

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

March 21, 2016

9:00 A.M.

St. Joseph City Commission Chambers

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Calli Berg, Benton Charter Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Juan Ganum, City of Bridgman Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Dan Roberts, MDOT Kalamazoo TSC Evan Smith, Berrien County Community Development Department Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Cathy Tilley, Cornerstone Alliance Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Vince Desjardins, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Representative, Sodus Township Fred Featherly, MDOT Passenger Division (ex officio) John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Olson, Village of Shoreham, Village of Stevensville, Royalton Township Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Donna Wittl, MDOT Statewide Urban Travel Analysis (ex officio) Representative, City of Bridgman
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. CHANGES TO THE POSTED AGENDA:

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Cook with support by Smith to approve the minutes of the February 22 TAC meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

5. STAFF REPORT

▪ Upcoming Staffing Changes at SWMPC

Mani announced that he was leaving SWMPC on May 13th. He had accepted a position with the Federal Highway Administration in Albany, NY. Mani thanked committee members for giving him their support and for an outstanding experience in his first planning job. The committee members congratulated him and wished him well.

Mani said that SWMPC was working hard to fill his position. Resumes had come in and interviews were going to be scheduled shortly. The goal is to have someone in place by the time that he departs.

▪ Asset Management Conference

Mani informed committee members that the Spring Asset Management Conference would be taking place on April 13th in Dearborn. Prices are relatively low for the conference. Unfortunately, an agenda was not available as yet.

6. PUBLIC TRANSIT

▪ SWMPC Transit Updates

Gallagher said that the Request for Proposals released online for the countywide service planning study in Berrien County. This study is looking at possibilities for fixed route service throughout the county so that more people can be served by transit, so that the transit agencies can operate more efficiently, and so that Dial-A-Ride service can serve those who absolutely need it. Gallagher said that this study would be useful regardless of if full consolidation occurred. Gallagher said that a phone call had taken place with consultants who were interested to answer questions regarding the study. The proposals were due on April 8th. After that date, consultants will be brought in for interviews. The study is expected to be completed in May of 2017.

Gallagher said that there were still questions regarding the role of Berrien County elected officials in the consolidation process.

Evan Smith said that the previous Thursday, Berrien County staff had met with the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to continue discussions of forming a new Countywide Transportation Authority. Evan Smith said that the County Board of Commissioners had instructed staff to attempt to conduct meetings in all of the municipalities of Berrien County to understand the level of support for consolidation and for transit, and to discuss what benefits each municipality might receive in terms of services. The transit agencies on their own bring in \$4 million in federal and state funds per year.

▪ TCATA and Berrien Bus Updates

Purvis reported that he had placed the order for new radios and dispatching software. Gallagher reported that she was working with Purvis on figuring out the appropriate sites for new bus shelters for TCATA.

Purvis reported also that he was in the process of ordering slightly larger medium duty buses for the fixed route, as there were an increasing number of passengers during the beginning of the month. The medium duty buses would accommodate 21 passengers. Purvis said that overall ridership was still down.

Evan Smith shared that Berrien County was continuing to work with senior centers on improving their transportation system. Currently, many senior centers do not have vehicles equipped to transport wheelchairs.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**
No report.
- **Walk and Roll Report**
Mani said that the Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council (MGSSLC) had been ramping up its efforts for non-motorized planning in the area. Mani said that one thing SWMPC was working on was to make sure members of the MGSSLC were informed about work that had already been done in our region on non-motorized planning, including the TwinCATS Walk and Roll plan. The goal was to avoid duplication of effort, and focus MGSSLC on implementation. Mani said that many priorities identified in existing plans had still not been met, and so it does not make sense for MGSSLC to be writing completely new plans.

8. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Gallagher shared the news story on the further planned expansion of LECO in St. Joseph Township, and wondered about the possibility of sidewalks and in particular, a marked crosswalk leading to the facility. Zebell said that a lot still depended on the ability to obtain easements. Berndt said the Wightman was working on specifics for that expansion and the possibility of new crosswalks on that stretch of road.

9. PROJECT UPDATES

City of Benton Harbor

2016 Pipestone at Wall Street Traffic Signal replacement project- Grade Inspection meeting is next week. The City is still anticipating a July letting.

