

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes

May 18, 2015

10:30 A.M.

Kinexus Anchor Rooms A+B

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Vince DesJardins, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Matt Galbraith, MDOT Statewide Planning Teri Freeling, Berrien County Road Commission William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission 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
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Denise Cook, St. Joseph Charter Township Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Carolyn Fowler, Benton 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 Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Richard Lewis, City of St. Joseph 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
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani Patrice Rose

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Stauffer called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Lynch with support by Fenderbosch to approve the minutes of the April 20 Policy Committee meeting. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. STAFF REPORT

▪ **APA Transportation Updates**

Mani shared some information from the Future of Transportation session at the American Planning Association Conference he attended last month.

- Data now clearly show that younger generations are more willing to give up their car than give up their cell phone, if faced with a choice. This is not surprisingly, but is now confirmed by data.
- Nationwide, there has been a sharp increase in people who are remaining in the workforce after Age 65. Mani showed statistics of the percentage of the total population over Age 65 in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties that reported working in the past 12 months. Compared to the nation as a whole, each of the three Southwest Michigan Counties has a lower percentage of its 65 and older population working than the national average. However, all three counties are at or above the Michigan average for this indicator. Retirees have a very different set of transportation needs as compared with older workers.
- There has been relatively little discussion so far regarding regulations and ownership concerns surrounding automatic vehicles that are under development. While we are likely at least 10-20 years away from these vehicles being deployed en masse, certain automatic vehicle technologies such as parking assist are already available. Regulations will need to be in place for these new types of vehicles in order for them to be successfully deployed.

▪ **Statewide Asset Management Annual Report**

Mani reported that, not surprisingly, the 2014 Statewide Asset Management Annual Report shows that Michigan's federal-aid eligible roads continued to deteriorate from 2013-2014. Michigan's bridges, on the other hand, have been improving for a number of years due to very strategic investments by the state. However, it is projected that bridge condition has peaked and that the condition will decline because revenue still no longer be able to keep up with existing bridge needs.

▪ **Follow Up from Performance Measures Peer Exchange**

Mani said that he and Kim Gallagher had attended the Performance Measures Peer Exchange in Lansing in April, along with other MPO staff, MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and peers from Arizona, Minnesota, and Ohio. There were two main takeaways from the workshop for now:

- Small MPOs have a different set of data gathering needs and concerns than larger MPOs. Mani said that SWMPC would be participating in a small MPO working group to come up with a uniform set of items to measure that can serve as a base, and also a list of needs from the state.
- The proposed rulemaking for Asset Management, as it reads now, would require data gathering beyond the PASER system. Specifically, Michigan would need to gather data using the International Roughness Index (IRI) which measures ride quality and that many other states already use. Michigan would also need to gather data on rutting and faulting. It is not clear right now whether Michigan would continue to collect PASER ratings in

addition to the other datasets or whether there would be a new system in place that gets rid of the PASER rating system.

- **NFC Reminders**

Mani reminded MPO members that National Functional Class change requests for roadways were due by September 1. Mani said that MPO staff are available to assist communities with filling out the required forms to make those change requests possible.

- **FY 2017-2020 TIP Development Schedule**

Mani reminded MPO members that National Functional Class change requests for roadways were due by September 1. Mani said that MPO staff are available to assist communities with filling out the required forms to make those change requests possible.

- **Safety Funding for FY 2017**

Gallagher reported that our Region has been selected as a pilot for a Local Road Safety Plan, along with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. She reported on the first meeting and showed an MDOT Video on traffic fatalities. Gallagher also presented data on high crash locations within Berrien County, many of which are on state trunklines or at intersections with trunklines in Berrien County. The consultants involved in the process will pull crash and design data and looking for trends and reasons for accidents, road environment, driver skill and attitudes. Then, the consultants will recommend interventions for improving road user safety, through education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response.

Gallagher also said in response to Johnson's question that going through the Local Road Safety Plan process would make projects that contribute to implementation of the plan more competitive in applying for safety. Gallagher said that safety funds could be used on any roadway, including local ones, and that local agencies could submit more than one project for consideration

5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Kim Gallagher reported that SWMPC had been notified that it had received a grant to develop a Countywide Fixed Route Transit Service Plan for Berrien County. The next step is to begin writing a request-for-proposals so that the project can go out for bid.

Stauffer inquired as to what effect this will have on the plans for a new countywide authority and possible consolidation. Panozzo said that Countywide Service Planning grant would only enhance these discussions and not replace them.

- **TCATA Updates**

Purvis reported that TCATA is still waiting for computers/scheduling software, and that the Liquid Propane bus conversions had been obligated. The bids for the propane tank had been accepted.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Joanne Johnston Says that they are still working on the 2016 plan for October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Johnson reports that RICC will have a draft plan soon for the next fiscal year October 2015-September 2016. RICC will continue to advocate for countywide transit service.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Obligation Thermometer** – Mani said that the State was out of obligation authority and that it would only receive more once a federal funding extension past May 31 was passed by Congress and signed by the President. Welch added that once obligation authority is received, projects that had proceeded as Advance Construct would have priority for funding.

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	November 2013		

				nothing else; December 2012- already been awarded; 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 will be done in June 2015	March 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	May 2015: Tree removal has occurred	May 2015		
2015		Berrien County	Marquette Woods Road Restore and Rehab/Sidewalks	May 2015: Project let; trees removed and poles replaced.	May 2015		
		Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	May 2015: Submitted for obligation; awaiting statewide obligation authority	May 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	May 2015: Will be constructed this summer.	May 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	May 2015		

Jolivette reported that M-63 from M-139 to I-94 is being resurfaced and traffic will be restricted to one lane for about two weeks. Heavy maintenance will take place on I-196 at I-94. There will also be maintenance on the outside lane of I-94 westbound for I-196 to Britain that will cause lane closures and delays.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Gallagher said that a traffic count requested on Maiden Lane is in progress. The idea behind that traffic count is to see whether a change in National Functional Classification is warranted.

10. NEW BUSINESS

▪ **Approval of 2016 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mani said that the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program describes all of the MPO's expected work activities in FY 2016, which runs from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Mani highlighted changes to this year's work program as compared with past years. Some of the major changes include:

- A region-specific list of transportation issues affecting the TwinCATS MPO.
- Countywide Service Planning Grant support is a work activity
- Implementation of the Local Road Safety Plan, including monitoring of data, is now a work activity.
- MPO staff will develop project selection criteria and continue to participate in development of performance measures.
- MPO staff will update the public participation plan in consultation with committee members.

Mani said that the only major anticipated change to the UWP would be made by SWMPC Executive Director John Egelhaaf and involves the cost allocation plan and indirect cost rate.

Mani encouraged public comment, the period for which ends on May 31.

A motion by Hodge with support by Lynch to approve the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program, with corrections as noted, subject to the end of the public comment period and modifications to SWMPC's cost allocation plan.

▪ **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

None

▪ **MDOT Updates**

Welch reported that MDOT was still waiting on obligation authority that would only come with an extension of MAP-21 past May 31. Congress was debating a funding extension through July 31.

Welch also said that different state proposals were being looked at after Proposal 1. One proposal being discussed would raise some road revenue by eliminating the Complete Streets Advisory Council.

▪ **News Items of Interest**

None

11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT at 11:47 AM.

Next meeting is June 15, 2015 at 10:30 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

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

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