

Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
1123 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Friday March 1, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Call in number is 605-477-2100, and access code is 1076458#.

AGENDA

Meeting Attendees

Dave Austin- William and Works (representing Lincoln Charter Township)
Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission
Pamela Boyd, MDOT (via phone)
Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor
Suzann Flowers, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
John Gast, Lake Township
Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township
Joanne Johnson, Disability Network-Southwest Michigan
Matt Kodis, Michigan Works Berrien-Cass-Van Buren
Gautam Mani, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
John Olson, Merritt Engineering (representing the Village of Shoreham)
Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
Wayne Schoonover, Berrien County Road Commission
Terrie Smith- Lincoln Charter Township
Steve Tilly, Royalton Township
Sarah Woolcock- MDOT- Coloma TSC
Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph

1. Meeting Purpose and Structure

Mani opened the meeting at 1:05 PM. Mani stated that the purpose of the meeting was to make a preliminary selection of projects for the 2014-2017 TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and that public comment could be made at any time in the meeting.

2. Additional Obligation Authority

Boyd called in via telephone and explained a letter from MDOT dated February 22, 2013. Due to leftover American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding, as well as inability of local jurisdictions to meet local match, MDOT had a statewide balance of 54.3 million in STP obligation authority at the end of 2012.

Decisions were made in a work group as to how to divide this obligation authority, and ultimately a formula was created to distribute funds to various MPOs, small urban areas, and TMAs. As a result of this process, TwinCATS has an additional **\$453,972** in obligation authority for 2013. This authority would have to be obligated in 2013, or they would go back into a pool that all small MPOs would be able to access through a competitive process. To ensure that the obligation authority is spent on time, Boyd advised that projects would need to be submitted for grade inspection by May.

Berndt asked how small urban obligation authority would operate. Boyd suggested that meetings be scheduled on a local level to determine whether projects could be advanced.

Berndt suggested that the additional TwinCATS authority be spent on the Hollywood Road advanced construct (AC) project in 2013. This project is ready to be submitted for grade inspection, and has local match available. Also, by spending the authority now, it would free up money for other projects in 2014-2017.

3. Project selection process

Mani stated that SWMPC staff had prepared a list of locations of projects, including those by MDOT, in each TwinCATS jurisdiction over the past three years. Berndt noted that MDOT projects are not included in the local project selection process. Mani and Flowers acknowledged that, but stated that the purpose of the listing was to get subcommittee members to think about whether projects were being distributed fairly, and at the same time, whether they were going to areas where they would have the highest impact on regional population. Mani stated these geographical listings and long range plan goals were not meant to set rigid criteria for selection, because ultimately the TwinCATS Policy Committee could decide upon projects as they saw fit.

History of Projects

	2011	2012	2013
City of St. Joseph	1	5	1
Benton Harbor	2	1	2
Bridgman		1	1
Shoreham			
Michiana			
Grand Beach			
Benton Twp	4	3	2
Sodus Twp			
Royalton Twp			
Lake Twp	1		
Lincoln Twp			
St. Joe Twp	1		2
Stevensville	2		

**transit projects are not considered in this table.*

4. Project Selection

<i>Funding Years</i>	<i>Surface Transportation Funds</i>	<i>Surface Transportation Funds Requested</i>	<i>Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Berrien</i>
2014	\$805,524	\$1,080,444	\$578,210.29*
2015**	\$821,634.48	\$3,652,808	\$578,210.29*
2016**	\$838,067.16	\$1,324,448	\$578,210.29*
2017**	\$854,828.50	\$1,585,165	\$578,210.29*

**Funds already programmed*

***Current transportation legislation expires at the end of FY 2014 and there is no guarantee that there will be CMAQ funds available after FY 2014*

The table above reflects STP targets and initial requests for STP funds. Mani stated that we had an excess request in each year. Berndt stated that with the Hollywood Road project programmed for the additional obligation authority in 2013, the project would only need \$286,444 in 2014, leaving \$519,080 in additional funds for 2014.

Zebell asked whether construction savings of \$20,000 in 2012 on the Napier Avenue would be available for expenditure in 2013 and beyond. Woolcock said she would look into it. [After the meeting, Woolcock found that the \$20,000 in savings was rolled into the additional obligation authority awarded to TwinCATS for 2013].

Berndt and Zebell suggested that the first step to reducing the excess request might be to go through the spreadsheet and list out the traffic count and PASER ratings for each, which the group did. While the project requests were being described, Johnson asked a question of the possibility of bike lanes on Hilltop Road. Berndt said that bike lanes were in place from Cleveland to Lakeshore, and right of way considerations kept them from extending further.

Flowers asked what the critical ADT threshold was to convert a roadway from 4 to 3 lanes. Berndt said that this figure was around 12,000.

Cook suggested that the next step to reduce the excess requests was to have each community identify their top priority projects, and then shift them around to line up with funding levels.

