

**Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Policy & Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Via Zoom**

**Monday, September 21, 2020
9:30 am**

Join online via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94369030734?pwd=QXJNZ2pJb2JoUEkrbVpWOEI1Y2x0UT09>

Or join by phone (audio only)

Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: **943 6903 0734**

Passcode: **517468**

SWMPC staff will be conducting the meeting using the following power point starting on page 7. Those join by phone will be able to follow along with all items. The page numbers on the right side of the agenda are the pages in the power point each item is on. Supplemental material can be found in the meeting packet before the power point begins. This includes the following:

- Meeting Agenda
- August 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes

The meeting will be called to order at 9:30 am

- Roll call will be taken for all TwinCATS members in alphabetical order. Please respond with “Present”
- Members of public will be asked to announce themselves by first and last name.

You might asked to take your phone off speaker if other members in the meeting are having a hard time hearing you or put the phone closer to your face.

TIPS for having a better experience on a conference call:

- Everyone on the call should **use the mute feature on phone** if they are not speaking.
- **SPEAK LOUD & SPEAK INTO THE PHONE** when talking so that everyone can hear.
- If your phone is not muted, it will disrupt the meeting with background noise.
- If you do not think people can hear you after you have said, something be sure to check if your mute button is turned off.
- **If you have a question please announce yourself by name and announce the person, you are directing your question to.** *“This is Karen Simpson, I would like to direct my question to Bart Jones and ask about...”* Bart Jones unmutes his phone and responds to question.
- **If you make a motion please state your name before you make the motion.** *“This is Ted King, I will make the motion to approve the”*
- **Members of the public are welcome to speak during Public Comment period** at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Please announce yourself by first and last name before you comment.

Note: This meeting will be recorded for meeting minute purposes. Recording will be archived for no longer than 60 days from date of meeting.



Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL ADVISORY and POLICY COMMITTEES COMBINED MEETING

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kim Gallagher, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 x 1518

Brandon Kovnat, *Transportation Planner*

(269) 925-1137 x 1524

DATE: Monday, September 21, 2020

TIME: 9:30AM

PLACE: Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call pg. 9
2. Changes to the Agenda pg. 9
3. Public Comment pg. 9
4. Approve Minutes from August 17, 2020 Meeting (*attached pg. 3-6*) pg. 10
5. SWMPC Staff Report pg. 11
6. Agency Updates pg. 12
 - Public Transit pg. 12
 - Local Road Agencies pg. 12
 - State & Federal updates pg. 12
7. New Business – TIP Amendments pg. 13
 - Cancel the Roosevelt Road Path Project pg. 14
 - Add CMAQ funding to the Langley Avenue Project pg. 15
 - MDOT Project Addition pg. 17
8. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment pg. 19
9. Adjournment pg. 19

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES
 August 17, 2020 Conference Call

TWINCATS MEMBER	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal				P		A	A			P				
Berrien Co. Board of	Bill Chickering		x	P	A		A	A			A				
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	P		A	A			A				
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P		A	P			A				
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x					A							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P	A		A	P			P				
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A		A	A			A				
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	A		P	P			P				
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A	A		A	A			A				
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P	P		A	A			P				
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	P		A	A			A				
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P	A		A	A			P				
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A	A		A	A			A				
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A		A	A			A				
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x			P		P	P			P				
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A			A	A			A				
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P		P	P			P				
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	P		P	P			A				
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A	A		P	p			P				
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P		P	P			P				
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A	A		P	A			A				
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P		P	P			P				
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P		A	A			A				
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A		A	A			A				
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	P		A	A			A				
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	A		P	P			P				
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		A	P		A	A			A				
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A	A		A	A			A				
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P		P	P			P				
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P	P		A	P			P				
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Stephanie Clarke	x	x	P	P		P	P			P				
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P		P	P			P				
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A		A	A			A				
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A	A		A	A			A				
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	x		A	A		A	A			A				
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A		A	A			A				
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	A		A	A			A				
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan.	Scott Weber	x	x	P	P		A	A			A				
Southwest Michigan Planning	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	P		P	P			P				
Southwest Michigan Planning	Brandon Kovnat			p	A		P	P			P				

