

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes

August 20, 2012

10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	<p>Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph 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 Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Don Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township</p>
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission 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 William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Bill Purvis, TCATA Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) 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</p>
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	<p>Suzann Flowers Gataum Mani Trevor Thomas</p>
OTHERS PRESENT:	<p>Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Matt Kodis, Michigan Works John Preston, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport</p>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:30a.m. Judd led the group in introductions and Gautam Mani introduced himself as the new transportation planner who will step in for Trevor Thomas when he departs in a couple of weeks.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Scherwitz with support by Panozzo to approve the Policy meeting minutes from the July 16, 2012. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Annual Conference**
Flowers discussed the annual transportation conference that took place in Holland, MI and was focused on sustainability. Mani discussed the mobile workshop tours of the lithium ion battery facility in Holland and the roundtable discussion that took place with energy suppliers. He also mentioned sessions regarding MAP-21, climate change, and roadway materials that would promote a more sustainable transportation future.
- **Trevor Thomas Departure**
Flowers mentioned that the August 2012 meetings would be Thomas’ last TwinCATS Committee meetings. Thomas arrived several minutes later and the group thanked him with a strong round of applause for all that he contributed to the region over the past several years.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**
Flowers reported that the Committee has taken a short break to work on the development of the Top Ten list of projects and how to make use of that list in the development of projects for the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**
Joanne Johnson reported that members of RICC will be attending the MDOT’s Long Range Transportation Plan update meeting on Wednesday August 22, 2012 from 5:00-7:00p.m. at Michigan Works in Benton Harbor.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
No updates were provided to MPO staff.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
No updates were provided to MPO staff.

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	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	Completed	July 2012	

		Commission				
		Berrien County Road Commission	Napier and Colfax-CMAQ traffic signal	Completed	June 2012	
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	Lincoln Ave, Lincoln Rd to Maiden Ln	Completed	12-Mar	
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	Pipestone Rd and River Rd	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	Napier Ave. 200' section west of I 94	Completed	12-Mar	
	108921	MDOT	US 31 freeway signing upgrade	Completed	June 2012	
	88086	MDOT	I 94 under John Beers Rd bridge work	Completed	June 2012	
	112949	MDOT	I 94 at I 196 and M 140 culvert inspection and bridge work	Completed-	June 2012	
	113014	MDOT	M 63 from I 94 to Midway Ave	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	S State St and Kingsley Ave	Completed	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. July 2012: 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; July 2012: Construction has begun; should be completed by the 31st	August 2012	18,500
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap; July 2012: Construction to start after Labor Day; project is let, will start after Labor Day and completed by mid November	August 2012	
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13	August 2012	
	107686	St. Joseph	South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave	Completed		
		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; July 2012: September let date, with approval needed from Joe Harris in	August 2012	

				Benton Harbor; already obligated (delay would just push construction back to 2013); funds obligated construction summer 2013		
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	Completed	August 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; returned to region to funding to move forward	August 2012	
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; July 2012: Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design; the bridge was made longer to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014	August 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)	Completed	August 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar	

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Unified Planning Work Program

Flowers stated that the public comment period lasted 10 days and no public comments were received to discuss with the Committee.

A motion was made by Scherwitz with support by Merritt to approve TwinCATS FY 2013 UWP. **Motion passed**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Socio-Economic Data for Long Range Plan**

Thomas discussed that there were some numbers displayed in the data that was received from MDOT and that some neighborhood transportation analysis zones had huge spikes or dips from 2010 to 2015 and then flattened out. Thomas brought this up to Brad Sharlow at MDOT who does the modeling for the long range transportation plan and they developed a strategy to deal with those anomalies. Thomas will be finalizing those numbers and placing the information on the website for the Committee members to review. The final approval of those numbers will be placed on the September agenda for the Committees to vote upon and get to MDOT to start the modeling.

- **TIP Amendments**

There were not TIP amendments to process this month.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**

Flowers mentioned that at the MTPA Conference there was not much guidance given on the new MAP-21 legislation. She mentioned that when information is received it will be relayed to the Committee members.

- **State**

Flowers reported the information that Senator John Proos provided at the TAC meeting. He mentioned the lame duck session and outlined what he thought would be the total working days for the Legislature beginning September 4. He also mentioned that he was not sure the focus that transportation would have in the fall schedule. He will be working with other members to get the 1-year federal match bill that he sponsored to be extended beyond one year at a time.

Merritt attended best practices workshop hosted by state Senate transportation committee members Olson and Geiss regarding best practices on roads and bridges. He stated that it covered legislation, new building materials, and the functions of MPOs will be as we move towards a more performance based transportation system. Panozzo asked what that meant for the Committees and Lenze added that the MPO will need to track the projects developed through the long range plan process and how those projects are meeting the goals of the long range plan. Merritt also mentioned that there will be better tracking of materials, and the life of the project.

Merritt provided the following update on bills that were at the State legislature this past legislative year and to watch these bills for any action once the new session begins:

- HB 5298-fuel tax to whole sale tax and funding the commercial corridor fund (CCF)
- HG 1530-increase registration fee, money would go to MTF then switch to CCF
- HB 5301-amend PA 51
- HB 5303-CCF
- HB 5304-Act 51 amendment that would stop communities receiving less than 50,000 from MTF from receiving those funds and money would go to county road commissions along with the responsibility to maintain the jurisdictions roads
- HB 5312-allow counties to have an optional registration fee for their county residents
- HB 5007-MDOT performance audits of road agencies

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

-Thomas thanked the Committee members for making his time here so enjoyable.

-Jolivette stated that Paul South had returned from Afghanistan and would be moving to the MDOT Southwest facility as a contracts manager. Pete Pfiffer will be the interim manager at the Coloma TSC office.

-Flowers stated that there will be a climate change workshop hosted by SWMPC, and the Two Rivers Coalition on September 12, 2012 with no fee and that Peter Sinclair would be the keynote speaker.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 a.m.

- Next meeting is **scheduled for September 17, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, 2012