

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

April 18, 2011

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region 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 Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman 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 Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township 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 Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Jim Klett, Klett Construction Company

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Berndt, seconded by Cook, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously with no corrections.*

3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Transportation and Environment Workshop – Update**

- Thomas stated that 50 people had attended the workshop at Andrews University, and had learned about how transportation projects can be coordinated with watershed planning to try to prevent problems like flooding deteriorating the pavement or runoff from the pavement impacting the water quality. He mentioned that the presentations from the workshop are available on the SWMPC website (www.swmpc.org/trans_water.asp).

- **Upcoming Workshops**

- Rahtz encouraged those present to attend upcoming workshops that may be beneficial:
 - How to comply with ADA regulations for street design – April 19th, Kalamazoo
 - Designing bicycle-friendly communities – April 20th, Portage IN
 - Complete Streets workshop – May 3rd, Benton Harbor MSU Extension office
 - Asset Management Conference – May 12th, Grand Rapids
- Rahtz noted that the SWMPC/WMTGA trails workshop series has been cancelled due to lack of attendance.
- Rahtz announced that the Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study will kick off with the consultant on June 1, 2011 at Michigan Works!.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2010 Projects:**

- City of Benton Harbor
 - Highland Avenue – summer construction

- **2011 Projects:**

- Berrien County Road Commission
 - California Rd – let; scheduling pre-construction meeting
 - Pipestone Rd and River Rd seal coat – submitted
 - Benton Center Rd and Red Arrow Hwy seal coat – submitted
 - Lincoln Ave seal coat – submitted
 - Napier & Colfax signal – in preliminary design
 - (Lincoln Twp) - John Beers Rd non-motorized path – in preliminary design
- City of St. Joseph
 - S State St and Kingsley Ave – bids opened; pre-construction meeting May 3rd; starting construction mid-June

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Walk and Roll Update**

- Rahtz reminded the committee that the public hearings are scheduled for the week of May 16 through 20. The dates are as follows:
 - May 16th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Lincoln Township Hall
 - May 17th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, St. Joseph Public Library
 - May 18th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Michigan Works! Benton Harbor
 - May 19th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, Bridgman Public Library
- Rahtz noted that the next Walk & Roll subcommittee meeting will be held at Abonmarche on Wednesday May 4th to go over the final presentation materials for the public input meetings. She added that the subcommittee meeting would be important for the road agencies to give clearance for SWMPC's proposed road re-designs to be presented to the public at the meetings.
- Thomas asked the committee members for revisions on the data that he had sent out for the road segments for the Walk and Roll plan. He noted that any existing data sets that the agencies already have would save the SWMPC staff in trying to estimate the information from aerial photos, such as the width of lanes, width of shoulders, and condition of sidewalks, etc.

- **Citizen representation on TwinCATS**

- Rahtz reminded the committee that at the February meeting they had asked for more information on how other MPOs use citizen advisory committees or citizen representatives. She passed out a handout with research she had compiled. She explained the difference between a citizen advisory committee and a citizen representative, and noted that there are four existing committees within the TwinCATS area that basically already operate as transportation citizen advisory committees. She suggested including a representative of each committee as a non-voting member of the TwinCATS committees and asking them to give a report at each TwinCATS meetings on what their group is discussing or working on.
- Zebell noted that he agreed with the recommendation on the handout of moving the public comment period further up on the agenda rather than at the very end.
- Latham suggested that the representatives of each of the committees could be asked each month whether they had any updates to put on the agenda rather than compelling them to attend and give a report every month if they do not have anything to report that month.
- Several committee members agreed that the citizen representatives should be non-voting rather than voting members, so as not to open up the decision-making process to personal interests or special interests.
- It was asked whether the TAC would be making a recommendation to Policy, and Rahtz responded that since each committee has its own by-laws, she believed each committee should make its own decision as to its membership, by-laws, and agenda.
- Chairman Scherwitz asked the committee members to discuss with each of their municipalities the way in which TwinCATS public engagement could supplement the input that each of their agencies received from their constituents. He asked the committee members to return and make a motion at the next meeting (June).

- **Rail letters**

- Rahtz passed out two draft letters that staff are working on in coordination with the Westrain Coalition. She noted that each agency on Westrain is seeking board approval for signing off on the letters. She stated that she would like to obtain approval from TwinCATS and NATS as well as the full SWMPC board to sign off on the letters.
- She passed out the first letter, which is to MDOT in response to their draft statewide rail plan, which shows the realignment of the Pere Marquette Amtrak line through Kalamazoo. It documents the communications with MDOT regarding the realignment, emphasizes the importance of the St. Joseph and Bangor Pere Marquette stops, and urges MDOT to reopen the alternatives study of the Pere Marquette line using intensive stakeholder engagement.
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to approve signing the letter. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Rahtz passed out the second letter, which is to Congressman Upton and other legislators emphasizing the importance of investing in rail and public transit for economic development.
- *Motion by Olson, seconded by Kercheval, to approve signing the letter. Motion approved unanimously.*

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- **TIP Amendments**

- City of Benton Harbor
 - Add in FY 2011, project named Klock Rd for reconstructing and widening Klock Rd with new curb and gutter from M-63 to North Shore Dr (.4mi) and constructing a new two-lane road from North Shore Dr to Paw Paw Ave (.51mi). State cost (EDA) is \$1,042,850, and local cost is \$338,443.
 - Add in FY 2011, project named Graham Ave for construction of a 2 lane roadway from existing Graham Ave dead end to intersection of Riverview Dr and Whitwam Dr. State cost (EDA) is \$671,483, and local cost is \$259,700.
 - Add in FY 2011, project named Graham Ave for new at-grade railroad crossing. State cost

(EDA) is \$1,706,911.