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is
 Others Present: Anita Boughner, MDOT Statewide Planning.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, Called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kim Gallagher took roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of May 18, 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Amy Lipset and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher gave an update on the 2020 US Census response rate. She highlighted the jurisdictions that had exceed their 2010 self-response rate. She also discussed concerns about the response rate in Benton Harbor and the how the shortened census deadline of September 30 might affect this.

Kovnat presented on the financial impacts to transportation funding due to COVID-19. There was a comment about how long term trends toward remote work and efficient vehicles would eventually have lowered fuel use and thus the fuel taxes collected anyway; alternatives to funding transportation with a gas tax will need to be considered at a national level.

There was a question on when road agencies would be affected by the loss in funding. MDOT responded that projects funded with the Rebuilding Michigan Bond Program would not be affected. At MDOT, they implemented employee furloughs and are limiting maintenance funds as a way to reduce costs without canceling projects.

Kovnat explained that he only discussed state funding and not federal funds. The federal gas tax has not been raised by congress in several decades, and therefore the Highway Trust Fund has been running a deficit for at least a decade already. Currently congress adds general funds to pay for transportation. How congress will fund road repairs in the future is unknown.

Kovnat announced that the state was launching a bicycle safety campaign with video and radio ads about the 3-foot passing law. He also briefly discussed the bicycle safety in the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph area.

6. **Agency & Project Updates**

a) **Transit**

Gillespie said he had previously been screening riders to ensure each ride was necessary; this ended when the governor's stay at home order ended. He said that the fixed route has not seen as much of a ridership decline as the demand response, likely because many essential workers rely on the fixed route transit. Drivers have been given a hazard pay bonus. TCATA is also buying more cleaning supplies.

Gillespie said he was still investigating buying the property across from the TCATA headquarters to use as a bus transfer station. This would provide a safe indoor place for riders to wait for transfers.

Gillespie said that none of the drivers had tested positive for COVID-19 but several have had a case in their families and had to quarantine. He expressed frustration in the delay in getting test results. He added that TCATA has good sanitation practices in place. They have a plastic barrier (clear shower curtain) separating drivers and they are enforcing the mask requirement.

b) **Local Road Agencies**

Benton Harbor: Chris Cook said that he received bids for the Empire Avenue resurfacing, with the low bid approximately 10% above the estimate. Construction will begin after Labor Day

St. Joseph: Zebell said that The Langley Avenue reconstruction is expected to be let for bids in January bid advertisement with construction occurring in March.

Berrien County Road Department: Stack said that the bids for resurfacing of Marquette Woods came in approximately 17% under the estimate. He is just waiting for the contractor to schedule a pre-construction meeting before the work begins.

Stack said he received positive feedback about the section of Napier from the River to Colfax that was recently resurfaced with a road diet. The next section from Colfax to M-139 is on track to begin after Labor Day. [Editor's note: the Marquette Wood bridge project was discussed in New Business]

Stauffer that the bids for the Roosevelt Road Path came in well over the estimate. This is due to the soil conditions and high loading requirements required for a pedestrian bridge. Gallagher said that this project used CMAQ funds from 2020 and 2021. She said that they would be putting together scenarios and then schedule a CMAQ meeting.

c) **MDOT**

Jonathon Smith briefly gave an update on the MDOT projects in the Twin CATS area.

Lipset gave a presentation about the US-31/I-94 Interchange construction timeline. Work on the I-94 BL (Main Street) will begin later in August.

There was a question about the property freed up at Crystal Avenue due to replacing the interchange with a roundabout. Lipset said that MDOT did not have any plans currently she said that Main Street would remain limited access with no driveway entrances.

7. **New Business: Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Kovnat presented the 2021 Amendment schedule.

