

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 27, 2012

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<p>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</p>	<p>Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Bill Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning John Olson, Royalton Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph</p>
<p>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</p>	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman 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) 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 Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township 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 Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio)</p>
<p>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</p>	<p>Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas</p>
<p>OTHERS PRESENT:</p>	<p>Kenton McAndrews, City of Benton Harbor Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI Tim Kading, City of Bridgman</p>

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 January 23, 2012. **Motion passed.**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No comments were received the month of February.

4. **STAFF REPORT:**

- **Michigan Works Bridge Academy Presentation-Delayed**
Flowers stated that as a means to reach out to the youth in the MPO planning area, she has scheduled a presentation with the Michigan Works JAG students and that the presentation has been delayed a week and will present information at the March 2012 TAC meeting.
- **Public Participation Plan Comments and Input Meetings**
Flowers stated that the 45-day public comment period is coming to a close, that both public input meetings were held during the month of February, and that once the comment period ends, she will compile all public comments received and present them to the Committee.
- **Investments Reporting Tools Training (IRT)**
Thomas again stressed the importance of the Asset Management trainings that have been on the SWMPC website and also brought up the topic of training for the new Investment Reporting Tool. Thomas will get the information out to the proper agencies, the county road commissions, cities, and villages, through an email to make sure that those agencies are aware of the changes occurring.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Walk and Roll**
The Walk and Roll Committee met before the TAC meeting and discussed the direction that they wanted to take for the implementation of the Walk and Roll Plan. Thomas reported to the members that he will develop policy language to incorporate into the next Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan; a top 10 list of priority projects will be developed; and more research will be done on the potential liability concerns regarding non-motorized facilities. The next Walk and Roll meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on March 19, 2012 before the next TwinCATS meetings.
- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) and Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**
RICC-Nothing to report the month of February.

TAG - The TAG group is no longer meeting and advocacy work is going to be done by individuals separately from the TAG group.

Schervitz stated that since the group was specifically listed in the TwinCATS TAC By-laws that they will need to be noticed and amended per the specifications listed in the current TwinCATS TAC By-laws.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**

The reduced fare card system has processed over 360 applications and given out 365 reduced fare cards to riders to use on transit systems in southwest Michigan. This is a much easier system than carrying sensitive documents as people travel around the region.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Purvis stated that the TCATA Board has three new members: Joanne Johnson, Richard Martin and Joe Harris.

Purvis also discussed the importance of the video cameras on the buses for accident reporting and insurance purposes. He also discussed the increase in ridership on the fixed routes and stated that demand response calls are being diverted to the fixed bus routes when appropriate.

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, 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 April-Aug 2012
 - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – construction May-Oct 2012
 - 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 –July-September 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 July 2012
- Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St-JN 112088 CON Phase-scoping change will be part of Lake Street project-April let; fall construction
- ~~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-needs to be moved to 2013
 - 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-plan review
- 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- -all carpool lots are on hold due to funding issues
 - 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, let in March
- TCATA/Niles Dial A Ride (these were discussed as TIP Amendments)
 - New expanded hours
 - New line haul route
 - Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)

7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

8. NEW BUSINESS:

▪ **Legislative Updates**

Flowers and Thomas were asked to place the item on the agenda to keep Committee members better informed of what was happening at the state and federal level as it relates to transportation.

○ Federal

Flowers and Thomas handed out a 2-page sheet explaining the updates for the Federal Transportation Bills along with a handout from the Association for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, comparing the House and Senate versions of the transportation bill. Discussion focused on provisions to eliminate existing small (under 200,000 populations) MPOs, as well funding implications for transit and the Transportation Enhancement program. Finally, Flowers and Thomas stated that the current consensus among experts is that neither the House nor the Senate transportation bill is likely to be passed in the near future.

Lenze pointed out that the current extension ends at the end of March and that would mean that if an extension or new legislation is not done that federal funding of projects would be in jeopardy. One member questioned what the justification would be to get rid of small MPOs and Lenze stated that there would be more funding to go around to the

MPOs that were left. He also mentioned that there have been provisions about grandfathering in any small MPO but only new MPOs would be created if they had a population of 200,000.

- State

A number of bills have been proposed at the state level many of the bills are discussing the reinvention of Act 51, funding for roads such as using additional vehicle registration fees, an increase in the gas tax.

Scherwitz stated that members should help elected officials understand the local implications of the decision in Lansing. He encouraged people to press the key points and to stay connected and informed of what is happening in Lansing.

- Support letter for Harbor Authority

Flowers explained that the NATS Policy Committee had asked her to draft a support letter for the Harbor Authority and that at the January meeting, John Gruchot had asked if the support letter could come from both the NATS and TwinCATS MPOs.

Motion by Berndt with support by Woolcock to recommend the TwinCATS Policy Chair, Robert Judd, to sign the resolution of support for the St. Joseph River Harbor Authority. **Motion passed.**

- **TIP Amendments**

New projects being proposed to the 2011-2014 TIP.

