

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee

Minutes
September 17, 2012
10:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	<p>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 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 John Gast, Lake Charter Township John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region 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 Gautam Mani</p>
OTHERS PRESENT:	<p>Joanne Johnson, Disability Network</p>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Judd called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Scherwitz with support by Stauffer to approve the minutes of the meeting from August 20, 2012.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received for the month of September.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Southwest Michigan Traffic Safety Committee**
Mani discussed the intelligent vehicles project taking place in Ann Arbor. 3,000 vehicles are being deployed with technology to potentially avoid collisions and communicate with one another on the road. Another topic discussed was the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law, which will cost taxpayers more money via the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Fund. The discussion also centered on changes to cell phone use while driving, although legislators said not to expect anything; we will have to rely on some common sense from drivers.
- **Climate Change Workshop**
Mani attended Peter Sinclair's workshop on climate change. Sinclair went through many different scenarios for Michigan's climate over the next century, but remained optimistic about our ability to mitigate climate change through use of renewable energy and battery-operated vehicles.
- **MAP-21 Presentation**
Flowers ran through a summary of the webinars attended on MAP-21. According to Flowers, among the key highlights were:
 - Development of a national freight policy
 - Performance measures and stricter reporting requirements across the board
 - Reduction in dollars for non-motorized programs
 - Focus on asset management plans
 - Still awaiting some guidance on distribution of funds

Purvis stated that any transit investments other than vehicles will have to come from local match dollars (i.e. buildings, bus stops, real-time technology upgrades).

Jolivette stated that more MDOT projects will be accelerated through use of contracts as a result of MAP-21.

Panozzo discussed concerns over congestion on I-94 near Benton Harbor/St.Joe.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**
Mani summarized the Walk and Roll subcommittee meeting from earlier in the morning. Mani stated that the committee would be leaving project prioritization up to the jurisdictions, with the caveat of encouraging them to focus primarily on safety and connectivity when choosing the projects.
- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**
No report was received.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
No report was received.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Purvis discussed TCATA's ADA Transit Plan. The plan provides service within a ¾ mile radius of the fixed route to persons with disabilities, as required by ADA. Johnson stated that the plan will benefit individuals who previously could not use TCATA between 6 and 10 PM due to disability. Johnson stated that DNSWM was very pleased with the plan and the way that it provides services to individuals who previously had no access.

6. Project Updates

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2011						
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	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 31 st ; Completed	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; Underway	August 2012	
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13; bid spring 2013	August 2012	
		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 Benton Harbor; already obligated	August 2012	

				(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	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012 : Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); September 2012 : Continued Service	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	
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	Move to 2013	March 2012	
	112089	Benton Harbor	Riverview Dr. to Colfax Ave.	Mill and resurface road, minor drainage improvements, ADA sidewalk ramp replacements		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	Restore and rehabilitate road with paved shoulders		
	115751	MDOT	I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)	2 course HMA over scratch course on existing concrete-PE phase		
	113585	MDOT	I-94 WB (On I-94 from Red Arrow Highway for 3.0	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase		

			miles to Livingston Road)			
	113586	MDOT	I-94 (From Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston Road)	Mill existing and place 2 course HMA overlay-ROW phase		
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	Bridge Replacement-CON phase-AC project		
	114537	St. Joseph	Niles Ave. to Langley Ave	Milling off existing pavement, new storm sewer, ADA ramps, ACC project		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses			
		TCATA	Expanded hours-JARC grant			
		TCATA	Mobility manager grant			
		TCATA	New line haul to Stevensville			
		TCATA	Bus operations			

7. OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mani described efforts undertaken by former planner Trevor Thomas to correct unusual spikes in the SE data for MDOT's projections. Mani had sent out an email asking for any corrections or questions to data, and received no responses.

A motion by Scherwitz with support by Purvis to approve the Socioeconomic Data for the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. **Motion passed.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Long Range Plan Goals**

Mani discussed how these goals attempted to shorten the "laundry list" in the previous long range plan. They attempted to address maintenance of the current system, with greater mobility options and environmental considerations.

A motion by Panozzo with support by Hodge to approve the Long Range Plan Goals, objectives, and performance measures. **Motion passed.**

- **Meetings for FY 2013**

January 28, February 25, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16. (Dates in January and February are because of holidays falling on a Monday).

A motion by Panozzo with support by Pervis to approve the dates as presented by Flowers and to publish those dates to the public. **Motion passed.**

- **Officer Nominations**

Judd stated that they would be taking nominations for TwinCATS Chair and Vice-Chair until the October meeting. If no one volunteered or nominated others, Judd stated that he and Scherwitz would be happy to continue as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

- **TIP Amendments**
 - **MDOT**
 - FY 2013 amending MDOT project I-94 ROW phase, JN 113585 with a change in project limits, project length from 3.0 miles to 7.391 miles, and project description.

A motion by Purvis with support by Panozzo to recommend that the MDOT project be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**
 - **Federal**

Flowers stated that since there was a short presentation regarding MAP-21 that if no one had anything that they wanted to add, that would be sufficient for this update.
 - **State**

Merritt stated that Fix Berrien Roads would be giving a presentation on Monday at 6:00 p.m.at the St. Joseph City Council. Merritt stated that the group is willing to give presentations at other locations as well.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Johnson noted three upcoming events with the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan:

- September 25- All inclusive care for the elderly open house and public resource center- 3:30-6 PM
- September 28- Presidential Forum on Disability Issues (via Webcast) (12:30- 3:30 PM) at DNSWM, 2900 Lakeview Avenue.
- October 9th at DNSWM- 1 PM- discussion of Affordable Care Act and its implications for persons with disabilities.

Stauffer stated that the CMAQ project on John Beers Road was well received. He stated that this was a great asset to St. Joseph Township community along with Lincoln Township.

Scherwitz stated that he had been named Airport Manager of the Year by the Michigan Association of Airport Executives. Committee members congratulated him on his great achievement.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 11:26 a.m.

- Next meeting is **scheduled for October 15, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

Compiled by Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, 2012