

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
Policy Committee

**Minutes**

July 16, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Scherwitz with support by Fenderbosch to approve the Joint Minutes of the TAC and Policy meeting minutes of the June 18, 2012. **Motion passed.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**4. STAFF REPORT:**

- Thomas reported that he attended a conference in June put on by REMI, the economic modeling firm that developed the software used for MDOT population, housing, and employment projection. Thomas gave a very brief overview of the modeling process developed by REMI and took the time to remind committee members that a revised set of TAZ-level projections for the regions will need to be approved for incorporation into the travel demand modeling process that MDOT performs for long range plan updates. Staff will likely ask for approval of these projections at the August TwinCATS meetings.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORT**

- **Walk and Roll**

Thomas reminded the committee of the TwinCATS Complete Streets Policy that was officially approved in June. He reported that the Walk and Roll subcommittee had not met in July, but that the subcommittee was still active, currently focusing efforts on developing a top-ten list of non-motorized projects.

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

None

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

Pippen reported that there will be an August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at 9:00am at Michigan Works in Benton Harbor to discuss area transportation coordination policy and moving forward with Berrien County transit consolidation. The KFH consulting firm will be present via phone.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**

None

## 6. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2010	NA			All projects have been completed	12-Mar	
2011		Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	Construction has started; <b>July 2012:</b> Should be completed by July 20	July 2012	
		Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal</del>	Completed	June 2012	
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Lincoln Ave, Lincoln Rd to Maiden Ln</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>Pipestone Rd and River Rd</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	<del>California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	<del>Berrien County Road Commission</del>	<del>Napier Ave. 200' section west of I-94</del>	Completed	12-Mar	
	108921	MDOT	US 31 freeway signing upgrade	let, construction April-Aug 2012-Completed	June 2012	
	88086	MDOT	I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work	Bridge is open for traffic-complete in August-Completed	June 2012	
	112949	MDOT	I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work	PE phase is complete, add to 5 year plan for 2017 construction Completed-	June 2012	
	113014	MDOT	M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave	June-September construction 2012-Completed	June 2012	
	NA	MDOT	I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale	Completed	12-Mar	
	109704	MDOT	I-94 BL Glenlord Rd to Pearl St	Completed	12-Mar	
	108174	MDOT	I-94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN	Completed	12-Mar	
	109087	MDOT	I-196 under Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	NA	St. Joseph	<del>S State St and Kingsley Ave</del>	<del>done and advanced construct</del> <del>repayment done</del>	12-Mar	
	NA	Village of Stevensville	John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk	Completed	12-Mar	

	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. <b>July 2012:</b> Still waiting on permission from MDOT to install Main St. shelter. May have to install in Michigan Works parking lot, though this would make route less efficient.	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012;	12-Feb	
2012	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	construction July 2012, bid savings of \$18,000; Advance construct dollars; <b>July 2012:</b> Construction has begun	July 2012	18,500
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap; <b>July 2012:</b> Construction to start after Labor Day	July 2012	
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	<b>July 2012:</b> September let, with construction starting in spring '13	July 2012	
	<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 Paw Paw)-	Move to 2013	12-Mar	
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	July-September Letting; <b>July 2012:</b> September let date, with approval needed from Joe Harris in Benton Harbor; already obligated (delay would just push construction back to 2013)	July 2012	
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	Construction July 23; \$10,000 bid savings; construction started	June 2012	10,000
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	12-Mar	
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Schedule for October letting;	June 2012	
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; <b>July 2012:</b> Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design;	July 2012	

	110931	MDOT	I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge)	design moved back to 2013	12-Mar	
	109093	MDOT	I-94 under M-63 (bridge)	Bridge closing today, Construction completed by August 18	June 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	<b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	<b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar	

Panozzo asked Purvis who at MDOT he has been talking too about getting permission to place a bus shelter on Main St. in Benton Harbor. Purvis responded that Kim Gallagher at SWMPC has been leading those discussions and that he wasn't sure exactly who the MDOT contact was. Panozzo asked Lenze if he could do anything to help the process of getting the shelter approved, and Lenze responded that he would look into it. Pippen added that Darrell Harden has been the person at MDOT with whom the shelter approval discussions have been occurring. Judd asked about the ability to put the bus stop/shelter in the Michigan Works parking lot. Purvis responded that this is a possibility, but that doing so would slow down the route.

Fenderbosch noted that a sealing project on M-63, in conjunction with the bridge closing on M-63 over I-94, has been a major inconvenience for businesses in the area. Jolivette responded that MDOT had little control over the timing of the smaller sealing project in the bidding process, but that they would try to get better at synchronizing different construction projects that impact a given area.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Unified Planning Work Program

Thomas gave an overview of the draft FY 2013 UWP, going through its table of contents, and its updated organization that provides more of an emphasis on describing the substantive areas of transportation planning that SWMPC staff engage in.

A motion was made by Merritt with support by Stauffer to put the draft FY 2013 UWP out for public comment. **Motion passed**

- Legislative Updates-Federal and State

Thomas reported on the passage of the federal transportation bill MAP-21. A two-year bill, MAP-21 maintains the population threshold for MPOs at 50,000.

Merritt discussed progress that the state Complete Streets Committee has made, saying that there is a draft 2-page policy out. Merritt encouraged TwinCATS committee members to read the policy and provide feedback.

Merritt also provided an update on the Committee to Fix Berrien Roads, saying that the committee has been continuing its outreach efforts in advance of the November millage vote, recently holding meetings in Lincoln Township and Stevensville to discuss the state of the county's road network and its funding.

Panozzo inquired whether the NATS and TwinCATS committees ever meet jointly and whether thought has been given to combining their planning activities. Lenze responded that thought is given to the separate status of the two MPOs every year, but so far there has been no movement to combine them. Scherwitz said that joint meetings are held periodically, usually in response to a guest speaker or to address a major county-wide planning issue. Scherwitz also added that he attended regular meetings over a three-county region in northern Michigan that were structured very similarly to TwinCATS meetings and functioned well over the larger geographic area. Judd added that joint meetings would need to cover much overlapping ground, since the two MPOs receive separate funding streams for transportation projects. Purvis speculated that there may be a push from the state to combine MPOs at some point, given the state's new push to penalize the existence of multiple transit agencies in a single county.

Scherwitz raised the issue of a potential gravel mine being developed off of M-139, asking engineers what impact access to this gravel might have on road construction costs and advising that committee members ought to provide input to the mine approval process..

#### **8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Johnson informed committee members of a movie event that the Disability Network is putting on, with a screening of Music Within, a movie about the experiences of a disable Vietnam veteran, to be held at the Disability Network building in St. Joseph from 12 to 2pm on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thomas informed the committee that he will be leaving his position with SWMPC in September to return to school, and that he will attend in last TwinCATS meetings in August.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:05 a.m.**

- Next meeting is **scheduled for August 20, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**