- MDOT

- 2012-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and ROW phase for a federal cost of \$400,000 and state cost of \$100,000; for a phase cost of \$500,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.
- 2012-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and PE phase for a federal cost of \$90,000 and state cost of \$23,000; for a phase cost of \$113,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.
- 2012-Project Region wide General Program Account, Program development scoping trunkline, EPE phase for a federal cost of \$409,000 and state cost of \$91,000 for a total project cost of \$500,000.
- 2014-Project I-94, JN 114962, traffic operations and CON phase for a federal cost of \$990,000 and state cost of \$248,000 for a phase cost of \$1,238,000 and total project cost of \$1,850,000.

- Berrien County Transportation Authority

This project was discovered to not be an applicable project for the TwinCATS MPO and was removed from the TIP discussion.

- St. Joseph

- 2012-Project Napier Avenue, JN 115066, traffic operations/safety at Langley Avenue intersection for a federal cost of \$235,000 and total project cost of \$235,000.
- 2012-Project at CSX transportation, Inc, in the City of St. Joseph, JN 115434 for a federal cost of \$175,000 and a state cost of \$75,000 for a total project cost of \$250,000.

- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission-Rideshare
 - 2012-Rideshare program, JN 115067, for a federal cost of \$12,000 and total project cost of \$12,000.
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
 - 2013-Expanded Hours, federal cost of \$85,000 and state cost of \$85,000 and total project costs for \$170,000.
 - 2013-New Freedom, federal cost of \$75,000 and total project cost of \$75,000.
 - 2013-New line haul route, for a federal cost of \$108,000 and state cost of \$108,000 for a total project cost of \$216,000.
 - 2013-Replacement buses total number 3, for a federal cost of \$139,000 and state cost of \$35,000 for a total project cost of \$174,000.
- Bridgman
 - 2012-At CSX Transportation, Inc. in City of Bridgman, JN 115432, for a federal cost of \$175,000 and state cost of \$75,000 for a total project cost of \$250,000.
- Berrien County Road Commission
 - 2014-Date Road, JN 115768, for a federal cost of \$750,000 and state cost of \$135,000 and local cost of \$45,000 for a total project cost of \$900,000.

Motion by Zebell with support by Purvis to add the new projects to the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP. Motion passed.

Amendments for current TIP project modification

- MDOT
 - Deleting in FY 2012, Project Name I-94, JN 110931, moving to FY 2015.
 - Adding to FY 2012 from the Illustrative List, Project name I-94 EB, JN 79871 federal cost change increase from \$15,165,000 to \$15,615,00; change in state cost increase from \$1,685,000 to \$1,735,000 for a total cost change increase from \$16,850,000 to \$17,350,000 and a total project cost change increase from \$17,950,000 to \$18,550,000.
 - Amending in FY 2012, Project name I-94, JN 109093, increase in federal cost from \$598,000 to \$912,00 and increase in state cost from \$66,000 to \$101,000 and a total cost increase from \$664,000 to \$1,013,000 and an increase in total project cost from \$749,000 to \$1,098,000.
 - Amending in FY 2011 to FY 2012, Project name I-94, JN 88086. No change in cost only a change in fiscal year.
 - Amending in FY 2012 to FY 2013, Project name I-94, JN 110779. No change in cost only change in fiscal year.
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
 - Amending in FY 2012, Project name Transit vehicle additions/replacements JN 115068, increase in federal cost from \$146,000 to \$162,000 and a decrease in

state costs from \$37,000 to \$0, for a total cost increase from \$183,000 to \$202,000 for a total project increase from \$183,000 to \$202,000.

- Amending in FY 2013, Project name Transit operations, a decrease in federal cost from \$710,000 to \$700,000 and an increase in state costs from \$610,000 to \$652,000 and a decrease in local costs from \$480,000 to \$448,000 and no change in total project cost.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Olson to approve the 2011-2014 TwinCATS TIP amendments. **Motion passed.**

Amendments for non-FTA/FHWA projects

- Southwest Michigan Regional Airport
 - 2012
 - Land Acquisition for Rwy 32 RPZ- Phase I (\$93k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
 - PE for Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA Compliance (\$57k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
 - 2013
 - Land Acquisition for Rwy 14/32 approach- Phase II (\$93k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
 - Design Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA compliance (\$57k federal, \$2k state, \$2k local)
 - Tree Clearing/Pruning Rwy 14/32 (Cost TBD)
 - 2014
 - Shift Rwy 14/32 for RSA compliance (370' south) and Rehabilitate existing runway surface & lighting (\$1,625k federal, \$43k state, \$43k local)

Motion by Woolcock with support by Gruchot to add the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport projects to the TwinCATS 2011-2014 TIP. **Motion passed.**

9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:26 a.m.

Motion by Woolcock with support by Gruchot to adjourn the meeting.

- Next meeting is **March 19, 2012 at 9:30am**

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