

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 17, 2014

9:00 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Danielle Davis, MDOT Statewide Planning Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan John Olson, Village of Shoreham and Village of Stevensville Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Paul Lott, MDOT - Statewide Planning Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning Matt Wiitala, MDOT Economic Development Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Representative, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani Debra Panozzo, Mobility Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Zebell with support by Rieder to approve the minutes of the October TAC meeting. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. STAFF REPORT

- **Update on Village of Shoreham**

Mani said that the Village of Shoreham was looking to undertake the first of three scenarios that were proposed at the October TwinCATS meetings: build the project using entirely local funds in FY 2015, and get reimbursed in federal funds in 2016 and 2017. The amount of total reimbursement would be approximately \$303,000, which is less than the original federal share of \$428,000. Therefore, the Village would have to foot the remainder of the bill, unless it found some other funding source.

Olson said that the Village would still like to be reimbursed via any bid savings and other funding that may become available between now and 2017. Mani said that it would be up to the committees.

5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **Transit Consolidation Study Updates**

Gallagher said that Berrien County had written up draft bylaws for the new countywide authority, so some progress has been made. Johnson asked when those bylaws might be available to the public. Gallagher said that the County was working on figuring that out. The bylaws were still under review by the legal department to ensure that they met minimal requirements.

- **Mobility Management**

Panozzo said that the workshop that she had jointly hosted with the Disability Network regarding transit advocacy was a success. The workshop had sixteen participants, including individuals with disabilities, transit riders, and elected officials or their representatives. A variety of topics came up including the transit needs of institutionalized individuals and people who have aged out of foster care. Johnson commented that it was a great discussion. She recommended that committee members look at handouts from the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to help transit riders and those who support better transit to become stronger advocates.

- **TCATA Updates**

Purvis reported that ridership was down compared with last year by about 5,000 riders. Purvis attributes that to the days when TCATA was closed due to snow, which has not happened in the past. Purvis noted that ridership was down about 18,000 riders in March, meaning that the winter had the greatest impact on lowering ridership. Purvis said that ridership on the line haul routes is increasing, which is a promising sign.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

None.

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**

Johnson reported that the RICC has been working on getting items down on paper on how to improve transit in the area. RICC has historically done an excellent job of trying to address day-to-day transit needs, but they are trying to come up with ideas and a strategy for supporting the consolidation of Berrien's four systems into a single system.

7. LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Purvis noted the attention being paid in local newspapers to the tax revenue lost from big box stores in Michigan.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
2012							
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	2016 construction; value engineering meetings held	May 2014		
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Scheduled for October letting; returned to region for funding to move forward; no change; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting July 2013: On hold	July 2013		
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Dispatching and Scheduling software	RFP in progress; coming to a final decision on the contractor to buy from.	November 2014		
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else July 2013: JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.	July 2013		

		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	July 2014: Buses on the way, with propane conversions	July 2014		
2014	115751	MDOT	I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)	2 course HMA over scratch course on existing concrete-PE phase, no change	December 2012		
	113585	MDOT	I-94 WB (On I-94 from Red Arrow Highway for 3.0 miles to Livingston Road)	Mill existing and place 2 HMA overlay-ROW phase; no change	December 2012		
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EW and WB over Hickory Creek	January 2014: Construction in July 2014.	January 2014		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December; July 2013: Waiting for contract approval	July 2013		
		TCATA	Expanded hours-JARC grant				
		TCATA	Mobility manager grant	11/2012 Purvis stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this	December 2012		
		TCATA	New line haul to Stevensville	Project is continuing; hoping to get state funds in 2014	January 2013		
		TCATA	Bus operations	Not submit yet			
	116924	SWMPC	Berrien County-Rideshare	In progress			
2014		TCATA	Propane Fueling Station	Delays in installation, but moving forward now.	November 2014		
	112087	Benton Harbor	Broadway Avenue/Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	August 2014: They will be sometime after Labor Day	August 2014		
	121011	Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade	August 2014: Under Construction	August 2014		
		Berrien County	Date Road Bridge Replacement	August 2014: Under construction	August 2014		
	121002	Berrien County	Roosevelt Road Non-Motorized Extension	November 2014: Complete	November 2014		
		Village of	Brown School	November 2014:	July 2014		

