as of February 28, 60.2 % of 2015 obligation authority had been used up. This obligation authority is only available through May 31<sup>st</sup>, at which point there would need to be reauthorization of federal transportation legislation for the state to receive further obligation authority. Mani said that that SWMPC always encouraged agencies in the area to obligate early.

| Fiscal Year | Job Number | Agency | Project Name   | Update Information   | Date of last update | Cost Changes | Projected Letting and obligation date |
|-------------|------------|--------|--|--|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2012        |            |        |  |  |                     |              |                                       |
|             | 113585     | MDOT   | I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd                      | Plan Review January 20th- still on track for January 2016 construction   | January 2015        |              |                                       |
|             | 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 <b>July 2013:</b> | July 2013           |              |                                       |

|      |        |   |   |  |               |  |  |
|------|--------|---|---|--|---------------|--|--|
|      |        |   |   | <b>On hold</b>   |               |  |  |
|      |        | Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority | New expanded hours  | <p><b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain);</p> <p><b>September 2012:</b> Continued Service; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else;</p> <p><b>December 2012-</b> already been awarded;</p> <p><b>November 2013:</b> not funded</p> | November 2013 |  |  |
|      |        | Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority | New line haul route   | <p><b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else</p> <p><b>July 2013:</b> JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.</p>   | July 2013     |  |  |
|      |        | Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority | Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)                                     | <b>July 2014:</b> Buses on the way, with propane conversions   | July 2014     |  |  |
| 2013 | 115751 | MDOT                                      | I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)     | Suspended project  | January 2015  |  |  |
|      | 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   | <b>January 2015:</b> August 2015 Construction Completion   | January 2015  |  |  |
|      |        | TCATA                                     | Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project  | 2013 applications are due to the state in December; <b>July 2013:</b> Waiting for contract approval  | July 2013     |  |  |
|      |        | TCATA                                     | Expanded hours-JARC grant   |  |               |  |  |
|      |        | TCATA                                     | Mobility  | 11/2012 Purvis   | December      |  |  |

|      |        |                       |  |   |              |  |  |
|------|--------|-----------------------|--|---|--------------|--|--|
|      |        |                       | manager grant                                    | stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this | 2012         |  |  |
|      |        | TCATA                 | New line haul to Stevensville                    | Project is continuing; hoping to get state funds in 2014  | January 2013 |  |  |
|      |        | TCATA                 | Bus operations                                   | Not submit yet  |              |  |  |
|      | 116924 | SWMPC                 | Berrien County-Rideshare                         | In progress   |              |  |  |
| 2014 | 112087 | Benton Harbor         | Broadway Avenue/Colfax Avenue Resurfacing        | <b>January 2015:</b> Broadway Avenue is completed, Colfax Avenue will be done in June 2015                      | March 2015   |  |  |
|      | 121011 | Benton Harbor         | Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade       | <b>January 2015:</b> Restoration will take place in Spring; fiber optic cable still needs to be run             | January 2015 |  |  |
|      |        | Village of Shoreham   | Brown School Road Resurfacing                    | <b>March 2015:</b> will be let on April 3. Need to cut down trees in April to avoid issues with long-eared bat  | March 2015   |  |  |
| 2015 |        | Berrien County        | Marquette Woods Road Restore and Rehab/Sidewalks | <b>March 2015:</b> May 1 letting  | March 2015   |  |  |
|      |        | Berrien County        | Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal     | <b>March 2015:</b> Still getting ROW clearances   | March 2015   |  |  |
|      |        | City of Benton Harbor | Pipestone St at Britain Avenue Traffic Signal    | <b>March 2015:</b> Submitting GI plans on Friday  | March 2015   |  |  |
|      |        | City of St. Joseph    | Botham Avenue                                    | <b>March 2015:</b> Contract awarded, no construction schedule as yet.   | March 2015   |  |  |
|      |        | City of St. Joseph    | Park St. Bridge                                  | <b>March 2015:</b> Pre-construction meeting on Thursday   | March 2015   |  |  |
|      |        | MDOT                  | I-94 Signing Project from Puetz Road to I-196    | <b>January 2015:</b> September 1- October 16  | January 2015 |  |  |
|      |        | MDOT                  | M-63 bridge over Hickory Creek                   | <b>June 8-July 21</b>   | January 2015 |  |  |

|  |  |      |                     |             |              |  |  |
|--|--|------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|
|  |  | MDOT | M-63<br>Resurfacing | This summer | January 2015 |  |  |
|--|--|------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

None.

- **MDOT Updates**

**-Ballot Initiative**

Mani said that SWMPC had created a web page for objective information about the Transportation Ballot Proposal: <http://www.swmpc.org/transfunding.asp>

**-Other Updates**

None

**11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Welch shared that MDOT was willing to provide more in the way of updates based on information that committee members feel would be useful. Committee members and MPO staff should feel free to send requests for any additional information to Welch at any time.

**12. ADJOURNMENT at 11:33 AM.**

Next meeting is April 20, 2015 at 10:30 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

*Compiled by: Gautam Mani, SWMPC Transportation Planner, and Patrice Rose, SWMPC Administrative Assistant, 2015.*