City of St. Joseph

2016 Lakeview Avenue from Hilltop to Highland Avenue reconstruct- Funds are obligated. The project will be let in May and constructed as soon as school lets out.

Berrien County Road Commission

2016 Shawnee Road from the Bridgman city limits to Jericho Road- April 1 letting

2016 Pipestone Traffic Signal at Entrance to Meijer- Final plans have been approved.

2016 Napier at Pipestone traffic signal- completed.

MDOT

No updates

TCATA

Replacement radios and dispatching software have been ordered.

10. OLD BUSINESS

▪ **Napier Avenue**

Mani and Gallagher reiterated that the TAC and Policy Committees had each stated at their February meetings that despite approving the projects for funding on Napier Avenue, the TwinCATS committees should continue to have discussions in order to urge Benton Township and St. Joseph Township to comply with the Complete Streets Policy with the Napier Avenue projects. Cook said that he was under the impression that SWMPC would be setting up meetings with Benton Township and St. Joseph Township. Gallagher said that Latham from MDOT had indicated that he would initiate those meetings, but SWMPC would organize them and be on hand to take minutes.

Mani reminded committee members that an exemption was granted based on the TwinCATS' Policy Committee's judgment that the Napier projects constituted "maintenance." However, other similar "mill and overlay" projects were funded and perhaps resurfaced fewer miles in order to meet the Complete Streets Policy. Gallagher and Mani both questioned why Napier should be exempt from that. Gallagher and Mani also said that the committees had debated granting exemption 2; that the costs were far too high.

Johnson reminded committee members that the Complete Streets Policy did not force agencies to build sidewalks or bicycle lanes, but applied to the use of TwinCATS' allocation of STP funds. Projects that are unable to meet the Complete Streets Policy should look towards other funding sources, such as TEDF funding. At the same time, the TwinCATS committees should be looking to guide the Townships towards funding sources that can help them build and maintain sidewalks. Gallagher acknowledged that winter maintenance was an understandable concern for the townships. Certain townships had success with developing winter maintenance plans for their sidewalks, but it can create huge costs as well. Gallagher said that it is worth getting more information about those exact costs for non-motorized infrastructure before they make a decision.

Mani and Gallagher both said that per committee wishes, these conversations regarding Napier Avenue and the value of the Complete Streets Policy would continue. Zebell recommended that the TwinCATS project selection committee also reconvene to examine the accuracy of reported data in project selection and to really evaluate the success of the project prioritization system. This could be done with more focus now that the MPO was no longer under time pressures.

11. NEW BUSINESS

▪ **TIP Amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP**

TCATA

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority proposed the following amendments to the 2014-2017 TwinCATS TIP:

2017

- Add Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.
- Add Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position for a total of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute Funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.
- Add one bus replacement purchase using Section 5339 federal funds for \$68,398 and state funds in the amount of \$17,100.

- Add the purchase of four replacement buses using federal CMAQ funds in the amount of \$230,000; federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$43,594, and state funds in the amount of \$68,368.
- Add the purchase of three replacement buses using federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$205,194 and state funds in the amount of \$51,300.

MDOT

The Michigan Department of Transportation proposed the following amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP:

2016

- Add PE Phase of US-31 Longitudinal Joint Repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$16,370; and state funds in the amount of \$3,630.

Roberts noted that this was an emerging technology that MDOT was testing out on Napier Avenue and other areas. Cook asked about completion of US-31 itself. Roberts noted that completion of the “cloverleaf” at Exit 33 on I-94 was on MDOT’s schedule, although no TIP amendment has been proposed as yet. Roberts said he could try to provide an update on US-31 at the next TwinCATS meeting.

2017

- Add Construction Phase of the US-31 longitudinal joint repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$234,036, and state funds in the amount of \$51,897.
- Move I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 ROW phase from 2015 to 2017. The project has a federal cost of \$22,500 and a state cost of \$2,500.