	Shoreham	Road Resurfacing	Will be reprogrammed			
2015	Berrien County	Marquette Woods Road Rehab/Sidewalks	November 2014: GI Package will be submitted in two weeks; talking to railroad companies	November 2014		
	Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	November 2014: GI plans have been submitted; GI meeting was done via telephone	November 2014		
	City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone St at Britain Avenue Traffic Signal				
	City of St. Joseph	Botham Avenue	November 2014 project has been obligated; letting will be in January	November 2014		
	City of St. Joseph	Park St. Bridge	August 2014: Getting final permissions from CSX railroad			

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- **TIP Amendments**

Mani said that there were several TIP Amendments this month. The MDOT I-94 westbound mill-and-fill project from Exit 16 to approximately Exit 23 was delayed to FY 2015 due to insufficient time to complete it in FY 2014.

In addition, as discussed above, the unobligated Village of Shoreham Brown School Road project would be done via an advance construct. The Village will pay the entire \$535,000 project cost up front out of local funds in FY 2015 in order to make sure that it is built next summer. In FY 2016, the Village will be reimbursed with \$275,837 in federal funds. In FY 2017, the Village will be reimbursed with an additional \$27,762 in federal funds. This still comes up short of the original \$428,000 in federal funding, but it does help. The Village would be responsible for providing the approximately \$125,000 remaining to complete the project, unless they can find additional funding sources between now and 2017. Olson said that he would appreciate it if the Village could obtain further amounts from bid savings and other projects that use less funds between now and 2017. Mani said that it would be at the discretion of the committees.

Three phases of the MDOT M-63 resurfacing project were being deleted; these phases were incorporated into a different job number that used only state funds.

A motion by Gruchot with support by Zebell to recommend that the Policy Committee to approve the November TIP amendments. **Motion passed.**

10. NEW BUSINESS

▪ **NFC Review Kick Off**

Mani said that as discussed at past meetings, the review of National Functional Classifications on a statewide level was coming up. The goal of the statewide review was to find out if there were any urban other principal arterials functioning as minor arterials, and if there are any rural major collectors that are functioning as minor collectors. Gallagher reminded the group that these classifications were based on traffic counts, as well as factors about the physical capacity of the roadway.

Mani said that as part of the review process, MDOT was hosting local meetings to discuss the process. Mani said that given that the December MPO meetings are typically poorly attended, they were thinking of scheduling the NFC Review meeting for the TwinCATS MPO in lieu of the regularly scheduled TwinCATS meeting on December 15th. Mani said he was working with Mike Toth on the exact time and location, but it would likely be at the Coloma TSC. Toth will give a presentation on the NFC Review process and then lead a discussion of which roads need to be changed, based on traffic counts. Mani said that transit agencies, the road commissions, and cities/villages would be formally invited; but other members of the MPO are welcome to attend and participate. The meeting on the 15th will have representatives from the Berrien Springs and Coloma Small Urban areas as well.

A motion by Smith with support by Rieder to cancel the December TwinCATS TAC meeting.

Motion passed.

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal** – Dewey said that the proposed performance measures rulemakings on statewide and metropolitan planning garnered a huge number of comments from MPOs and other agencies. Further proposed rulemakings on asset management and on bridges would be released for public comment in the months ahead.
- **State** – Lott said that the Michigan Senate had passed a transportation revenue package that would increase transportation revenues over current levels by 2019. Lott said he hoped that whatever version of the bill passed the House would fund both roads and transit.

▪ **Matt Wiitala Presentation on Statewide Transportation Alternatives Funds**

Mani introduced Matt Wiitala, Grant Coordinator for the Southwest Region for the Transportation Alternatives program within the MDOT Office of Economic Development. Wiitala presented on activities that are eligible for TAP funds, and how to apply for the statewide allocation. As a small MPO, TwinCATS does not receive its own allocation, so communities are encouraged to apply for this statewide pot of funds. Matt's full presentation, including contact information, can be found at:

http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/tap_overview_twincats_111714.pdf

11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT at 10:20 AM

- Next meeting is January 26, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Airport.

Compiled by: Gautam Mani.