

Berrien County Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

January 16, 2019 2:30 PM

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 West Main St. Suite 130 Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Minutes

Attendance

Name	Representing
David Austin	William & Works / Lincoln Township
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Department
Bill Chickering	Berrien County Board of Commissioners
Denise Cook	St. Joseph Charter Township
Jerry Dlouhy	Citizen of Lincoln Township
Tony Dlouhy	Citizen of Lincoln Township
Tim Drews	City of Benton Harbor
Jonathan Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township
Kelly Getman-Dissette	Niles Dial A Ride
Eric Lester, M.D.	Berrien County Planning Commission
Alex Little	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
Eric Mallen	Citizen of Lincoln Township
Bill Marx	City of Buchanan
Kim O'Haver	Buchanan Dial A Ride
Alan Smaka	Wightman and Associates
Evan Smith	Berrien Bus
Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph

1. Call to Order and Introduction

Brian Berndt called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and led the group in introductions.

2. Overview of Purpose of the Meeting and CMAQ Program

Berndt explained that the CMAQ program stands for congestion mitigation and air quality. CMAQ is a federal fund source given to counties, which are in non-attainment or maintenance (previously in non-attainment) of the EPA's clean air standards. Currently Berrien County is in nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard.

Berndt explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to program CMAQ funding for 2021 through 2023. Berndt proposed that all agencies which had submitted a project for 2021-2023 be eligible to vote for on the CMAQ projects. The CMAQ committee would consist of:

- Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
- Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Department
- Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township

- Bill Marx, City of Buchanan
- Alex Little, Twin Cities Area Transit Authority
- Evan Smith, Berrien Bus
- Denise Cook, St. Joseph Carter Township

Gallagher mentioned that the voting process is based on a precedent but has never been formalized in written bylaws.

3. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

There was a request to add a chance for public comment before the voting on 2021-2023 projects occurred.

Motion to approve the agenda with an added opportunity for public comment. Made by Bill Marx, and seconded by Dick Stauffer. **Motion approved**

4. **Public Comment**

Tony Dlouhy spoke in opposition to the Roosevelt Path. He said the project was taking too much right of way from properties and seemed unnecessary given the current traffic levels.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Berrien County CMAQ Meeting**

Kovnat reminded those present that due to no new business to discuss there was no Berrien County CMAQ meeting held in 2018.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2017 Berrien County CMAQ meeting. Made by Dick Stauffer and seconded by Evan Smith. **Motion approved.**

6. **Review 2019 and 2020 CMAQ projects**

Berndt requested to change the location of the signal programed in 2020 for Napier and Leeds Avenue to Napier and Crystal Avenue. In addition, the cost will be reduced from \$240,000 to \$160,000.

Kovnat verified that with the cost change there would be \$84,254 left to spend in 2020. Berndt asked to table the discussion on 2020 funding after the 2021-2023 projects were chosen to determine if any of these projects could be moved to 2020.

Motion to approve the change to Berrien County's signal project. Made by Alex Little and seconded by Evan Smith. **Motion approved**

7. **Selection of Projects for 2021-2023**

Berndt said that transit had always been a priority for the CMAQ committee and he proposed that all transit vehicle replacements be funded.

Motion to award CMAQ funds for all of transit vehicle replacement projects. Made Alex Little and seconded by Evan Smith. **Motion approved.**

Berndt then said that he believed that the rideshare program should continue to be funded. He said that it was a relatively low cost for the service it provided.

Motion to award CMAQ funds to the SWMPC rideshare program for 2021, 2022, and 2023. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Dick Stauffer. **Motion approved.**

Kovnat said that if all of the remaining project were awarded there would be a \$194,992 deficit.

Stauffer offered to move the John Beers Road Non-Motorized Path to the Illustrative List.

Stauffer mentioned that the funding he requested for Roosevelt in 2021 was an advance construction conversion. The project is scheduled for obligation in 2019. Therefore, he could take the \$84,254 remaining in 2020 and reduce the amount for his project in 2021 to \$189,604.

Zebell said that his non-motorized project was being combined with roadwork on Langley Avenue, which is funded through another federal program. The road portion was reduced by half; therefore, he said he would reduce his CMAQ request to \$100,000.

Smith had question regarding the preparedness for the TCATA Bikeshare/last mile project. Little accepted that he could forgo this project.

Kovnat said that this left a final deficit of \$38,992. Berndt calculated that the budget would balance if every project took a 2.8% reduction except for Langley avenue non-motorized work. Berndt said that St. Joseph had already agreed to more than 50% reduction on their only project and he requested that they not make an additional sacrifice.

Motion to approve the agreed up list of 2021, 2022, and 2023 CMAQ funded projects made by Dick Stauffer and seconded by Evan Smith. **Motion approved.**

8. Public Comments

No additional public comments were made

9. Other New business

None

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM

The final list of CMAQ projects approved at the meeting are as follows:

Year	Agency	Project Name	CMAQ Funding
2020	Berrien County road Department/Lincoln Township	Roosevelt Path ACC	\$84,254
2021	Berrien County Road Department / St. Joseph township	South Roosevelt Non-Motorized Trail ACC	\$189,604
2022	Berrien County Road Department	Napier Avenue Non-Motorized Path - Miami to Colfax	\$393,858
2022	City of St. Joseph	Langley Avenue Reconstruction/Non-Motorized	\$100,000
2021	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	Berrien County Southwest Michigan Rideshare Promotion	\$16,000
2022	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	Berrien County Southwest Michigan Rideshare Promotion	\$16,000
2023	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	Berrien County Southwest Michigan Rideshare Promotion	\$16,000
2023	City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone Street at Market Street Traffic Signal and Pipestone corridor interconnect	\$218,517
2023	City of Buchanan	Front Street Signal Optimization Project	\$283,341
2021	Berrien Bus	Bus Replacement	\$232,254
2021	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit Improvements-Bus Replacement	\$304,000
2022	Berrien Bus	Bus Replacement	\$152,000
2022	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit Improvements-Bus Replacement	\$80,000
2023	Berrien Bus	Bus Replacement	\$56,000
2023	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit Improvements-Bus Replacement	\$168,000

Minutes Compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner