

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
Policy Committee

**Minutes**  
April 16, 2012  
10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Seely with support by Stauffer, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012. **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

### 4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Westrain**

Flowers stated that the Westrain group, which is the advocacy group for the Pere Marquette passenger rail line met last month and is formalizing their projects for promoting the line for this tourism season. The group will be meeting quarterly and is looking to expand their membership. Money from Amtrak will be used to help promote the line this season. A budget is being developed and more information will be made available as the tourism season begins.

- **Traffic Safety Summit**

Thomas stated that he attended the Summit held in East Lansing in March of 2012. Of particular relevance to committee members, the conference contained several sessions discussing the use of AASHTO's Highway Safety Manual (HSM). The HSM allows traffic engineers and planners to assess the safety of different road facilities, as well as to predict the safety impacts that facility changes are likely induce. Thomas stated that staff sent out information about an upcoming HSM training event, as well as training on traffic safety for local elected officials, and that they would send out another reminder soon.

Woolcock added information about a session that she attended on distracted driving. The session not only focused on distracted driving but also on drowsy driving. The lack of sleep was equated to the number of drinks that it would take to show the similarities and she stated that the information presented was startling. Tupica asked if there was any discussion about the new helmet law requirements. Woolcock and Thomas both were not sure if that topic was discussed in another session.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**

Thomas reported that the Walk and Roll subcommittee has been focusing on developing an official Complete Streets policy that they would soon distribute to TAC and Policy Committee members. The goal of the policy is to guide the development of reasonable complete streets facilities on all federal aid eligible roads where they are appropriate. Thomas stated that the Walk and Roll Subcommittee is also working on developing a Top Ten List of locations where improved non-motorized facilities are of particular importance.

- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**

Johnson handed out flyers that the Disability Network were hosting on April 23, 2012 at Michigan Works. The purpose of the discussion will be to focus on public transit, disabled transit users, and other advocacy efforts.

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

Christina Phippen distributed a handout detailing relevant socioeconomic data in Berrien County, such as median family income, poverty rates, children in poverty, and military veterans' access to medical facilities. Scherwitz asked whether the poverty data presented are able to indicate how Berrien County has fared since the recent economic downturn. Thomas stated that all the

poverty data on Phippen’s handout come from the American Community Survey, and that the numbers on her sheet represent 5-year averages from 2006 through 2010 (and thus average over the downturn and potential recovery). Single-year poverty figures for the whole county are available as recently as 2010, but these figures are based on 3% population samples and so carry fairly large margins of error.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**  
No updates were available.

## 6. Project Updates

Flowers stated that in an attempt to make project updates much faster and more available for both Committees, the following table was developed and will be updated monthly. The table can be found on the Meetings website for the TwinCATS MPO.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update
2010	NA			All projects have been completed	Mar-12
2011		Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	let and construction April 2012	Mar-12
		Berrien County Road Commission	Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal	let, under construction	Apr-12
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Lincoln Ave, Linco Rd to Maiden Ln</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Pipestone Rd and River Rd</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Napier Ave. 200' section west of I-94</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	108921	MDOT	US-31 freeway signing upgrade	let, construction April-Aug 2012	Mar-12
	88086	MDOT	I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work	bridge closed from April 16-May 6.	Apr-12
	112949	MDOT	I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work	scoping job/PE Phase	Mar-12

	113014	MDOT	M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave	June-September construction 2012	April 2012
	NA	MDOT	<del>I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	<del>109704</del>	MDOT	<del>I-94 BL Glenford Rd to Pearl St</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	<del>108174</del>	MDOT	<del>I-94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	<del>109087</del>	MDOT	<del>I-196 under Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	NA	St. Joseph	<del>S State St and Kingsley Ave</del>	<del>done and advanced construct repayment done</del>	Mar-12
	NA	Village of Stevensville	<del>John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk</del>	Completed	Mar-12
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	will be located at MI Works and at the Triangle Park near the old Mercy Center-purchased, working with Abonmarche on where to set them-the City now wants cameras near the bus shelters and they would cost about \$10,000 a piece. Looking for other funding to purchase cameras.	Mar-12
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012	Feb-12
<b>2012</b>	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	construction July 2012, advertised with April let	Mar-12
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction	Mar-12
	<del>107686</del>	St. Joseph	<del>South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave</del>	<del>advanced construct reimbursement done</del>	
		Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to	Move to 2013	Mar-12

