

Minutes
Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
TAC Meeting
 February 28, 2011
 9:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Ray Lenze, Michigan Department of Transportation, Statewide Planning Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development John Olson, Royalton Township Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Derek Perry, City of St. Joseph / Village of Stevensville Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Kercheval, Michigan Department of Transportation- Coloma TSC Jason Latham, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Steve Slavicek, Village of Stevensville Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve Carlisle, Wightman & Associates Wilma Enix, Transportation Advocacy Group Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township James Ivey, Transportation Advocacy Group Joanne Johnson, Disability Network SWMIDennis Schuh, Berrien County Public Transportation

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2010 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously with the correction that Zebell was present.*

3. **STAFF REPORT:**

- **Investment Reporting Tool Training – March 1st**
 - Thomas explained that a workshop will be held on March 1st from 9:30am to 12noon at the Van Buren Conference Center to train local governments on how to fill out the online Investment Reporting Tool. It is a tool that allows the state Transportation Asset Management Council to collect data on what transportation projects are being done by local agencies.
- **PASER Training – March 29th**
 - Thomas announced that the Transportation Asset Management Council will be holding road rating trainings for local agencies from 7:30am to 12:30pm on March 29th at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. Attendees must register with the Center for Technology and Training at M-Tec. The training is required for anyone who plans to be reimbursed for participation in the PASER process, and a pre-training webinar is required for new participants.
- **Asset Management Conference – May 12th**
 - Rahtz stated that anyone interested in asset management of roads may want to attend the statewide Asset Management Conference at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids on May 12th, since it is a fairly close location this year. She explained that the conference covers statewide trends in pavement condition and general concepts of asset management.
- **Local Road Rating**
 - Rahtz noted that starting this year, a new three-year cycle for road rating is beginning, and so all road-owning agencies are eligible to be reimbursed for rating their non-federal roads. SWMPC can conduct that road rating for agencies, also.
- **Transportation and Environment Presentations – March 22nd**
 - Thomas announced that speakers will be brought in to a joint TwinCATS/NATS meeting on March 22nd to discuss the intersection between transportation projects and environmental issues. He noted that this is especially important to learn about given the high incidence of flooding on many of the region's roads. The workshop will cover possible strategies and funding sources for addressing transportation needs and environmental needs together.
- **Transportation Funding 201 workshop – Date TBD**
 - Rahtz stated that the sequel to the Transportation Funding 101 workshop had previously been tentatively scheduled for March 28th, but that it is being indefinitely postponed until SWMPC staff confirm a speaker and a date. Most likely someone from the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association will be presenting the funding options laid out in the TF2 task force report, with a panel discussion including the state legislators about the various funding options.

4. **PROJECT UPDATES**

- **2010 Projects:**
 - City of Benton Harbor
 - Highland Avenue – obligated; spring construction
 - MDOT
 - No updates
 - Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
 - Saw an overall 16 percent increase in ridership since last year.
 - Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
 - Secured funding to complete runway expansion project this year.
- **2011 Projects:**
 - Berrien County Road Commission
 - Napier Ave west of I-94 – completed
 - California Rd – ready for letting
 - Pipestone Rd and River Rd seal coat – getting ready to submit
 - Benton Center Rd and Red Arrow Hwy seal coat – getting ready to submit
 - Lincoln Ave seal coat – getting ready to submit

- Hilltop Rd nonmotorized path –
 - Griffin stated that the working group including St. Joseph Township and the City of St. Joseph has continued to encounter obstacles with acquiring easements with the property owners and will not be able to obligate the funds in this fiscal year. Thus, they are recommending giving up the funds (from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program) to other communities to use.
 - Rahtz asked if it would be an option to reduce the lanes on the entire stretch of road to build the sidewalk in the road right of way and completely avoid having to acquire easements from property owners. Zebell responded that the traffic count is more than 20,000 cars per day East of Cleveland Avenue, and so it would not be feasible with that level of traffic.
- MDOT
 - No updates
- City of St. Joseph
 - S State St and Kingsley Ave – out to bid, opening bids April 1st
- Village of Stevensville
 - No updates
- TCATA
 - No updates

5. OLD BUSINESS:

• Walk and Roll Update

- Thomas presented maps he had prepared and discussed a methodology that the staff had developed for presenting potential design solutions at the public hearings. The public hearings are scheduled for the week of May 16 through 20. The dates are as follows:
 - May 16 – Lincoln Twp hall
 - May 17 – St. Joseph Public Library
 - May 18 – Michigan Works!, Benton Harbor
 - May 19 – Bridgman Public Library
- Thomas asked for corrections on the spreadsheets of road segment information for each municipality and passed out the spreadsheets to each community representative.
- Cook commented that despite the Hilltop project setback, the Walk and Roll subcommittee is committed as ever to implementing non-motorized projects in the Twin Cities area. He added that once successes are seen in the region, then property owners will want non-motorized facilities after they see the benefits that will come from them.