The top priorities were:

- City of Benton Harbor- Colfax Avenue resurfacing
- City of St. Joseph- Botham Avenue resurfacing
- Village of Shoreham- Brown School Road resurfacing
- St. Joseph Township- Hilltop Road
- Lincoln Charter Township- Marquette Woods Road

An issue arose with the Brown School Road and Marquette Woods Road projects both being scheduled for 2014, when funds would not be available. Olson stated that Brown School Road

was already in poor condition, and waiting would cause further deterioration. Smith and Austin stated that the Marquette Woods traffic had substantially increased since Meijer opened, and that safety was a major concern. Given different combinations of funding, Cook suggested that the Shoreham project be programmed for 2014.

Zebell argued that because the City of Bridgman received almost all of the ARRA funding, and that the cost of the project is so high, the Red Arrow Highway project for 2015 should be placed on the illustrative list rather than programmed.

The following is the proposed TIP project list for 2014-2017:

2014	STP Available: \$805,524
Brown School Road- Cleveland Avenue to the Village of Shoreham	\$ 119,080
Brown School Road- Village of Shoreham- Reconstruct	\$ 400,000
Hollywood Road (ACC)-Restore and Rehabilitate	\$ 286,444
	STP Spent: \$805,524
2015	STP Available: \$821,634.48
City of St. Joseph- Botham Avenue Reconstruct (AC)	\$422,634
BCRC- Marquette Woods Road Resurfacing (St. Joe Avenue to Roosevelt)	\$399,000
	STP Spent: \$821,634
2016	STP Available: \$838,067.16
City of St. Joseph- Botham Avenue Reconstruct (ACC)	\$200,000
City of Benton Harbor- Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	\$272,000
BCRC- Shawnee Road from Jericho to Date	\$366,067
	STP Spent: \$838,067
2017	STP Available: \$854,828.50
St. Joseph City and SJCT- Hilltop Road- Mill and Fill	\$654,000
John Beers Road- Hollywood Road West to Township Line Restore/Rehab	\$200,000
	STP Spent: \$854,000

Zebell suggested that the local bridge program resolution serve as the model for resolutions that local jurisdictions would have to present by October 1 of the fiscal year in which their project was scheduled for funding, stating that they would provide local match. Woolcock advised that the Committee have a robust illustrative list.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

The following is a listing of all highway projects proposed in initial applications, with many of the projects now having modified costs and many projects now moved to the illustrative list.

For information about which projects were programmed and which are illustrative, please consult the proposed TIP project table (Excel file).

Proposed Fiscal Year for Project Funding	Submitting Agency	Name of Project	What is the primary work type for this project?	STP Request
2014	MDOT	I-94 WB	Restore and Rehabilitate	\$ 45,000
2014	Village of Shoreham	Brown School Road	Reconstruct	421000
2014	Berrien County Road Commission	Hollywood Road	Restore & rehabilitate	714416
Illustrative	Berrien County Road Commission	Marquette Woods Road Resurfacing	Restore and Rehabilitate	345,000
2015	MDOT	I-94	Bridge - other	\$ 511,520
2015	MDOT	US-31	Roadside Facility	\$ 8,185
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2015	City of Benton Harbor	Broadway Avenue Resurfacing	Resurface	250000
2015	City of St. Joseph	Botham Avenue Reconstruction Project	Reconstruct	326100
2015	MDOT	I-94	Bridge - other	1611593
2015	Berrien County Road Commission	Marquette Woods Road Resurfacing, St. Joseph Ave to Roosevelt Rd	Restore & rehabilitate	399000
2015	City of Bridgman	Red Arrow Highway	Resurface	727200
2015	Berrien County Road Commission	Hollywood Road: Marquette Woods Road to Glenlord Road	Restore & rehabilitate	798038
2015	Berrien County Road Commission	Brown School Road	Resurface	139145
2015	Berrien County Road Commission	Shawnee Road	Resurface	368325
2016	MDOT	I-94 WB	Restore and Rehabilitate	\$ 11,655,000

2016	MDOT	US-31	Roadside Facility	\$ 63,025
2016	Berrien County Road Comission	Marquette Woods Road Resurfacing	Restore and Rehabilitate	353,000
2016	MDOT	I-94 WB	Restore & rehabilitate	11655000
2016	City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone avenue Resurfacing	Resurface	288000
2016	MDOT	US-31	Roadside facility	63025
2016	Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road: Hollywood Road West to Township Line	Resurface	184163
2016	Berrien County Road Commission	Hilltop Road	Miscellaneous	130960
2016	Berrien County Road Commission	Shawnee Road Jericho to Date	Resurface	368325
Illustrative	City of Saint Joseph	Lakeview Avenue Resurfacing Project	Resurface	421000
2017	City of Benton Harbor	Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	Resurface	272000
2017	Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road: Hollywood to Scottdale	Restore & rehabilitate	392880
2017	Berrien County Road Commission	Lincoln Avenue	Resurface	130960
2017	Berrien County Road Commission	Shawnee Date to Holden	Resurface	368325
Illustrative	City of St. Joseph	Wallace Avenue Reconstruction Project	Reconstruct	600700
Illustrative	City of St. Joseph	Hilltop Road Resurfacing Project	Resurface	266300
Illustrative	City of St. Joseph	Langley Avenue Resurfacing Project	Resurface	681000
Illustrative	City of St. Joseph	Water Street Reconstruction Project	Reconstruct	199800