A motion by Berndt with support by Zebell to recommend that the TwinCATS Policy Committee approve the amendments to the 2014-2017 TIP. **Motion passed.**

▪ **MDOT and TCATA Additions to the 2017-2020 TIP**

TCATA

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority proposed the following additions to the 2017-2020 TIP:

2017

- Add Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.
- Add Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position for a total of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.
- Add one bus replacement purchase using Section 5339 federal funds for \$68,398 and state funds in the amount of \$17,100.
- Add the purchase of four replacement buses using federal CMAQ funds in the amount of \$230,000; federal 5307 funds in the amount of \$43,594, and state funds in the amount of \$68,368.

2018

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$777,380 federal, \$658,744 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,842,124.
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for facilities improvements for a federal amount of \$80,000 and a state amount of \$20,000.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

2019

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$816,249 federal, \$691,681 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,913,930
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for one bus replacement for a federal amount of \$72,000 and a state amount of \$18,000.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

2020

- Add Federal Section 5307 regular operating funds in the amount of \$857,061 federal, \$726,265 state, and \$406,000 in local funds for a total project cost of \$1,993,327.
- Add Federal Section 5339 funding for one bus replacement for a federal amount of \$74,400 and a state amount of \$18,600.
- Add Federal Section 5310 funds for the mobility manager position in the amount of \$60,000 federal and \$15,000 in state funds.
- Add Job Access and Reverse Commute funds in the amount of \$386,040 in state funds.

A motion by Zebell with support by Cook to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the projects requested by TCATA for inclusion in the 2017-2020 TIP. **Motion passed.**

MDOT

The Michigan Department of Transportation is proposing the following additions to the TwinCATS 2017-2020 TIP:

2017

- Add ROW phase of I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 for a federal cost of \$22,500 and a state cost of \$2,500.
- Add PE Phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$53,096, and a state cost of \$11,774.
- Add ROW Phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$4,093, and a state cost of \$907.
- Add Construction Phase of I-94 EB between Exit 16 and Exit 23 for a federal cost of \$10,737,000 and a state cost of \$1,193,000.
- Add Construction Phase of M-63 overlay project from Winchester to I-94 BL for a federal cost of \$80,525 and a state cost of \$17,856.
- Add Construction Phase of Crack Fill project on M-63 from I-94 to Midway for a federal cost of \$28,412 and a state cost of \$6,300.

--Add Construction Phase of the US-31 longitudinal joint repair from the temporary freeway end to the south junction of I-94 using federal NHPP funds in the amount of \$234,036, and state funds in the amount of \$51,897.

2018

- Add Construction Phase of bridge replacement work on M-63 over I-196 for a federal cost of \$4,135,701 and a state cost of \$459,522.
- Add Construction Phase of Carpool Lot Resurfacing and Expansion on Napier Avenue at US-31 for a federal cost of \$69,573 and a state cost of \$15,427.
- Add Construction phase of I-196 overlay project from I-94 to 0.5 miles south of M-63 for a federal cost of \$15,840,000 and a state cost of \$1,760,000.
- Add Construction phase of Glenlord and Cleveland over I-94 bridge repair for a federal cost of \$2,727,000, and a state cost of \$303,000.
- Add PE Phase of I-94 WB from E of I-196 to W of M-140 overlay project for a federal cost of \$195,197 and a state cost of \$21,689.

2019

- Add Construction Phase of M-63 over the St. Joseph River bridge repair project for a federal cost of \$3,008,373 and a state cost of \$667,098.
- Add construction phase of I-94 BL over the St. Joseph River bridge repair project for a federal cost of \$2,232,905 and a state cost of \$495,139.

2020

- Add Construction phase of Passing Flare project on M-139 between Tanglewood and Anna for a federal cost of \$486,712 and a state cost of \$107,928.

A motion by Berndt with support by Cook to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the projects MDOT is proposing for inclusion in the 2017-2020 TwinCATS TIP. **Motion passed.**

▪ MDOT and FHWA Updates

Mani noted that Darrell Harden had left MDOT Southwest Region, but was still with MDOT working out of Lansing. He now handled the Rural Task Force program.

Roberts noted that Erin Jolivette had left MDOT as well. Roberts would be the preliminary point of contact at the TSC moving forward.

12. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT at 10:28 AM.

Next meeting is April 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the St. Joseph City Commission Chambers, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph.

Compiled by: Gautam Mani, SWMPC Associate Planner, 2016.