

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

December 19, 2011

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<p>Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission  Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor  Erin Kercheval, MDOT - Coloma TSC  Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region  Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning  Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission  John Olson, Royalton Township  Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority  Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport  Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham  Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township  Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville  Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)  Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph</p>
<b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<p>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  Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio)  Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission  Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township  Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance  William Rudman, Berrien County Planning Commission  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  Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC</p>
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	<p>Suzann Flowers  Trevor Thomas</p>
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	<p>Jason Bowen, Intern with the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport  Steve Carlisle, Wightman &amp; Associates  Kim Gallagher, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  Kenton McAndrews, City of Benton Harbor  Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI  Christina Pippen, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  Jim Klett, Klett Construction Company</p>

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2. MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Cook with support by Berndt, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2011 **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

### 4. STAFF REPORT:

#### ▪ Rural Task Force Training

On December 7, 2011 SWMPC Staff attended training in Lansing regarding the roles that Regional Planning Organizations and MDOT will have in the coordination and administration of the Rural Task Force program. The regional planning commissions will assist MDOT in the administration and management of this process beginning in fiscal year 2012. SWMPC are working with the Rural Task Force Region 4 Chairman, Larry Hummel, on ensuring a smooth and continuous coordination of these duties. More information will be given to the Committee members as progress is made.

#### ▪ AARP Aging in Place Webinar

Thomas stated that he sat in on a webinar hosted by AARP (<http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-11-2011/solutions-forum-aging-in-place.html>), which promoted the idea of “aging in place”, looking at how areas can provide transportation, housing, and land use environments that allow older residents to remain independent and live active lives in their own homes. Thomas stated that the TwinCATS population is significantly older than the country as whole, and that the ideas regarding transportation and land use discussed during the AARP event ought to continue to inform the work performed by the committees.

#### ▪ PASER Training Dates

Road Rating training dates have been announced for the upcoming calendar year. This training is necessary if you want to assist in rating roads in your community. Communities can have their roads rated once every three years. Thomas explained that he attended the training and found the information very helpful in understanding how road ratings are done. The training dates are as follows: February 28, 2012-West Branch, February 29, 2012-Saginaw, March 1, 2012-Grand Rapids, March 27, 2012- Kalamazoo, March 28, 2012-Dearborn, March 29, 2012-Lansing, April 17, 2012-Gaylord, April 18, 2012-Escanaba, April 19, 2012-Ishpeming. Flowers will email the dates and flyer out to the Committee members who receive email.

#### ▪ Next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Flowers explained that the next TIP program update will be in 2013 and would cover 2014-2017. There is a one year overlap to ensure that the program does not lapse and that projects can still get obligated.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### ▪ Walk and Roll

Flowers asked that since the Walk and Roll plan if the subcommittee needed to meet any more. The Committee members agreed that there may not be a need for the subcommittee to continue to meet. Flowers will recommend that the subcommittee no longer meet to the Policy Committee.

#### ▪ Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)

No report for the month of December.

#### ▪ Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)

Nothing to report for the month of December

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**  
TCATA's Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting was scheduled on Friday, November 18th. Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was immediately canceled. Unaware of the cancellation, a public citizen arrived at the meeting location; China Buffet in Benton Township, using the Dial-A-Ride Service. He stated that he was eager to attend the LAC meeting to provide input about the services and also wanted to demonstrate that members of the public are interested in public transit! He stated that there could be more involvement if the public were properly informed of the meeting times and locations. The public citizen stated that the meeting cancellation without any notification (that he was aware of), was a huge inconvenience for him and potentially other members of the public.

## 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~~
    - ~~I 94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – completion in October~~
  - City of Benton Harbor
    - ~~Graham Ave – Dead ends to Riverview Dr JN 112578 done except the crossings~~
    - ~~Graham Ave At railroad crossing JN 112898 (except for the portion by the railroad tracks)~~
- **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, Linc 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 spring 2012
    - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – construction spring 2012, let in October
    - I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work (jn112949) – scoping job/PE Phase-consultant is working on the scope of project
    - ~~I 94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale – done~~
    - M-63 from I-94 to Midway Ave –March let, 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
    - 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 114537design 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.
    - ~~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)-design phase-Jan 2012
    - Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-resurface CON phase-designed spring letting
  - Berrien County
    - E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave.-projects combined (City of Benton Harbor to Crystal)-resurface CON phase JN 100087-design phase
  - 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-January let
    - I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge) JN 110779 CON Phase-design full replacement-project scope changed recently
    - I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge) JN110931 CON Phase-design moved back to 2013-design (See this month's TIP amendment for JN110931)
    - I-94 under M-63 (bridge) JN 109093 CON Phase-design-construction summer 2012
  - TCATA/Niles Dial A Ride
    - *Purvis stated that these 2012 projects may be in jeopardy due to FTA rules*
      - New expanded hours
      - New line haul route
      - Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)

