

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

March 16, 2015

9:00 A.M.

Kinexus Anchor Rooms A+B

<b>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor John Olson, Village of Shoreham and Royalton Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township 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) Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Paul Lott, MDOT - Statewide Planning 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 Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Representative, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani Patrice Rose

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

### 2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by McAndrew with support by Rieder to approve the minutes of the February TAC meeting. **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

### 4. STAFF REPORT

- **Traffic Count Requests**

Mani said that traffic count request are coming in, so it was definitely not too early to request counts. Communities that are looking to reclassify roadways on the NFC system need to have a recent traffic count. They should mark that they are looking at reclassification on the count request form online: <http://www.swmpc.org/trafficcountform.asp>. Mani said that for special count requests, he is happy to walk applicants through the form. Sometimes count requests do not quite match the fields labeled on the form, but SWMPC does have some flexibility in what counts it can do.

- **Spring Asset Management Conference April 30**

Mani said the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) would be hosting the Spring Asset Management Conference from 8-4 at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport. Mani strongly recommended that engineers, managers and elected officials attend. The conference is a great way to learn the latest best practices in pavement management and data collection, and it is also a week before the ballot proposal up for a vote. The ballot proposal for transportation funding will be a topic of discussion. Mani said he would forward on the agenda and registration information to committee members when they were available, but he was sure that registration for public agencies would be discounted.

- **ADARS/IRT Reporting**

Gallagher noted that Act 51 agencies were supposed to be tracking their investments using ADARS and IRT reporting. Statewide, however, participation in the tool is only at 30%. Gallagher said that SWMPC would be compiling a list on which jurisdictions in our region had and had not participated and were available to assist Act 51 agencies with reporting.

- **Asset Management Annual Report- Berrien County**

Mani gave a presentation on the Asset Management Annual Report for Berrien County. This is a report that SWMPC produces that catalogs the change in road conditions from 2003 to the present year. It shows extremely sharp deterioration in pavement conditions across the state and within Southwest Michigan. Mani said that committee members were free to use these data and the presentation in any way they saw fit. The report is available at:

<http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/annualreportberrien20042014.pdf>

A more complete version of the presentation than given at TwinCATS is available at:

[http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/asset\\_management\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/asset_management_presentation.pdf)

- **2016 Pre UWP Updates**

Mani shared updates from SWMPC's annual pre-Unified Planning Work Program meetings with MDOT and FHWA. This meeting was in the lead-up to the MPO work plan for FY 2016. The main items for MPO members to note are that the next TwinCATS Long Range Plan is due in July of 2018, due to air quality standard revocations. In addition, the next TIP would likely be due in June of 2016, meaning that project selection would be coming up within the next year.

Lanum said that performance measurement would a major role in the next TIP and LRP processes. Mani said that we would likely need to develop a project selection procedure so that they can justify investments based on performance targets. Mani said that MPO staff would be learning more at a Peer Exchange in late April.

Mani and Gallagher told committee members that if there were work activities that they would like to see SWMPC do on behalf of the MPO that they are not currently doing, they should definitely suggest them, as these could be included in the FY 2016 work plan.

- **Travel Demand Model Updates**

Mani also said that they had met with MDOT Travel Demand modelers last week to discuss the state of the model for the TwinCATS area. For the next Long Range Plan, we would likely only be making minor adjustments to the employment and housing data. Unless there is a big change in development patterns in the area, we will not redo the model until after the next decennial census.

However, with the current travel demand model we have the opportunity to run possible scenarios of what would happen to travel patterns with particular roadway treatments. For example, TwinCATS could examine what a road diet on a particular corridor would do to travel patterns, or the completion of US-31.

Zebell suggested a feasibility analysis of installing a sidewalk and reducing lanes on Cleveland Avenue in the City of St. Joseph.

Johnson said it might be worth looking into a road diet on Niles Avenue leading to downtown St. Joseph in an effort to attract more pedestrians and cyclists.

- **Local Resolutions of Support for FY 2016 Projects due in April this year**

Mani said that for any jurisdiction with an FY 2016 project that has a local match component, resolutions of support would be due at the end of April this year. The resolution must be from the community board or council and must state that the community will be able to provide local match in FY 2016. Gallagher said that SWMPC would be sending out reminders to communities that have projects in FY 2016 that a resolution will be due.

## 5. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Gallagher said that SWMPC is waiting to hear whether the grant application for a Countywide Service Planning grant was successful. If it is successful, we will be able to issue an RFP.

- **TCATA Updates**

None.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**  
No report.

