

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes

August 15, 2011

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph Erin Kercheval, MDOT Coloma TSC Ray Lenze, MDOT Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission William Redman, Berrien County Planning Commission Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Bruno Trapikas, Village of Shoreham Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gast, Lake Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Bill Purvis, TCATA Representative, Cornerstone Alliance Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Kevin Wordelman, Berrien County Planning Commission
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of Southwest Michigan Ron Frank, Child and Family Services

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:49a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Scherwitz, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2011 Policy meeting. Motion approved unanimously with no corrections.*

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Complete Streets Workshop update**

Thomas discussed the workshop that was held in Berrien Springs and was led by Nancy Krupiarz from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. The presentation discussed best practices and how to engage and organize citizens.

- **Complete Streets Policy Update**

Darrell Harden from MDOT presented information on Public Acts 134 and 135. And also discussed what MDOT must do. The 4 items that MDOT must do is:

1. Adopt a complete streets policy by August of 2012
2. Develop a model policy for local communities
3. Prepare a 5 year program for non-motorized programs according to Act 51
4. Consult with local agencies

Harden will provide the presentation to SWMPC staff and SWMPC staff will provide the presentation on the website.

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference**

Thomas discussed the annual MTPA conference that he and Flowers attended and discussed the major focus areas of the conference which were: Long Range Planning, Performance Measures, Freight Planning, and Asset Management. These topics were timely since SWMPC Staff will begin updating the long range plan.

- **Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference**

Flowers discussed the conference will be held in Fort Wayne, IN October 2-5, 2011. Handouts for the conference were offered to attendees.

5. Committee Reports

- **Walk and Roll**

Thomas discussed the progress of the Walk and Roll Subcommittee and that the final plan will not feature a lot of detail about funding projects and the implementation of projects. The main focus will be on current conditions in the region, design suggestions, and importance of interconnectedness throughout the region and to other regions.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition**

Pippen discussed the 3 major projects that the group is working on:

1. Application for reduced fare card and developing the process for the applicants
2. Para-transit services with Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
3. Mi Way website development to access various transportation options based on trip destination

- **Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**

Johnson stated that the group co-hosted a webinar from the Easter Seals Project Action on the environmental barriers for transit.

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

Johnson stated that the RICC group is a grassroots group that advocated transit for people with developmental disabilities and that there will be a transportation workgroup teleconference on August 25.

- **Twin City Dial-A-Ride Local Advisory Committee**

Pippen stated that this group is working on the reduced fare applications along with the Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Revised by-laws**

Flowers stated that a final signature was received and that the bylaws will be updated and put on the website.

- **Unified Work Program**

Fiscal year 2012 unified work program was approved by the SWMPC Board and has been submitted to MDOT and FHWA for final review.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP Amendments**

- **MDOT**

- Adding to year 2012, project name I-94 (JN 113585), from Red Arrow Highway (exit 16) for 3.0 miles easterly to Livingston Road. I-94 WB exit and entrance loop at exit 16. PE phase work for a federal cost of \$1,800,000 and state cost of \$200,000 for a total phase cost of \$2,000,000. Total project cost is \$15,000,000.
- Adding to year 2013, project name I-94 (JN 113585), from Red Arrow Highway (exit 16) for 3.0 miles easterly to Livingston Road. I-94 WB exit and entrance loop at exit 16. ROW phase work for a federal cost of \$45,000 and state cost of \$5,000 for a total phase cost of \$50,000. Total project cost is \$15,000,000.

*Motion by Fenderbosch and second by Scherwitz to add these projects into the 2011-2014 TIP. **Motion passed.***

- **City of St. Joseph**

- Modifying FY 2011 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Modifying FY 2012 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Federal and Total Phase Costs from \$191,000 to \$69,000 and changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Modifying FY 2013 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Federal and Total Phase Costs from \$173,000 to \$0 and changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Adding to FY 2012, project name Napier Ave (Niles Avenue/M-63 to Langley Avenue). Resurface 0.29 miles. Construction cost of \$532,000 and a total project cost of \$638,600. This project would be moved from the Illustrative List and added to the 2012 TIP.
- A letter from St. Joseph dated August 15, 2011 was distributed, explaining that the State Street and Kingsley projects in FY 2012 and FY 2013 came under budget by a total of \$295,000 and stating St. Joseph's desire to use these funds as the federal match for the amended Napier Ave project, which initially had a federal match of \$435,600.
- Merritt reiterated his concern expressed in the preceding Technical Committee meeting about the idea of moving funds based solely on jurisdiction, saying that in the future he would like to see a full discussion of the range of Illustrative List projects before one is amended into the TIP.
- Motion by Scherwitz and second by Stauffer to amend the State St and Kingsley Ave projects and to move the Napier Ave Project from the illustrative list, adding it to the 2012 TIP.

Motion passed.

- **MDOT 2012-2015 projects update**

Woolcock had asked that this be on the agenda and since she was not able to attend there was no update.

- **Travel Demand Model data**

Thomas handed out community based data for 2010 housing and population maps for review by each municipality. He stated that this was part of the Long Range Plan modeling update that SWMPC staff is working on with MDOT. He asked to review the information for accuracy.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Merritt discussed a best management practices conference for road officials. He stated that they discussed aspects of the road and how to continue to fund roadway projects, given that Michigan is facing a \$1 billion dollar deficit to fund road projects. He said that it was a candid conversation and really helped everyone understand the funding challenge that Michigan is facing

Lenze stated that as of September 30, the transportation trust fund tax sunsets unless Congress reauthorizes, this would be similar to the FAA shut down that occurred during this year.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:47a.m. Motion by Judd and second by Stauffer.

- Next meeting is **September 19, 2011 at 10:30am**

Compiled by Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners August 2011