

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes

April 20, 2015

10:30 A.M.

Kinexus Anchor Rooms A+B

<p>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</p>	<p>Denise Cook, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Matt Galbraith, MDOT Statewide Planning William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Richard Lewis, City of St. Joseph Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Deb Kavanaugh, Hagar Township Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Board of Commissioners Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT-Statewide Planning</p>
<p>POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:</p>	<p>Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gast, Lake Charter Township Representative, Sodus Township Representative, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Deb Kavanaugh, Hagar Township John Olson, Village of Shoreham, Stevensville, and Royalton Township Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Representative, Cornerstone Alliance</p>
<p>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</p>	<p>Kim Gallagher Patrice Rose</p>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Stauffer called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. STAFF REPORT

- **Spring Asset Management Conference April 30**

Gallagher commented on the upcoming Spring Asset Management Conference on April 30, a great value at \$25. 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 is up for a vote. The ballot proposal for transportation funding will be a topic of discussion.

- **Local Road Safety Plan Updates**

Gallagher reported that the SW Michigan Region will be a pilot for a study looking at safety issues on the non-trunkline system in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. Smith inquired about a possible handout describing the scope of work and opportunities to participate. Gallagher said that information would be distributed. The first meeting will be held in May and is to include the 3 county road commissions, county engineers, cities and villages. The second meeting will include more members from TwinCATS communities. The planning process is to continue through summer and fall, with a plan delivered by the end of September.

- **Proposal 1 Information**

Gallagher stated that Gautam Mani did a presentation for the City of St. Joseph Commission meeting, and that there had been extensive media coverage of the presentation. She also presented a pie chart that illustrated the current funding breakdown and what would happen to funding if Proposal 1 passes. TwinCATS members commented that the ballot proposal looked likely to fail because it was far too confusing to committee members.

5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Bill Purvis said the contract between TCATA and the scheduling and dispatch software vendor is still waiting approval from MDOT passenger division. It has been over six weeks.

Gallagher said she will find out the status of the Berrien Countywide Service Planning Grant submitted in February 2015.

- **TCATA Updates**

Gallagher said that Joanne Johnson from the Disability Network conducted trainings at SWMPC on paratransit access protocols for TCATA dispatch and drivers. Gallagher that TCATA personnel were engaged and passionate about doing their jobs well and improving service for riders with disabilities.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No report.

7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Zebell reported that MDOT approval has been received for a change to the traffic signal at the site of the new CVS at Niles and Napier in the City of St. Joseph. The light will be an actuated signal. The intersection will be a “t” with the portion to the CVS being a private road.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- Obligation Thermometer – Gallagher reports that as of April 7, 95.6 % of 2015 obligation authority had been used up. This obligation authority is only available through May 31st, at which point there would need to be reauthorization of federal transportation legislation for the state to receive further obligation authority.

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 July 2013: On hold	July 2013		
		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:	November 2013		

				not funded			
		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		
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	July 2014: 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	January 2015: August 2015 Construction Completion	January 2015		
		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 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	January 2015: Broadway Avenue is completed, Colfax Avenue	March 2015		

				will be done in June 2015			
	121011	Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade	January 2015: Restoration will take place in Spring; fiber optic cable still needs to be run	January 2015		
		Village of Shoreham	Brown School Road Resurfacing	March 2015: 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	March 2015: May 1 letting	March 2015		
		Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	March 2015: Still getting ROW clearances	March 2015		
		City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone St at Britain Avenue Traffic Signal	March 2015: Submitting GI plans on Friday	March 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Botham Avenue	March 2015: Contract awarded, no construction schedule as yet.	March 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Park St. Bridge	March 2015: Pre-construction meeting on Thursday	March 2015		
		MDOT	I-94 Signing Project from Puetz Road to I-196	January 2015: September 1- October 16	January 2015		
		MDOT	M-63 bridge over Hickory Creek	June 8-July 21	January 2015		
		MDOT	M-63 Resurfacing	This summer	January 2015		

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Gallagher said that a traffic count requested on Maiden Lane is in progress.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- **TIP Amendments**

Several amendments were requested to the 2014-2017 TwinCATS TIP on behalf of MDOT and TCATA, including the 5317 federal and CTF state grant for a Mobility Manager in 2016. For further information, please see the attached handout specifying the changes.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Lynch to approve the April amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP. **Debra Panozzo abstained from voting on the amendments. Motion passed.**

▪ **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

Gallagher said that a new call for TIGER grants had been issued, and that she would be distributing a handout from FHWA specifying the regulations and deadlines concerning the grant. In addition, National Performance Measures Rulemakings are continuing to be released for comment.

▪ **MDOT Updates**

Lanum reported that a Performance Measures Peer Exchange would be taking place next week in Lansing, and that MPO staff would be involved. He stated that MPO performance will ultimately influence funding. He also introduced Matt Galbraith, a new planner with MDOT who will be shadowing Kris Welch as she gradually moves towards working with other MPOs.

▪ **News Items of Interest**

Gallagher reported on the dredging taking place on Lake Michigan. She also reported that lake levels on Lakes Michigan and Huron have been above average for 6 consecutive months, and that lake levels had been rebounding over the past two years after being low for many years.

11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Scherwitz announced that the changeover in leadership at the airport will take place on June 18.

12. ADJOURNMENT at 10:30 AM.

Next meeting is May 18, 2015 at 10:30 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

Compiled by: Patrice Rose, SWMPC Administrative Assistant, 2015.