

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 25, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	<p>Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township Pamela Boyd, MDOT - Statewide Planning Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan John Olson, Village of Shoreham Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph</p>
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC</p>
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	<p>Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani</p>
OTHERS PRESENT:	<p>Matt Kodis, Michigan Works Pete Pfeiffer- MDOT- Coloma TSC Wayne A. Schoonover, Berrien County Road Commission</p>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES

- A motion was made by Gruchot with support by Cook to approve the minutes of the TAC Committee meeting minutes from January 28, 2013.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Climate Change Workshop Reminder**

Mani reminded the group that the initial climate change workshop for the GLISA/MSU grant project would take place this Wednesday February 27th from 6-8 PM at Michigan Works! Mani encouraged group members to attend as this was money specifically received by TwinCATS at work, and is our first opportunity to engage with the public on climate issues.

- **TIP Application Issues and Feedback**

Mani thanked the group for their patience with the TIP application, apologizing for making the process more difficult rather than easier. Mani said that SWMPC had made as many fixes as possible for the current cycle, and that we would be taking all of the feedback into account as we develop applications for amendments and the next call for projects.

- **Public Meetings for LRP**

Mani stated that dates for public input meetings regarding the LRP had been set for March 20, April 17, and May 22 from 5-7 PM at Michigan Works! These meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to give feedback on the LRP in manageable amounts before the formal comment period, just as the committee members have had an opportunity to give feedback on the LRP in manageable amounts.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**

None.

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

Johnson wishes to pass on thanks to Kim Gallagher for coming to present to the RICC group.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**

None.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**

None.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date

	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	July 2012: Still waiting on permission from MDOT to install Main St. shelter. May have to install in Michigan Works parking lot, though this would make route less efficient, maybe spring of 2013	December 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012; contract has been awarded	January 2013		x
2012							
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13; bid spring 2013; CMAQ funds let, spring construction	January 2013		x
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	Moved to FY 2014 at December meeting	December 2012		x
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design; no change	December 2012		x
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Schedule for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward; no change	December 2012		x
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; July 2012: Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design; the bridge was made longer to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014; no change	December 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding	December 2012		x

				seems less certain); September 2012: Continued Service; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else; December 2012-already been awarded			
		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	November 2012		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else	November 2012		x
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	1/2013- continues to be in limbo due to negotiations with Harbor Shores	January 2013		
	112089	Benton Harbor	Empire from Riverview Dr. to Colfax Ave.	Mill and resurface road, minor drainage improvements, ADA sidewalk ramp replacements; will receive a request from the city on the potential movement of this project; 11/2012 TIP Amendment; moved to the illustrative list on the 2011-2014 TIP	December 2012		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	1/2013: Pre-engineering complete- need 1.3 million. Depending on availability of STP funds, project will get funding in 2013 and 2014. 2/2013- Project will be a go in	February 2013		

				2014, pending project selection process, and will be using STP funds in that year.			
	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	Bridge Replacement-CON phase-AC project; 11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change	December 2012		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December	December 2012		
		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			
	114962	MDOT	I-94 westbound off ramp at Pipestone	SWMPC has received communication that this project and the accompanying 2014 Phase A of this project need to be removed from TIP waiting for guidance from MDOT; still working on the	December 2012		

				details of the project, scoping at Pipestone will be done first, the CMAQ project in the TIP will be delayed until the scoping is done.			

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP Amendments**

No amendments. Zebell asked whether the TIP project selection subcommittee would meet on Friday. Mani stated that the meeting would be on Friday at 1 PM in the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport boardroom.

- **Brad Sharlow- Travel Demand Model**

Sharlow presented a list of roadways throughout Berrien County (TwinCATS and NATS) and their volume and capacity ratio. Sharlow stated that as of 2010, TwinCATS had no roadways that were over capacity (V/C greater or = 1.00), and only a handful approaching capacity. Zebell, Kodis, and Cook expressed surprise about M-63 being closest to reaching capacity, while Red Arrow was not, and Sharlow explained that this was likely because M-63 only had two lanes.

