

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

May 19, 2014

9:00 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Paul Lott, MDOT - Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman 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 Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission John Olson, Village of Shoreham Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Representative, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Gautam Mani Debra Panozzo, Mobility Consultant Ryan Soucy
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Matt Kodis

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

## 2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Berndt with support by McAndrew to approve the minutes of the March 17 TAC meeting and April 30 Joint MPO meeting. **Motion passed.**

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kodis said that Kinexus had released a new report highlighting the impacts of tourism on Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. The report can be found at kinexus.org. Kodis also said to expect a new cost of living index once media coverage was available following the Senior PGA championship.

## 4. STAFF REPORT

### ▪ **Asset Management Conference**

Mani said that he had attended the statewide asset management conference last week. The conference highlighted some of the emerging methodologies of asset management, and key sessions from the conference included:

- A presentation on a pilot project undertaken by MDOT and Michigan Tech on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“drones”) in creating an inventory of the location and condition of unpaved roads in the state. The drones take high-resolution images of roadways from 500 feet in the air that can be used for modeling.
- A presentation on the use of smartphone applications to rate the roughness of the roads, and a comparison of these ratings to those conducted by traditional rating methods.
- A presentation on “green, sustainable streets,” which emphasized the need to coordinate road treatments with sewer and water infrastructure.

### ▪ **Status of New Planner Hire**

Mani said that Suzann Flowers’ position had been posted, and that resumes were starting to trickle in. Mani said it would likely be the July TwinCATS meeting when committee members would meet a new planner.

### ▪ **PASER Ratings and Traffic Counts**

Scherwitz said that he had received his PASER ratings on his airport surfaces. Mani said that SWMPC staff would out rating federal-aid and local roads beginning in June, and that it was never too early to get traffic count requests in at <http://www.swmpc.org/trafficcountform.asp>.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ▪ **Walk and Roll**

None.

### ▪ **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**

None.

### ▪ **Mobility Management/Transit Consolidation Update**

Panozzo said that she had attended the senior mobility expo last week in Detroit, and had learned about several transportation innovations designed to improve mobility and access for the “baby boomer” generation that is about to retire in the next few years. Panozzo noted that she had seen cars with redesigned dashboards to aid individuals who had deteriorating peripheral vision, and also heard about a mentoring program for older adults enacted by the Rapid in Grand Rapids.

▪ **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Operations Update**

Purvis said that he had received his state grant for 2015, and that propane buses were on the way. In addition, he plans to retrofit six buses to run on propane. Purvis also noted that he had completed his triennial review.

**6. LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES**

City of St. Joseph- Beginning revisions on master plan.

Lincoln Township- Master plan revised in 2013 with extensive public input.

St. Joseph Township- The township has been working on its master plan and has held public input meetings.

Countywide- Berrien County master plan being revised with a key focus on the transit consolidation study.

**7. PROJECT UPDATES**

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	2016 construction; value engineering meetings held	May 2014		
	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; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else; <b>December 2012-</b> already been	November 2013		

				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>May 2014:</b> Buses on the way, with propane conversions	May 2014		
<b>2013</b>	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	<b>August 2013-</b> lawsuit ongoing-probably means that project will not go through. <b>November 2013-</b> no change	November 2013		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	<b>May 2014:</b> June 10 Construction, August 29 completion	March 2014		
	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	<b>January 2014:</b> Construction in July 2014.	January 2014		
	119786	MDOT	M-63over St. Joseph River in St. Joseph	Completed.	March 2014		
		Berrien County	Napier and Union	Completed.	May 2014		
		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	December 2012		

				be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this			
		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			
2014	112087	Benton Harbor	Broadway Avenue/Colfax Avenue Resurfacing	<b>May 2014:</b> Letting delayed until July due to City having to shuffle funds to make up for local match	May 2014		
	121011	Benton Harbor	Pipestone at Empire Traffic Signal Upgrade	<b>May 2014:</b> June letting	May 2014		
		Berrien County	Date Road Bridge Replacement	<b>May 2014:</b> Pre construction meetings have taken place	May 2014		
	121002	Berrien County	Roosevelt Road Non-Motorized Extension	<b>May 2014:</b> June letting	May 2014		
		Berrien County	Brown School Road Resurfacing	<b>May 2014:</b> July Construction	May 2014		
		Village of Shoreham	Brown School Road Resurfacing	GI Package under review	February 2014		

Other Updates

JN 112969- The Roads Risk and Reserve Fund project--M-63 bridge over Hickory Creek will go for a July letting. Construction will be from July 21 to August 29.