Kovnat briefly explained the proposed amendments to the TIP. *See presentation for full details on the amendments*

Kovnat explained that the Marquette woods pedestrian bridge project had to be canceled because the design required by MDOT was not feasible. Kovnat explained that when the TwinCATS committees approved the projects for the 2020-2023 TIP in January 2019, they also approved list

alternative projects called an illustrative list. The top project on the Illustrative list is Washington Avenue

Smith explained that while it appears that the carpool resurfacing project is being removed, it is actually just being combined with the resurfacing of I-94. He said that combining the projects is cheaper than bidding a carpool lot resurfacing alone.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the TwinCATS 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Tim Kading and seconded by Tim Zebell. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Jim Sturdevant. **Motion approved.**

8. **Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Fisk made a comment that he likes the job the Road Department did with Napier Avenue. Stauffer also applauded the Road Department on the work they did on Linco Road.

Denise Cook said that St. Joseph Township has hired an engineer for the sidewalk construction on Napier in 2022.

Stauffer asked how long virtual meetings would continue. Gallagher responded that Kinexus is not hosting in person meetings. Under the current Governor's orders, in person gathers are limited to 10 people or less.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner

THE SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 AM

1. Please mute your microphone

*If you dialed in on a phone you can use *6 to mute and unmute yourself*

2. Recording will start when the meeting begins

3. Roll call will be taken after the meeting starts

Twin Cities Area
Transportation Study
Combined TAC & Policy Meeting

September 21, 2020

WELCOME

- **Call to Order**
- **Roll Call**
- **Changes to the Agenda**
- **Public Comment**

MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Minutes August 17, 2020 Combined Meeting

Policy Chair will call for a motion to approve minutes. Any member may support followed by any member adding second.

TAC & Policy
Combined



Staff Report

Agency Updates

Transit

Local Road Agencies

MDOT

New Business

TIP Amendments

1. Cancel Roosevelt Road Non-Motorized Path project – Lincoln Township
2. Add additional CMAQ funding to Langley Avenue – City of St. Joseph
3. Add a pavement marking project - MDOT

Cancelation of Roosevelt Non-Motorized Path

Lincoln Township

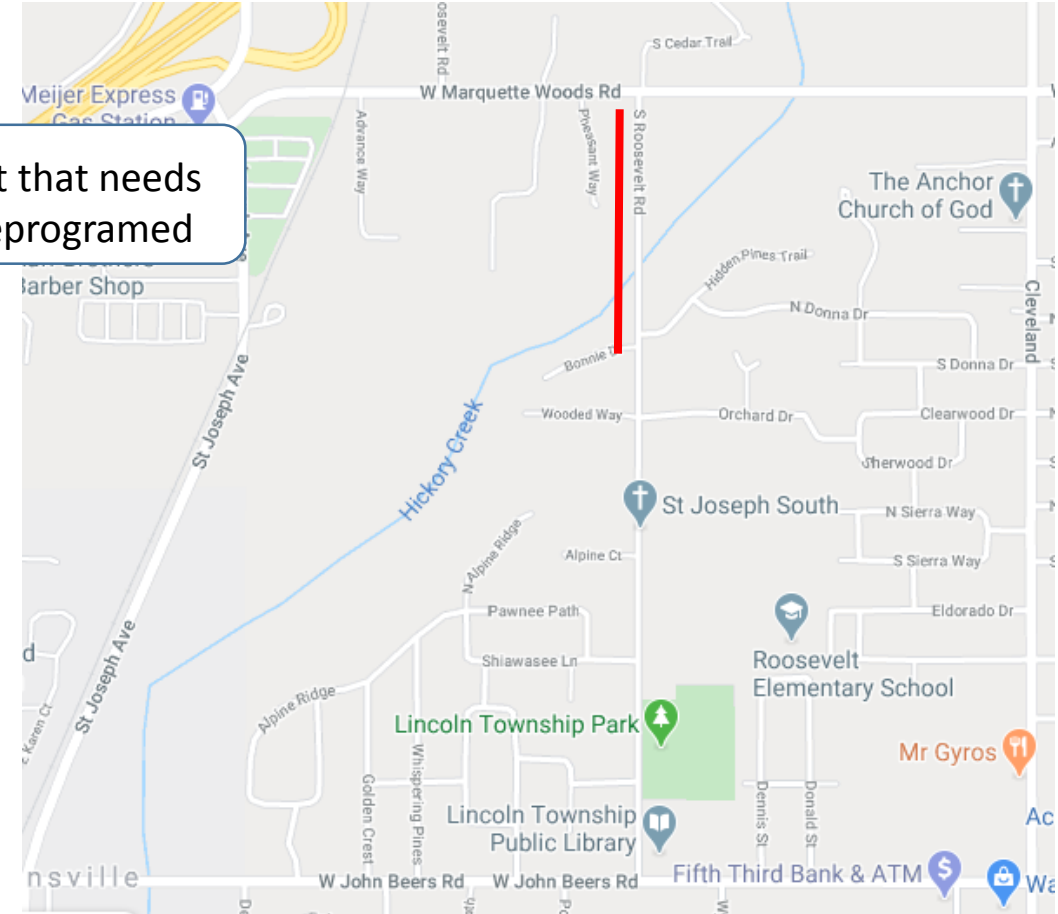
Source	Programed Cost
2020 CMAQ	\$84,254
2020 TAP	\$474,500
2021 CMAQ ACC	\$189,604
Local	\$382,328
Total	\$1,130,686

