

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 23, 2012

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Bill Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission John Olson, Royalton Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Kercheval, MDOT - Coloma TSC 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) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Jason Bowen, Intern with the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Kenton McAndrews, City of Benton Harbor Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Township David Baute Tim Kading, City of Bridgman

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Berndt with support by Zebell, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Transportation Asset Management Trainings**

Thomas discussed two training opportunities with the Committee members. The first was on the road rating trainings taking place. He highlighted the specific dates that may be of particular interest to Committee members Road Rating training dates have been announced for the upcoming calendar year. This training is necessary if you want be reimbursed for conducting your own local road ratings. Communities are eligible for this reimbursement once every three years. Thomas explained that he attended the training and found the information very helpful in understanding how road ratings are done and what ratings imply about the condition of roads and their appropriate types of maintenance. The classroom training dates are February 28, 2012 in West Branch; February 29, 2012 in Saginaw; March 1, 2012 in Grand Rapids; March 27, 2012 in Kalamazoo; March 28, 2012 in Dearborn; and March 29, 2012 in Lansing. Thomas suggested that those interested in signing up for the training should try to attend the webinar session before the classroom training session.

- **Climate Change and Energy Planning for MPOs**

Flowers took part in a Climate Change webinar that focused on learning from the experiences of three communities and how climate change has affected the way that their planning focus has changed. The case studies reviewed New Orleans, Oregon State DOT, and U.S. DOT. They also focused on how the roles of MPO's are changing and that their focus on planning is becoming more regionally focused. In addition, MPOs are poised to be able to respond to the needs of communities with their work with GIS, understanding the regional implications of transportation decisions and networks, and their relationship with multiple agencies. It was interesting that communities are responding to the needs for climate change analysis differently. Oregon has a state DOT led initiative that has set the standards. In the U.S. DOT example, they reviewed the land use practices in Cape Cod, MA and how that could impact the people and land use decisions.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Flowers discussed that at the December TwinCATS Policy Committee the members the Committee members discussed that it is important for the subcommittee to stay active to implement the plan. The following items were discussed at the December 2011 Policy Committee:

- The Walk and Roll Plan should be incorporated into the selection of TIP projects, as well as into their design.

- In addition to the general priority list of projects contained in the Walk and Roll Plan, there should be a top ten list of non-motorized projects for the region.
- The region should have a non-motorized benchmarking process, including goals and timeframes, for implementing projects.

Flowers will email the members of the subcommittee that have been involved to set up the next meeting.

- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**
No report for the month of January.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
Nothing to report for the month of January.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Nothing to report for the month of January.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

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

- **2010 Projects-All projects have been completed.**
- **2011 Projects:**
 - Berrien County Road Commission
 - John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk-let and construction April 2012
 - ~~Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway JN 113024 done~~
 - ~~Lincoln Ave, Lineo Rd to Maiden Ln JN 100086 done~~
 - ~~Pipestone Rd and River Rd. JN 113023 done~~
 - Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal-let, construction in April 2012
 - ~~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 April-Aug 2012
 - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – construction May-Oct
 - I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work (jn112949) – scoping job/PE Phase-almost completed
 - ~~I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale done~~
 - M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave –June-August construction 2012
 - ~~I-94 BL Glenlord Rd to Pearl St. JN 109704 done~~
 - ~~I-94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I-196 NB and SB over I-94 JN 108174 CON-Phase design phase, January let~~
 - ~~I-196 under Red Arrow Highway JN 109087 done~~
 - City of St. Joseph
 - ~~S State St and Kingsley Ave done and advanced construct repayment done~~
 - Village of Stevensville
 - ~~John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk done~~
 - 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-purchased, working with Abonmarche on where to set them-the

City now wants cameras near the bus shelters and they would cost about \$10,000 a piece. Looking for other funding to purchase cameras.

- Transit Vehicle Replacement (3 total)-need to move projects to 2012
- JARC grant-the funds will continue for this fiscal year
- **2012 Projects:**
 - City of St. Joseph
 - Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave-JN 114537 design phase-April let, construction fall 2012
 - Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St-JN 112088 CON Phase-scoping change will be part of Lake Street project-April let
 - ~~South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave JN 107686 advanced construct reimbursement done~~
 - City of Benton Harbor
 - Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-project has been postponed due to cash flow issues
 - Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-resurface CON phase-designed spring letting-survey is done.
 - Berrien County
 - E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave.-projects combined (City of Benton Harbor to Crystal)-resurface CON phase JN 100087-design phase

Lenze was concerned about the postponement of the Klock Road project and the Berrien County Road Commission project Britain Avenue due to the letting schedule from MDOT. He stated that last year there was an estimated \$50 million dollars not utilized and we do not want to lose those resources for the region.