Longitudinal joint repairs from the state line to I-196 on I-94 are currently unfunded---going into statewide request for funding from Coloma TSC.

Freeway signing and median cable barrier on I-94 from the state line to Van Buren County will be ongoing until October.

The I-94 railing replacement between exits 27 and 28 (JN 118685) will have an August letting, with part of the construction happening this fall and another portion in the Spring.

Scherwitz pointed out that truck weight limits in Michigan were higher than any neighboring states, and that this might be contributing to road degradation.

Jolivette also said that FHWA guidelines were now “grandfathering in” geometrics, so that roads with nine-foot wide shoulders that were being reconstructed did not have to upgrade to the ten-foot wide standard.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### ▪ **TIP Amendments**

Mani said there were two TIP amendments this month, both for MDOT JN 113585, the I-94 westbound resurfacing. There was a minor change in limits and a minor change in total project cost.

A motion by Berndt with support by Purvis to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the May 2014 TIP Amendments. **Motion passed.**

### ▪ **Bylaw Updates**

Mani said that this was simply the first opportunity that committee members would have to review the bylaw changes recommended by the bylaw review subcommittee. Key changes included:

- Voting membership for Disability Network and Kinexus
- A meeting cancellation policy based on county government closure
- A phone in, non-voting option
- An application process for new members to the MPO

### ▪ **Unified Planning Work Program (UWP)**

Mani said that the FY 2015 UWP followed a similar format to the FY 2014 UWP, continuing many of the same initiatives. The UWP is an annual document detailing all of the activities that the MPO will undertake in a given fiscal year. Mani said that among the key items that the MPO will address that are different from previous years are:

- Roadway National Functional Class (NFC) Review
- Gathering of land use data for scenario planning
- Gathering freight data from existing sources
- Full integration of the transportation plan with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Public Outreach for the Transit Consolidation Plan in Berrien County

A motion by Berndt with support by Purvis to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the FY 2015 UWP.

### ▪ **Economic Development Presentation by Ryan Soucy**

Mani introduced Ryan Soucy, Economic Development Planner at SWMPC. Mani said that this was a good opportunity to follow up from the joint MPO meeting in April, after hearing presentations on placemaking and some of the excellent initiatives taking place in Indiana. Soucy introduced himself and discussed the topics of placemaking and the 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS that he developed through an extensive stakeholder participation process. The CEDS outlines key data and goals of economic development

stakeholders throughout the Southwest Michigan region. Soucy said that the creation and preservation of vibrant places was a key piece of the CEDS, and that SWMPC had assisted by facilitating placemaking trainings and doing mapping activities. Ryan showed a video that illustrated the need to distinguish vibrant streets from highly functional roads---both are needed in the landscape.

Soucy's full presentation can be found at

[http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/swmpcs\\_economic\\_development\\_and\\_community\\_placemaking\\_functions.pdf](http://www.swmpc.org/downloads/swmpcs_economic_development_and_community_placemaking_functions.pdf)

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal –**

- Dewey said that there were no updates to the GROW AMERICA Act since the April joint MPO meeting. The bill would provide \$199.2 Billion over 4 years, including grant programs for high performing MPOs. Dewey added that revenue would be raised by ending tax breaks for businesses. Alternate proposals are under consideration in the US House and Senate, and it is not clear which bill will be passed. It remains a possibility that we will have a continuing resolution on MAP-21.

- **State –**

- Lott said that there had been no movement on Speaker Bolger's proposal to fund roads using a 6% wholesale tax. More recent transportation proposals were related to transportation project warranties and weight limits.

## **9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mani reminded committee members to pick up a handout regarding Complete Streets and to keep the two-pager in their binders. Mani said that the two-pager attempts to answer anticipated questions from private citizens and local boards on the benefits of complete streets and why TwinCATS is concerned with them at all.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:16 a.m.**

- Next meeting is **June 16, 2014, 9:00 AM**

*Compiled by: Gautam Mani, Transportation Planner, 2014*