- *Rahitz and Lenze noted that the addition of the projects in the TIP would be pending determination of whether air quality conformity analysis would be needed and whether the projects would need to be added in the long range plan.*
- *It was asked where the local match for the projects is coming from, and Cook responded that it is from Harbor Shores.*
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the addition of the above three projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
- MDOT
 - Add in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for bridge work on I-94 WB from I-196 to 0.4 miles east of M-140 and on I-94 EB from Hennessey Rd to 0.4 miles east of M-140. Early preliminary engineering. Federal cost (ST) is \$245,550, and state cost is \$54,450.
 - Add in FY 2012, the project named I-94 for installation of dynamic message signs at Indiana State Line, I-196, and M-40 and a control system to operate them. Federal cost (HSIP) is \$668,250 and state cost is \$74,250.
 - *Motion by Latham, seconded by Rieder, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the addition of the above two projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
 - Modify in FY 2011, project named CPM Road Trunkline GPA. Name modified to I-94 BL. Limits modified from Regionwide to "Glenlord Rd to Pearl St." Length modified to 4.77 miles. Primary work type modified from GPA to "Restore & Rehabilitate." Project description modified from CPM Road Trunkline to "Mill and one-course HMA overlay." Federal cost modified from \$1,542,873 (ST) to \$1,591,983 (ST), and state cost modified from \$342,127 to \$353,017.
 - Modify in FY 2011, project named I-94. Primary work type modified from GPA to "Bridge – Other." Federal cost modified from \$362,294 (BHI) to \$395,139 (BHI) and state cost modified from \$40,255 to \$43,904.
 - Modify in FY 2012, project named I-94 EB. Limits modified from "Sawyer (Exit 12) to Red Arrow Hwy (Exit 16)" to "Sawyer Rd to 0.5 miles north of Red Arrow Hwy." Length modified from 4.10 miles to 5.00 miles. Project description modified from "Mill and two course HMA overlay" to "Mill existing HMA and apply two course HMA resurfacing treatment. Widen outside shoulder to thirteen feet paved to maintain work zone traffic and meet FHWA guideline. Widen inside shoulder to ten feet wide to meet FHWA standard. Flatten median slope, replacement of all median culverts and shallow cross culverts, re-install cable median barrier, guardrail upgrade, freeway signing upgrade, and ROW fence replacement. ROW may be required to complete drainage upgrade." Federal cost modified from \$14,805,000 (IM) to \$15,165,000 (IM), and state cost modified from \$1,645,000 to \$1,685,000.
 - Modify in FY 2012, project named I-94. Limits modified from "EB and WB over Hickory Creek" to "EB and WB over Hickory Creek, 2.1 miles northeast of Stevensville." Primary work type modified from "Bridge restore & rehabilitate" to "Bridge – other." Project description modified from "Deep overlay, railing replacement" to "Concrete deep overlay, railing replacement, beam repair, full paint, approaches." Federal cost modified from \$1,244,452 to \$1,321,532, and state cost modified from \$138,274 to \$146,838.
 - Modify in FY 2012, project named I-94. Federal cost (BHI) modified from \$563,404 to \$597,916. State cost modified from \$62,600 to \$66,435.
 - Modify in FY 2012, project named I-94 for bridge work at Empire Rd, Carmody Rd, and County Line Rd. Federal cost modified from \$481,811 (IM) to \$511,520 (IM). State cost modified from \$53,535 to \$56,836.
- TCATA (modification already processed in February)
 - Modify in FY 2011, project named Transit Vehicle Replacement. Modify project description

from Replacing two buses to Replacing three buses. Federal cost (5307) modified from \$102,000 to \$154,000, and state cost modified from \$26,000 to \$38,000.

- **2010 Census Data**

- Thomas gave a presentation of the change in population in the TwinCATS communities from the 2000 Census to 2010 Census.
- Griffin asked about the confidentiality of the Census data and how the public can access it. Thomas responded that the data that is available on the Census website is aggregated enough so that it is not identifiable down to one individual, but it is available at a block level. He noted that the new American Fact Finder 2 is fairly easy to use to obtain and display the data, but the SWMPC office can also assist communities with it.

- **Travel Demand Model data**

- Thomas reminded the committee that he had requested corrections on roadway information for the travel demand model, such as number of lanes and signal locations.

- **Transit Consolidation Feasibility study – consultant selection**

- Rahtz passed out a handout explaining the selection committee's process and reasoning behind choosing KFH to conduct the Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study.
- Purvis added that he had sat on the selection committee, and that KFH had stood out above the other consultants as highly qualified to do the study.
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to approve the selection of KFH to conduct the Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study. Motion approved unanimously.*

- **Unified Work Program development**

- Rahtz announced that SWMPC is beginning to develop the Unified Work Program, or schedule of planning tasks, for fiscal year 2012. The draft will be presented for approval by the committees at the June meeting. She reminded the committees to let her know as soon as possible if there is anything that she should include in the UWP.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:22 A.M.

- Next meeting is **June 20, 2011 at 9:30am**