- 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- -June construction
 - I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge) JN 110779 CON Phase-design
 - I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge) JN110931 CON Phase-design moved back to 2013-design
 - I-94 under M-63 (bridge) JN 109093 CON Phase-design-construction May-July 2012
- TCATA/Niles Dial A Ride (No representative present)
 - New expanded hours
 - New line haul route
 - Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Meeting dates (keep same or split)**

Flowers stated that the reason for the follow-up discussion on this issue was to give Committee members 1 month to review the pros and cons to splitting up TwinCATS committee meetings. Flowers stated that the reason for the discussion was to ensure that proper notification is given to the public when TIP amendments are present on the agenda. Staff need at least 10 days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to get out the legal notice, which requires a 7-day public comment period.

Lenze reminded the group that we only have federal authorization of the extension of SAFETEA-LU transportation bill until the end of March 2012. The flow of funds if irregular

and may require a shift in money to make sure projects get the money that is programmed and approved.

Motion by Zebell with support by Montoya to keep the meeting schedule as it currently stands, TAC and Policy meeting on the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. **Motion passed.**

- **CMAQ update**

Thomas stated that CMAQ applications have to be to their respective agencies by February 1, 2012 to be submitted to MDOT. Communities from Berrien County would submit their projects to Brian Berndt. Thomas also mentioned that there will be a call for CMAQ projects for 2015 and beyond coming up in November 2012 and that staff will keep Committee members of the request once it is received. Thomas was also instructed by Lenze that until the CMAQ projects are given authorization from FHWA that those projects should be moved into the illustrative list.

- **Annual Report**

Flowers stated that the Annual Report was completed and that the SWMPC Board will be taking action on the Annual Report on January 31, 2012. She asked for any comments or modifications from the Committee members.

A motion was made by Woolcock with support by Cook to approve the fiscal year 2011 TwinCATS Annual report. **Motion passed.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP Amendments**

- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority

Amending in 2013 the replacement of 3 transit buses using CMAQ funds. Federal cost was 162,000 and is reduced to 139,000; State cost was 41,000 and will be 35,000; total project cost was 203,000 and now will be 174,000.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Zebell to approve the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority TIP Amendment for the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP.

Discussion began on what projects should be added to the 2011-2014 TIP project list and illustrative list. Lenze stated that CMAQ projects that have not yet received state and federal approval should be placed in the Illustrative List, so any CMAQ projects currently in the TIP that do not yet have full approval should be transferred to the Illustrative List. Zebell stated that he had received verbal confirmation from FHWA for the St. Joseph FY 2012 CMAQ signal upgrade, and the committee agreed that this should be sufficient to allow the project into the full TIP.

Motion by Cook with support by Woolcock to move the Twin Cities Area Transit Authority 2013 3 bus replacement project into the 2011-2014 TIP Illustrative List and to allow the City of St. Joseph FY 2012 signal upgrade at Langley and Napier into the 2011-2014 project list due to verbal confirmation from FHWA.

- **Amend Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Project List into TIP and LRP**

Flowers stated that Scherwitz asked that the new 8 year project list for the Southwest Regional Airport be incorporated into the appropriate documents in the MPO. Flowers stated that on page

28 in the TIP there was an existing table that the new projects can be added to, and that in the LRP on page 91 the project table can be added. Scherwitz explained that no federal or state highway funds are used for his projects and that he received money from the Federal Aviation Authority and the Bureau of Aeronautics. This money is meant to be shown as a pass through.

Motion by Olson with support by Montoya to approve the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Project List into the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority TIP Amendment for the 2011-2014 and the 2035 TwinCATS Long Range Plan. **Motion passed.**

▪ **Long Range Plan Revenue estimates**

Thomas explained that MDOT had released Long Range Plan revenue estimates for the purposes of planning. He further stated that new numbers will be given to staff in 2013. The base year numbers, which are representative of the planned 2011 dollars, do not change in years 2012 and 2013 and then increase by 2%.

A question was raised about what a TMA versus small mpo meant. Lenze stated that the NATS area is part of the South Bend, IN transportation management area, which is mpos with a population size of 200,000. The money noted on the handout shows the portion of the TMA funds used for the NATS region. A small mpo, such as TwinCATS have populations over 50,000 but fewer than 200,000.

9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Woolcock stated that the bridge work programmed to happen on M-63 over I-94 will hold a public meeting on February 8, 2012 from 3-6:00p.m. at St. Joseph Township Hall. Construction is planned to take place from May 29-mid July 2012. She further explained that a press release will go out and local businesses will be contacted.
- Flowers discussed the completion of the 9 county non-motorized map and plan and that cities and villages would be receiving their share of the maps over the next several weeks. Townships were not included in the allocation because there were so many in the 9 county regions. Flowers encouraged people to go to their local bike shops, city, village, and parks departments if they wanted to obtain a map. Flowers also mentioned a workshop that was being held on low impact development and planning for water quality. Flyers for the events were at the meeting.
- Woolcock also mentioned the reinvention at MDOT at that some of her duties and duties from the Coloma TSC have changed.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:17 a.m.

Motion by Montoya with support by Olson to adjourn the meeting.

- Next meeting is **February 27, 2012 at 9:30am**

Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, January 2012