

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Policy Committee

Minutes

September 21, 2015

10:30 A.M.

Kinexus- Lighthouse Room, 499 W Main St, Benton Harbor

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:	Denise Cook, St. Joseph Charter Township Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Matt Galbraith, MDOT Statewide Planning William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Deb Kavanaugh-Frank, Hagar Township John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bill Chickering, Berrien County Board of Commissioners Vince DesJardins, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Juan Ganum, City of Bridgman John Gast, Lake Charter Township Representative, Sodus Township Jason Latham, MDOT Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Jonathan Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Stauffer called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Fowler with support by Purvis to approve the minutes of the August Policy meeting. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

4. STAFF REPORT

- **TAMC-IRT Reporting Tool for Act 51 Agencies (Excluding Transit!)**

Gallagher and Mani shared that they had taken part in a training on how to use the Investment Reporting Tool from the Transportation Asset Management Council. This tool is used to report how communities are using their Act 51 funds. Mani said that there were Youtube videos available on how to use the tool, as well as a Powerpoint presentation that is now available at: <http://tamc.mcgi.state.mi.us/MITRP/document.aspx?id=1277>. Mani said that the reason the state was focused on training Act 51 agencies on reporting is that most agencies are not reporting right now. Beginning October 1, the state will start pulling funding from agencies that do not report.

Gallagher focused on showcasing some of the tools that are available through the TAMC data dashboards. You can look at the pavement and bridge conditions data in your city, village or county, in addition to expenditures on regular maintenance and winter maintenance. These dashboards are available on the TAMC website.

- **Local Road Safety Plan Update**

There were no updates on the Local Road Safety Plan.

- **Safety Funds**

Mani said that several committee members had approached SWMPC staff about the lack of projects in our area that are funded using federal safety funds. These projects are selected through the statewide competitive process, and during at least the last two TIP cycles, TwinCATS has had no locally-generated safety projects. Despite the fact that we have safety issues in our area, there have not been very many applications for safety funds. Mani said that staff were compiling a map of K (Fatal) or A (Incapacitating) Injuries throughout the TwinCATS area over the past three years, as this will be important in making applications competitive.

Mani said that based on past years' history, MDOT usually has a deadline of August for safety projects for two fiscal years in the future. In other words, projects seeking FY 2018 funding will need to submit applications by August of 2016. This gives TwinCATS member communities almost eleven months to submit applications. Federal safety funds can be used on any road. It does not have to be federal-aid eligible.

- **Project Selection Criteria**

Mani said that MPO Project selection criteria subcommittee had not yet met. They had struggled to find a meeting date that fit all committee members schedules. Mani said that the goal of the group was to create criteria to ensure that projects selected for the 2017-2020 TIP were consistent with and furthered the TwinCATS long range plan goals. Gallagher also said that having a process in place was important for transparency purposes as well in order to let the public know how projects are being selected and what factors determine how their taxpayer dollars are used to fund transportation.

5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Gallagher said that she would be sending the RFP to MDOT within about a week for the Countywide Fixed Route Service plan. Gallagher also said that she was working with TCATA on a new line haul route that would follow much of the old green route. Gallagher said that the

existing line haul routes were quite popular because they have been running on time and serve important destinations.

- **TCATA Updates**

Purvis said that TCATA had received one liquid propane (LP) bus that he had ordered. The buses can run for two days on liquid propane. They would be getting four of those buses now and five more later. Purvis said that TCATA was struggling to figure out how to maintain service when it loses \$400,000 in funding in FY 2017.

Johnson also wanted to highlight that the Disability Network Advocacy Academy had worked during the summer to develop a web page for paratransit ride bookings. Paratransit service must compliment the fixed route system. With TCATA, that program is called TCATA Access.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No report.

- **Walk and Roll Report**

No report.

7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

None

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Obligation Thermometer-** Mani commended TwinCATS member communities on getting 100% of their scheduled FY 2015 projects obligated.