• Officer Elections

- Montoya reported that the officer nominating committee had chosen to re-nominate the current slate of officers, Scherwitz as Chair and Zebell as Vice-chair.
- There were no nominations from the floor.
- *Motion by Smith, seconded by Anthony, to accept the nominations. Motion approved unanimously.*

6. NEW BUSINESS:

• TIP Amendments

- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority / Dial-A-Ride
 - *Purvis asked why TCATA's bus replacement with CMAQ funds was still not added in the TIP and Rahtz responded that the CMAQ application had not yet been approved by the Federal Highway Administration.*
 - Modify in FY 2012, the project named Public Transportation for public transit urban operations. Federal cost is changing from \$640,000 (5307) to \$680,000 (5307), state cost is changing from \$657,584 (CTF) to \$663,725 (CTF), and local cost is changing from \$473,924 to \$444,327.

- Modify in FY 2012, the project named Transit Vehicle Replacement for replacing three buses with Congestion Mitigation funds. Federal cost is changing from \$180,000 (CM) to \$146,400 (CM) and state cost is changing from \$45,000 (CTF) to \$36,600 (CTF).
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program projects
 - *Rahtz noted that these two CMAQ projects had previously been programmed for 2011 but the years had been pushed back to allow funding for the Hilltop Rd project in 2011. The members of the committee decided to add the projects in FY 2011 after all, since the Hilltop Rd project is not moving forward.*
 - Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County Road Commission named John Beers Rd to construct a 6 foot-wide non-motorized path on the south side of John Beers Rd from Wyndstone to James St and on the north side of John Beers Rd from Roosevelt to James St. Federal cost is \$221,859 (CM), local cost is \$55,465, total phase cost is \$277,324, and total project cost is \$300,000.
 - Add in FY 2011, the Berrien County Road Commission project named Napier & Colfax Signal to upgrade interconnected traffic signal at intersection to include optimization, strain poles, LED signals, and vehicle detection cameras to maximize green time for traffic flow. Federal cost is \$200,000 (CMG) and total project cost is \$220,000.
 - *Motion by Berndt, seconded by Smith, to recommend that the Policy Committee add the above two CMAQ projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

• **TAG Representation?**

- Rahtz noted that there were two guests present at the meeting, one from the Transportation Advocacy Group and one from the Regional Inter-Agency Consumers Committee. Both groups are advocacy groups made up of transit riders and individuals with disabilities. Rahtz explained that the staff had previously discussed the difficulty of putting together a staff-run Citizen Advocacy Committee, which many metropolitan planning organizations have. She commented that having representatives from these two citizen groups would be a perfect opportunity to formalize citizen input. She suggested that the committee discuss the possibility of adding them as voting members of the group and perhaps vote on it at the next meeting.
- Zebell stated that it would be helpful to get more information on what other MPOs do and what works or doesn't what. He also asked if the by-laws had recently been revised and if they would have to be revised again. Rahtz responded that they hadn't been revised since 2007, and that they would have to be revised to include the name of the group being represented. It was inquired what language would be needed to add to the by-laws, and Rahtz stated that there is already a list of represented agencies in the by-laws, and so the name of the group would just have to be added to the list. She also noted that there are already currently non-governmental groups represented on the committees, such as Cornerstone Alliance. She added that the change may also need to be amended in the Participation Plan, which had just been approved in October.
- The committee asked her to provide more information in writing at the next meeting.
- Berndt stated that he had received a note from the MDOT Coloma TSC saying that MDOT is moving forward with performing deck work in the M-63/Niles Avenue bridge over I-94 in 2013. Because of the narrowness of the bridge, all lanes have to be closed at one time for a period of twelve weeks. Berndt added that the Berrien County Road Commission will be initiating discussion at their next board meeting about how to prepare for the detour traffic. Comments on the detour route will have to be provided to MDOT.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:15 A.M.

- *Motion by Cook, seconded by Montoya, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Next meeting is ****March 22, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. at Andrews University. ****

Compiled by: Anna Rahtz and Trevor Thomas, Transportation Planners, 2/28/11