Sharlow explained that he would be returning next month with models for 2020, 2030, and 2040, and that some other roadways might be close to capacity by then. He also stated that he is still working on peak period modeling. Scherwitz asked whether the completion of US-31 would help any of these roadways, particularly Pipestone, from reaching capacity. Pfeiffer stated that plans were 90% finished, but that the completion of US-31 was not in MDOT’s Five Year Transportation Plan. Johnson raised the issue of whether there was any room in this model to discuss reduction of automobile traffic rather than simple capacity expansion.

- **Long Range Transportation Plan Sections**

- Goals and Objectives Narrative

Mani stated that SWMPC staff made a decision, based on committee guidance and recommendation, to separate the more concrete goals and objectives from the less certain performance measures. Flowers stated that committee members had indicated a great deal of comfort with the goals and objectives, but not the measures, so this seemed like the best way to proceed. Mani stated that the narrative simply added background as to why we are implementing goals, objectives, and performance measures at all.

- Non-Motorized Section

Mani stated that this section takes a look at non-motorized transportation beyond the strict boundaries of the TwinCATS region to include our neighbors to the south in the NIRPC and MACOG regions of Indiana. Mani also stated that this section now more clearly makes the case for non-motorized transportation because of shifting demographics. These demographics indicate an increasingly old population over the next 35 years that may not be willing or able to drive. In addition, younger people may not desire living in auto-centric communities. Furthermore, many in our region may not be able to afford a car with the increasing cost of operating one. Boyd

advised that information on the TwinCATS Complete Streets Policy and Walk and Roll plan still needed to be added in.

- Rail Section

Mani advised that this section also took a more regional approach for all of Southwest Michigan, looking at rail service in northern Indiana and throughout Berrien and Cass Counties. Boyd and Dewey advised that there was some information on freight rail mixed in with passenger rail, and Mani stated that while we attempted to keep the freight and rail sections largely separate, there would end up still being some overlap.

- Airports section

Mani stated that this section too took a regional approach, looking to airports outside TwinCATS' boundaries that might impact freight and people movement in the area. Scherwitz stated that he was working to get information from a new, accurate data source on freight movement at Southwest Michigan, as well as an update to the current conditions of the airport.

- Freight section

Mani stated that is section was largely expanded from its previous version, which focused exclusively on trucking. Data on commercial average daily traffic has been updated, but the section has been expanded to include data on rail and other modes. In addition, the section includes information on projects that are seemingly far away, but that still affect freight movement in our area, including the Detroit River International Crossing, the continued presence of Chicago as a rail and trucking freight hub, and the expansion of the Panama Canal. Scherwitz added that on the East coast, the port of Dover would serve as the primary off-loading point for new post "Panamax" ships, while Columbus International Airport would serve as the new hub for goods coming from the East Coast. In addition, the Panama Canal Expansion would reduce the quantity of goods that would have to travel to the Great Lakes region from the West Coast by rail and truck.

- Coordination with State Long Range Plan

Mani stated that this section addressed the ways in which goals in the TwinCATS Long Range plan aligned with goals in the state of Michigan's Long Range Transportation Plan and other directives from the state.

A motion by Gruchot with support by Boyd to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the draft sections of the TwinCATS 2013-2040 Transportation Plan presented in this meeting for further progress and review. **Motion passed.**

- **Items to Review (Future Planning Boundary Section)**

Mani said that this section was a statement of areas that TwinCATS would be monitoring over the time frame of the Long Range Plan to see whether new jurisdictions needed to be added or the urbanized area changes. For TwinCATS, two areas in particular are being monitored: New Buffalo and Coloma/Watervliet. In addition, a few pockets of growth in Baroda and Royalton would be monitored in the plan. Mani said that a map would be coming for TwinCATS

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**

Dewey stated that DOT is monitoring possible sequestration closely. If sequestration occurs, it may mean a delay in processing of MPO requests. Boyd stated that Ray LaHood has stepped

down as transportation secretary, and that Jennifer Granholm was being explored as a possible replacement.

- **State**

Boyd stated that a bill has been introduced with new roadway revenue possibly coming from four categories: Sales tax, a wholesale gas tax, vehicle registration fee increases, and an agency tax.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Boyd stated that Ray Lenze was doing well. An MDOT representative delivered his farewell package to him, and he was enjoying receiving all the cards. He has begun treatment.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 10:30 a.m.

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

- Next meeting is **March 25, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.**

Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013

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