## 7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **2013 CMAQ Call for Projects**

Thomas explained that before the Committee meeting communities met to review and discuss the schedule of CMAQ projects for 2012-2014. Thomas explained that there was a slight reduction in funding for 2013 and 2014 and that in 2013 Berrien Bus modified their project request from 2 new buses to 1 medium bus and 1 small bus to accommodate the funding reductions. A handout was given to those who attended the meeting. Thomas reminded the attendees that the CMAQ program is administered by the county through the Rural Task Force program, but projects in the MPO do come before the committee for approval to include in the TIP.
- **Public Participation Plan and Survey**

Flowers discussed that the staff were in the final stages of the preparing the Public Participation Plan for the required 45-day comment period. Flowers asked that the Committee members approve a motion to release the plan for the comment period beginning January 15, 2012. Flowers asked for any suggestions from the attendees.

-One comment expressed those public participation methods that are successful with the MPO should be shared with municipalities throughout the region and that we should seek out the successful methods from municipalities to incorporate into our participation strategy.

Motion by Berndt with support from Cook to place the Public Participation Plan out for the public comment period of 45-days beginning January 15, 2012. **Motion passed.**

- **Membership Letters**

Flowers discussed that membership letters have been sent to all of the member communities. Those municipalities that need appointments or are allowed to appoint an additional member to the committee will be contacted via phone to ensure that proper representation is received from member communities.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TwinCATS Annual Report**

MPO Staff are completing the draft TwinCATS Annual report. The draft document is on the website and any comments from the Committee members are encouraged. We will be looking for formal approval to the SWMPC Board at the January 2012 meeting.

- **TIP Amendments**

- **MDOT**

- Amending in FY 2012 project I-94 JN 110779, moving project from FY 2012 to FY 2013, primary work type changing to bridge replacement with federal cost increasing to \$5,862,000 and state cost increasing to \$651,000 for a total phase cost of \$6,513,000 and a total project cost of \$6,939,000.
- Amending in FY 2012 project I-94 JN 110931, moving project from FY 2012 to FY 2014.
- Adding in FY 2012 project I-94 JN 115206 trunk line preconstruction general program account, federal cost of \$409,000 and state cost of \$91,000 for a total phase and project cost of \$500,000.

Motion by Berndt with support by Zebell to approve the three MDOT TIP amendments for the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

- **Gast Road NFC Request**

Flowers stated that the City of Bridgman has made an inquiry to change the National Functional Classification (NFC) of Gast Road from Lake St to Lemon Creek Rd. Steve Carlisle and Aaron Anthony are collecting additional data for this request. This request may be on the January 2012 agenda.

Tupica stated that in the spring of 2012 the US Census will be reviewing urban boundaries, such as the TwinCATS and NATS urbanized areas. MDOT will also be conducting a state wide review of road classifications and that applications of this nature may be put on hold. Tupica explained that urban boundaries are reviewed every 10 years due to a newly completed census.

## 9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

-Lenze discussed the issue of TIP amendments and public outreach given the current TwinCATS meeting schedule. Due to the fact that the TAC and Policy meetings are back to back, it does not allow any changes to be made to the TIP the day of the meeting. Staff must have a 7 day comment period regarding any TIP amendments prior to the Committee meeting to give the public an opportunity to comment on the changes. TwinCATS and NATS meetings are the only MPO in the state to have their meetings on the same day. Other MPOs across the state have their TAC committees early in the month to allow for immediate changes need to the TIP the day of the TAC meeting. Then they will notice out the changes and have their Policy Committee meet 1 or 2 weeks later to approve the changes. The current structure for TwinCATS and NATS has not allowed for public comment for TIP Amendments.

-Schervitz stated that these committees have met on the same time and date for many years and that people have these meetings set to schedule other meetings around. He suggested maybe keeping the Policy Committee on the same day and moving the TAC meetings early in the month.

-Purvis stated that Monday meetings can be difficult given Board meetings and that two meetings a month could be difficult for some members.

**10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:23 a.m. Motion by Zebell with support by Smith**

- Next meeting is **January 23, 2012 at 9:30am**

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