## 7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Gallagher reported that the Health Dept. move combining 4 facilities to one on Napier in Benton Twp has taken place. After much discussion, public transit to the site is available via TCATA, but it is entirely a Dial-A-Ride service.

McAndrew states that a zoning change has been requested in the City of Benton Harbor on Britain Ave. in the Calvin-Britain School area from single family to multi-family residential. An affordable housing development would be going in, all within a TIF district.

## 8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Obligation Thermometer** – Mani reports that as of February 28, 60.2 % of 2015 obligation authority had been used up. This obligation authority is only available through May 31<sup>st</sup>, at which point there would need to be reauthorization of federal transportation legislation for the state to receive further obligation authority. Mani said that that SWMPC always encouraged agencies in the area to obligate early.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
<b>2012</b>							
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	Plan Review January 20th- still on track for January 2016 construction	January 2015		
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Scheduled for October letting; returned to region for funding to move forward; no change; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting <b>July 2013: On hold</b>	July 2013		
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	<b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); <b>September 2012:</b> Continued Service;	November 2013		

				11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else; <b>December 2012-</b> already been awarded; <b>November 2013:</b> not funded			
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	<b>July 2012:</b> Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else <b>July 2013:</b> JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.	July 2013		
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	<b>July 2014:</b> Buses on the way, with propane conversions	July 2014		
2013	115751	MDOT	I-94 WB (from I-196 for 0.4 miles to start of 2008 concrete pavement)	Suspended project	January 2015		
	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	<b>January 2015:</b> August 2015 Construction Completion	January 2015		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December; <b>July 2013:</b> Waiting for contract approval	July 2013		
		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	January 2013		

				in 2014			
		TCATA	Bus operations	Not submit yet			
	116924	SWMPC	Berrien County- Rideshare	In progress			
2014	112087	Benton Harbor	Broadway Avenue/Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	<b>January 2015:</b> Broadway Avenue is completed, Colfax Avenue will be done in June 2015	March 2015		
	121011	Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade	<b>January 2015:</b> Restoration will take place in Spring; fiber optic cable still needs to be run	January 2015		
		Village of Shoreham	Brown School Road Resurfacing	<b>March 2015:</b> will be let on April 3. Need to cut down trees in April to avoid issues with long-eared bat	March 2015		
2015		Berrien County	Marquette Woods Road Restore and Rehab/Sidewalks	<b>March 2015:</b> May 1 letting	March 2015		
		Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	<b>March 2015:</b> Still getting ROW clearances	March 2015		
		City of Benton Harbor	Pipestone St at Britain Avenue Traffic Signal	<b>March 2015:</b> Submitting GI plans on Friday	March 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Botham Avenue	<b>March 2015:</b> Contract awarded, no construction schedule as yet.	March 2015		
		City of St. Joseph	Park St. Bridge	<b>March 2015:</b> Pre-construction meeting on Thursday	March 2015		
		MDOT	I-94 Signing Project from Puetz Road to I-196	<b>January 2015:</b> September 1- October 16	January 2015		
		MDOT	M-63 bridge over Hickory Creek	<b>June 8-July 21</b>	January 2015		
		MDOT	M-63 Resurfacing	This summer	January 2015		

John Lanum said that MDOT was still looking at redoing the I-94 bridge over Pipestone Road and possibly reconfiguring the entire interchange. Those discussions were ongoing at a state level. Mani wondered whether MDOT had discussed adding that project to the 5-year plan and whether they had selected one particular alternative. Lanum said that there had not been those discussions as yet.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS:

None

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

None

- **MDOT Updates**

- Ballot Initiative**

Mani said that SWMPC had created a web page for objective information about the Transportation Ballot Proposal: <http://www.swmpc.org/transfunding.asp>

Zebell said that he was looking for someone or some material who could really explain how the ballot proposal works in simple terms, and how it would change the ways taxes are spent from an individual gallon of gas. Zebell said that he found the ballot initiative extremely confusing as someone who works with transportation regularly, so members of the public are completely overwhelmed. Gallagher said that SWMPC would work on a possible pie chart that would show that funding breakdown.

- Other Updates**

None

## 11. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Zebell said that he was under the impression that we had an NFC review deadline in April. Mani said that was indeed the case, but it was only for upgrades to Other Principal Arterials. Other changes were due in September. Zebell said he would like to request reclassification of Whitwam Drive, and that he had submitted a traffic count request to that effect.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT at 10:19 AM.

Next meeting is April 20, 2015 at 9:00 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

*Compiled by: Gautam Mani, SWMPC Transportation Planner, and Patrice Rose, SWMPC Administrative Assistant, 2015.*