			Paw Paw)-		
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	final plans April 27, July let	Apr-12
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	design phase May 4- let	Mar-12
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	Mar-12
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	all carpool lots are on hold due to funding issues	Mar-12
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase	Mar-12
	110931	MDOT	I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge)	design moved back to 2013	Mar-12
	109093	MDOT	I-94 under M-63 (bridge)	May-July 2012, let in March	Mar-12
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	No update	Mar-12
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	No update	Mar-12
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	Mar-12

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Public Participation Plan-SWMPC Board approval in July**

Flowers stated that this was the final version of the plan. And that since this requires approval by the SWMPC full board, their review would be done in July.

Woolcock asked if the color green could be changed for those who are color blind. Flowers stated that she would be happy to change the color.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Stauffer to approve the SWMPC MPOs Public Participation Plan. **Motion passed.**

- **Bylaws Amendment**

Flowers stated that in February, Joanne Johnson, stated that the Transportation Advocacy Group would no longer be meeting. Scherwitz stated that this would result in a bylaw change. Flowers

either mailed or emailed a letter detailing this issue and that it would require a 30 day notice to all voting members.

Motion by Kercheval with support by Panozzo to approve the TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committee bylaw change by removing the Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG) from the non-voting membership on both Committees. **Motion passed.**

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

### ▪ **Legislative Updates**

#### ○ **Federal**

Congress has been on legislative recess. Tupica added that Congress passed a clean extension which keeps the funding levels at the same levels and extends federal funding until June 30, 2012. There is a lot of discussion that we may not see a full re-authorization until after the November 2012 elections.

#### ○ **State**

Flowers provided the following information to the members. The Michigan House Bill 5304 would amend 4 sections of Public Act 51 of 1951:

- Section 1c
  - would eliminate the requirement that cities with a census population greater than 25,000 contribute to the cost of “opening, widening, improving, including construction and reconstruction of state trunkline highways within the city
  - Would change the city/village distribution formula to one based on VMT within local road agency functional classification
- Section 10a
  - Would repeal section 10a effective September 2019
  - Would change the local road agency distribution formula to one based on VMT within local road agency function classification
  - HB 5303 would eliminate the need to determine county major and local road mileage and major and local municipal street mileage-these classifications would be eliminated
- Section 10p
  - PU 135 of 2010 added 10p, create Complete Streets Advisory Council
  - Shall complete duties on December 31, 2012
- Section 13
  - Beginning January 1, 2015
  - Cities and villages that receive less than \$50,000 from MTF in fy 2012 would no longer get distribution
  - Money would go to county road commission in HB 5303

Panozzo stated that Berrien County tracks the changes weekly at the state to see how they would impact the County.

## 8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Woolcock stated that there are two projects that are 100% state funded that do not need to be added to the TIP unless the Committee felt that they were regionally significant projects.

1. I-94 from Empire to Napier and east bound I-96. These projects are patching work and are less than \$500,000.
2. I-94 bridge work in Stevensville working on the bridge joints at exit 23. This project is also under \$500,000.

There is time sensitivity here that if we have to go through an amendment process then the jobs will not get funded. There was not motion or further discussion on the subject.

Lenze stated that he felt that these projects were covered by the General Program Account (GPA) projects that are listed for MDOT projects currently in the TIP.

Fenderbosch asked what work will be done by MDOT on I-94 over the St. Joseph River near exit 27 because the guard rails are in poor repair and he is concerned about traffic breaking through the barrier. Woolcock added that MDOT would like to do work on that project in 2019 by using federal funds since there are limitations of how often bridge money can be used within a ten year time span. MDOT is aware of this issue and is planning for work on this in 2019.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:09 a.m.**

Motion by Fenderbosch with support from Seely to end the meeting. **Motion passed.**

- Next meeting is **scheduled for May 21, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

*Compiled by Trevor Thomas and Suzann Flowers, April 2012*