

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 17, 2011

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Kercheval, MDOT - Coloma TSC Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning John Olson, Royalton Township William Rudman, Berrien County Planning Commission Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Steve Carlisle, Wightman & Associates Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI Cathy Thieneman, Berrien County Commissioner 5 th District

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Rudman with support by Rieder, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2011 TAC meeting with the following changes to be made:
 William Rudman’s name was misspelled in the minutes. Flowers will make the change.

Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. STAFF REPORT:

- *Long Range Plan-Goal Development Workshop*
A handout was given at the meeting that summarized the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes. There were approximately 12 attendees, and the exchange of items and topics discussed were very helpful in starting to think about the direction of the 2013-2040 Long Range Plan.
- *Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference*
Flowers attended the MATAG Conference in Fort Wayne, IN where the discussion centered on trail development, building sustainable trails and trail organizations. Flowers attended sessions on Winter Trails for Motorized and Non-Motorized Use, Active Transportation: What is it and Why it is Critical to Long-term Sustainability, Crossing the Divide to Build Sustainable Active Transportation Systems, Trail Promotion and Social Networking, and Building and Maintaining Sustainable Organizations. Flowers stated that there was a lack of technical sessions offered.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**
We are asking for final comments from the Committee members on edits that staff need to complete and then we will be asking for a motion to put the plan out for public comment for 7 days.
- **Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**
Nothing to report for the month of October
- **Regional Interagency Consumers Committee (RICC)**
Nothing to report for the month of October
- **Twin City Dial-A-Ride Local Advisory Committee(TCATA LAC)**
Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) LAC met on September 22, 2011. The bylaws were discussed and approved. There were concerns about the wait times of TCATA's door-to-door service being extremely long. Selected staff members at SWMPC are in the process of conducting an analysis of the door-to-door service through the collection of TCATA's demand response service logs. The staff is looking for ways to reduce the wait time. So far, the data is showing that many of the door-to door trips can be done by the fixed routes.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC):**
Subcommittee members of the BCCTC met on Thursday, September 22, 2011 and were trained on how to implement the Transit Regional Reduced Fare Card program. Transportation providers agreed to start the program on November 1, 2011. Applications will be available for seniors (60 years or older) and individuals with disabilities at each of the transportation agencies. Prospective applicants should obtain an application from the closest provider to his/her home and may obtain an application 1) In person; 2) On-line (applications will be available to download at various websites); 3) By mail (applicants can request an application be mailed to him/her).

6. PROJECT UPDATES

*All MDOT region wide projects do not need to be listed under project updates

- **2010 Projects:**

- MDOT
 - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) –done this season
 - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – completion in October
- **2011 Projects:**
 - City of Benton Harbor (**No representative was present**)
 - Graham Ave – Dead ends to Riverview Dr JN 112578
 - Graham Ave-At railroad crossing JN 112898
 - Berrien County Road Commission
 - John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk-let
 - Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway JN 113024-done
 - Lincoln Ave, Linco Rd to Maiden Ln JN 100086-done
 - Pipestone Rd and River Rd. JN 113023-done
 - Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal-let
 - California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway-done
 - Napier Ave. 200' section west of I-94 JN111247-done
 - MDOT
 - US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – construction spring 2012
 - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – construction spring 2012
 - I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work (jn112949) – scoping job/PE Phase
 - I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale – done in October
 - M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave –design phase
 - I-94 BL Glenlord Rd to Pearl St. JN 109704 -completed
 - I-94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN 108174 CON Phase
 - I-196 under Red Arrow Highway JN 109087 -done
 - City of St. Joseph
 - S State St and Kingsley Ave – completed in October
 - Village of Stevensville (**No representative present**)
 - John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk – under construction
 - TCATA / Twin Cities Dial-A-Ride (**No representative present**)
 - Bus shelters will be located at MI Works and at the Triangle Park near the old Mercy Center
 - Transit Vehicle Replacement (3 total)
- **2012 Projects:**
 - City of St. Joseph
 - Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave-design phase-construction fall 2012
 - Lake St.-under design-design phase
 - South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave JN 107686 –advanced construct reimbursement
 - Elm St. to Broad St. JN 112088 CON Phase-scoping change will be part of Lake Street project. This change will need to result in an Amendment to the TIP and Thomas requested that Zebell fill out an amendment form. This project will also be discussed at the TIP Project Selection Subcommittee Meeting in November.
 - City of Benton Harbor (**No representative present**)
 - Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-design phase
 - Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-resurface CON phase
 - Berrien County
 - E. Britain Ave (City of Benton Harbor to Crystal)-resurface CON phase JN 100085-looking for matching dollars

