



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TwinCATS Seeking Public Input for the Long Range Transportation Plan

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) is holding an open house to provide information and solicit comments on “Principles in Motion,” the new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) for the Benton Harbor–St. Joseph area. TwinCATS, comprised of local and state officials, sets regional transportation goals, and determines how to allocate federal transportation funds. The LRP acts as a blueprint for transportation investments over the next 25 years.

During the open house, TwinCATS staff will have a brief presentation about the LRP, followed by opportunities to ask questions and provide comments. Topics for discussion include how to maintain and improve the transportation system for everyone including transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and freight haulers.

The open house is scheduled for **Tuesday November 13, 2018, 5:30 pm – 7 pm at the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission office, 376 W. Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.**

The draft LRP will be available on, or before, November 5th at [www.swmpc.org/twincats2045.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/twincats2045.asp).

Copies of the draft plan will also be available at

the open house for attendees to comment on. The public may also provide comments on the LRP in the following ways:

Online: [www.swmpc.org/twincats2045.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/twincats2045.asp)

Email: [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org)

Phone: (269) 925-1137 x 1524

Mail: SWMPC, 376. W Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

After reviewing recommendations and public comments, the TwinCATS Policy Committee will vote to approve the LRP at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2018, at 9:30 am, at Kinexus, 499 W Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. TwinCATS meetings are open to the public.

If you would like a printed version of the draft plan before the open house or TwinCATS meeting, need to request accommodations, or have any questions or comments about the plan, please email Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org), or call (269) 925 1137 x 1524.

*Transportation planning in the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph urbanized area is facilitated by the Twin Cities Area transportation Study (TwinCATS). TwinCATS is part of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process that, under federal regulation, provides a forum where local official, public transportation providers, and state agency representatives can come together to cooperatively plan for the region’s current and future transportation needs. It establishes the region’s eligibility to*

*receive  
federal funds for transportation projects.*

*The TwinCATS Policy Committee consists of one local official from each of the 12 Jurisdictions in the urbanized area (Benton Harbor, Bridgman, St. Joseph, Shoreham, Stevensville, Benton Charter Twp., Hagar Twp., Lake Charter Twp., Lincoln Charter Twp., Royalton Twp., Sodus Twp., and St. Joseph Charter Twp.) The committee also includes representatives from Berrien County, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Twin Cities Area*

*Transportation Authority (TCATA).*

**Primary Contact**

Kim Gallagher  
Senior Planner  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
Email: [gallagherk@swmpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)  
Phone: 269-925-1137 x 1518

**Secondary Contact**

Brandon Kovnat  
Associate Planner  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
Email: [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org)  
Phone: 269-925-1137 x 1524