Amount that needs to be reprogramed

- The project was Let on July 10th
- The low bid came in at \$1,660,987, 43.4% over the engineers final estimate of \$1,157,836 (difference of \$503,151)

Additional cost was due to higher standards required for the pedestrian bridge and elevated boardwalk sections.

Due to the higher costs Lincoln Township has rejected the bids and canceled the project



Reprogramming the 2021 CMAQ Funding Process

A Berrien County CMAQ meeting was held on September 9, 2020 to reprogram \$189,604 in 2021 CMAQ funds.

Four Projects were considered:

1. Signal upgrade on Napier Ave. & Miami Rd. in St. Joseph Township.
2. 10 Foot Non-motorized Path in Oronoko Township
3. Additional funding for non-motorized improvements on Langley Ave. in the City of St. Joseph
4. Additional funding for sidewalk construction on Napier Ave. in St. Joseph Township.

Outcome:

\$100,000 was awarded to Langley Avenue

\$89,604 was left to program at a future CMAQ Meeting

Add CMAQ funding to Langley Avenue

City of St. Joseph

	Currently Programed	Proposed
2021 CMAQ Funds	\$0	\$189,000
2022 CMAQ Fund	\$100,000	\$10,396
Total CMAQ funding	\$100,000	\$200,000
Local Match	\$229,283	\$129,283
Total Cost	\$329,283	\$329,283

Pavement Marking

MDOT - 2021

Pavement markings on MDOT roads throughout Southwest Michigan region using Safety Funds (HSIP).

Phase	Federal Funds	MDOT Funds	Total
PE	\$500	\$55	\$555
CON	\$39,960	\$4,440	\$44,000
Total	\$40,460	\$4,495	\$44,955

TIP Amendment Motion



Technical Advisory Committee votes to (recommend/deny) that:

The TwinCATS Policy Committee approve
the amendments to the TwinCATS
2020-2023 Transportation Improvement
Program

Amendments:

1. Cancel Roosevelt Road Path
2. Add CMAQ funding to the Langley Avenue Project
3. Add Pavement Markings on MDOT roads

Policy Committee votes to (approve/deny) the recommendation from TAC.

Privilege of the Floor / Public Comment

If anyone joined the meeting after rollcall of members please
announce yourself now.

Next meeting is:
October 19, 2020, 9:30 AM
Third Monday of the month
(Virtual Meeting)