- Highland Ave (City of Benton Harbor to Crystal)-resurface CON phase JN100087- looking for matching dollars
- MDOT
 - I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd-JN 113585 PE Phase-design
 - I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility) JN 103293 CON Phase-design
 - I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge) JN 110779 CON Phase-design full replacement
 - I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge) JN110931 CON Phase-design moved back 2 years
 - I-94 under M-63 (bridge) JN 109093 CON Phase-design
- TCATA/Niles Dial A Ride (**No representative present**)
 - New expanded hours
 - New line haul route
 - Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- TIP Project Selection Committee
John Olson has expressed interest in attending meeting and below is a list of the people that attended the meeting.

Aaron Anthony	City of Bridgman
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission
Tim Fenderbosch	St. Joseph Charter Township
Ray Lenze	MDOT – Statewide Planning
Kenton McAndrew	City of Benton Harbor
Larry Merritt	St. Joseph Charter Township
Derek Perry	Village of Stevensville
Bill Purvis	Twin Cities Area Transit Authority
Donald Schlipp	Village of Stevensville
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph

Staff in Attendance:

Nickolas Musson	SWMPC
Anna Rahtz	SWMPC

Others in Attendance:

Ralph Heibutzki	Herald-Palladium
Carl Spikner	Consortium for Community Development

The meeting was set to occur on Wednesday November 9, 2011 at 1:30p.m. at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. Flowers will draft a legal notice for publication in area newspapers and will also email the meeting details to the TwinCATS and NATS contact lists, the meeting will also be displayed on SWMPC’s Calendar of Events webpage.

- Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan
We are asking for final comments from the Committee members on edits that staff need to complete and then we will be asking for a motion to put the plan out for public comment for 7 days. Thomas discussed the completion of the plan and that the only major changes made to the plan was the completion of the design guidance section.

A motion was made by Berndt with support by Zebell for acceptance of the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan. **Motion passed.**

- **Travel Demand Model**

At the September 2011 meeting, Brad Sharlow from MDOT discussed the importance of the 2010 base year population, housing, and employment data for the TwinCATS region, and how it would be used in the modeling process for the 2013-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Copies of the information were presented at the September 2011 meeting for communities to review.

A motion was made by Berndt with support by Rudman to accept the 2010 base year population, housing, and employment data for the TwinCATS region with the understanding that changes may be requested during the modeling process that would require committee approval. **Motion passed.**

- **Walk and Roll-Public Comment Period**

Thomas again discussed that there is a required 7 day public input process for the Walk and Roll Plan and that in November, staff will be asking for a motion to amend the Walk and Roll Plan into the current 2009-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

A motion was made by Zebell with support by Scherwitz for the Walk and Roll Plan to be released to the public for the 7 day required public comment period. **Motion passed.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **December 19, 2011 Meeting**

The December 2011 meeting will still be held due to the TIP submission calendar.

- **Date Selection for 2012 Committee Meetings**

The dates that the TAC Committee suggested were as listed in the October 2011 Agenda expect for changing the January and February dates due to holidays. The new calendar dates are listed below:

- January 23, February 27, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17

A motion was made by Rudman with support by Gruchot to accept the meeting dates as listed with and change the January meeting to January 23 and February meeting to February 27. **Motion passed.**

- **TIP Amendment-** MDOT Adding to FY2012-US 31 Bridge Work SUB Phase-JN 113246

After a discussion with Lenze during the TAC Committee meeting, the proposed TIP Amendment is not necessary since the FY 2012 US 31 Bridge work is listed as CPM CSM Bridge Trunk line work for the region.

9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None

10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:10 a.m. Motion by Rieder with support by Zebell.

- Next meeting is **November 21, 2011 at 9:30am**

Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, November 2011