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 nothing else; December 2012 -already been awarded; November 2013: not funded	November 2013		
		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	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	March 2015		

				be done in June 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	September 2015: Starting work on the east side of the tracks. Sidewalks are very narrow.	September 2015		
2015		Berrien County	Marquette Woods Road Restore and Rehab/Sidewalks	September 2015: Construction has started	September 2015		
		Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	August 2015: Obligated; September 4th Construction will begin	August 2015		
		City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone St at Britain Avenue Traffic Signal	August 2015: Submitted for Obligation	August 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Botham Avenue	Construction will be completed by end of September. Some funds are left over.	September 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Park St. Bridge	Construction began after Labor Day.	September 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	Completed	September 2015		
		MDOT	M-63 Resurfacing	This summer	May 2015		
2016		City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Wall St Traffic Signal	Moving forward	September 2015		
		Berrien County	Pipestone @ Meijer Traffic Signal	CMAQ Eligible	September 2015		
		Berrien County	Shawnee Road from Jericho to Bridgman City limits	Still on track	September 2015		

9. OLD BUSINESS

- **General Program Accounts Policy**

Mani and Gallagher shared the draft GPA policy with TwinCATS committee members once again. Mani said that this was a useful way of grouping projects so that minor changes to costs or scope could be made without going through the full amendment process. Mani said that SWMPC was proposing that GPAs not be used for local projects but only for MDOT projects, as these are the projects that tend to have the most amendments.

Dewey said that based on new guidance regarding GPAs, two of the categories listed are not actual GPAs anymore. These categories are rail safety and pre-construction phases. Mani said SWMPC staff would take a look back through that guidance document and make changes and bring the policy back up for a vote at next month's meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

▪ **FY 2016 Meeting Dates**

The following meeting dates were selected:

October 19, 2015	April 18, 2016
November 16, 2015	May 16, 2016
<i>December 14, 2015</i>	June 20, 2016
January 25, 2016	July 18, 2016
February 22, 2016	August 15, 2016
March 21, 2016	September 19, 2016

The timing of the meetings will remain the same. TAC will meet at 9:00 AM and the Policy Committee will meet at 10:30 AM on those dates.

A motion by Hodge with support by Lynch to approve the FY 2016 Meeting Dates. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

Dewey said that the latest MAP-21 extension expires October 29, and that Congress will need to pass new legislation or another extension in order for transportation funding to continue.

Dewey reported that Notices of Proposed Rulemakings were continuing to be released. The final rule on safety performance measures is expected in November. The final rule on Metro and Statewide Planning is anticipated sometime in July 2016. The pavement and bridge condition rule is expected sometime in 2016. The system performance rulemaking is expected to be available for public comment in November of 2015.

In addition, Federal Highway's Financial System, FMIS, will be down September 26 for a period of about five weeks.

▪ **MDOT Updates**

Lanum shared that the MPO UWPs and cost allocation plans had been approved, so SWMPC staff would continue to receive funding come October 1.

In addition, Galbraith said that the US Congress was continuing to consider transportation legislation, though it is very likely that we will receive additional short term funding extensions.

The state legislature is focused on roads once again after handling the scandal involving two House members.

- **News Items of Interest**

- Park(ing) Day

Mani pointed out that Benton Harbor and St. Joseph had each hosted events for Park(ing) Day. Park(ing) Day is an international, annual event that highlights the potential alternative uses of parking spaces as public parks or relaxation areas. It also highlights the possibility of creating a better balance between cars and automobiles in cities.

11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Jolivette shared that with the loss of two counties from the Southwest Region to the Grand Region, the MDOT Southwest Region was reorganizing. The Coloma and Kalamazoo TSC offices have been rolled together under a single structure; however, the Coloma office will still remain functional and staff will not be moving to Kalamazoo.

12. ADJOURNMENT at 11:13 AM.

Next meeting is October 19, 2015 at 10:30 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

Compiled by: Gautam Mani, SWMPC Planner, 2015.

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