

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

May 18, 2015

9:00 A.M.

Kinexus Anchor Rooms A+B

<b>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, TCATA Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Kris Welch, MDOT Statewide Planning
<b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Representative, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT Passenger Division (ex officio) John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Representative, Benton Charter Township Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) John Olson, Village of Shoreham and Royalton Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Donna Wittl, MDOT Statewide Urban Travel Analysis (ex officio) Representative, City of Bridgman Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kim Gallagher Gautam Mani Patrice Rose
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Matt Galbraith, MDOT Statewide Planning

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Gruchot volunteered to act as chair. Gruchot called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

### 2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Purvis with support by Jolivette to approve the minutes of the April TAC meeting. **Motion passed.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

### 4. STAFF REPORT

#### ▪ **APA Transportation Updates**

Mani shared some information from the Future of Transportation session at the American Planning Association Conference he attended last month.

- Data now clearly show that younger generations are more willing to give up their car than give up their cell phone, if faced with a choice. This is not surprisingly, but is now confirmed by data.
- Nationwide, there has been a sharp increase in people who are remaining in the workforce after Age 65. Mani showed statistics of the percentage of the total population over Age 65 in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties that reported working in the past 12 months. Compared to the nation as a whole, each of the three Southwest Michigan Counties has a lower percentage of its 65 and older population working than the national average. However, all three counties are at or above the Michigan average for this indicator. Retirees have a very different set of transportation needs as compared with older workers.
- There has been relatively little discussion so far regarding regulations and ownership concerns surrounding automatic vehicles that are under development. While we are likely at least 10-20 years away from these vehicles being deployed en masse, certain automatic vehicle technologies such as parking assist are already available. Regulations will need to be in place for these new types of vehicles in order for them to be successfully deployed.

#### ▪ **Statewide Asset Management Annual Report**

Mani reported that, not surprisingly, the 2014 Statewide Asset Management Annual Report shows that Michigan's federal-aid eligible roads continued to deteriorate from 2013-2014. Michigan's bridges, on the other hand, have been improving for a number of years due to very strategic investments by the state. However, it is projected that bridge condition has peaked and that the condition will decline because revenue still no longer be able to keep up with existing bridge needs.

#### ▪ **Follow Up from Performance Measures Peer Exchange**

Mani said that he and Kim Gallagher had attended the Performance Measures Peer Exchange in Lansing in April, along with other MPO staff, MDOT, FHWA, FTA, and peers from Arizona, Minnesota, and Ohio. There were two main takeaways from the workshop for now:

- Small MPOs have a different set of data gathering needs and concerns than larger MPOs. Mani said that SWMPC would be participating in a small MPO working group to come up with a uniform set of items to measure that can serve as a base, and also a list of needs from the state.
- The proposed rulemaking for Asset Management, as it reads now, would require data gathering beyond the PASER system. Specifically, Michigan would need to gather data using the International Roughness Index (IRI) which measures ride quality and that many other states already use. Michigan would also need to gather data on rutting and faulting. It is not clear right now whether Michigan would continue to collect PASER ratings in

addition to the other datasets or whether there would be a new system in place that gets rid of the PASER rating system.

Jolivette reported that when selecting projects, MDOT does not look at PASER rating. She stated that PASER is used as an overall management tool and helps to give a general picture of the condition of the road. However, MDOT relies on more specific measurement of the distress index, which is measured by laser at precise locations along the roadway.

- **NFC Reminders**

Mani reminded MPO members that National Functional Class change requests for roadways were due by September 1. Mani said that MPO staff are available to assist communities with filling out the required forms to make those change requests possible.

- **FY 2017-2020 TIP Development Schedule**

Mani said that MDOT had released a draft schedule for development of the next Transportation Improvement Program. A federal revenue announcement is expected on October 1 and then MDOT recommends that MPOs conduct project selection between November and December of this year. Finalized TIPs are due to MDOT by July of 2016. Mani said that SWMPC staff would be ratcheting up their efforts to develop new project selection criteria and a new TIP application form. Mani also advised communities to begin prioritizing their own needs and projects now so that it is easier to allocate limited federal funds later on this year.

- **Safety Funding for FY 2017**

Gallagher reported that our Region has been selected as a pilot for a Local Road Safety Plan, along with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. She reported on the first meeting and showed an MDOT Video on traffic fatalities. Gallagher also presented data on high crash locations within Berrien County, many of which are on state trunklines or at intersections with trunklines in Berrien County. The consultants involved in the process will pull crash and design data and looking for trends and reasons for accidents, road environment, driver skill and attitudes. Then, the consultants will recommend interventions for improving road user safety, through education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response.

Gallagher also said in response to Johnson's question that going through the Local Road Safety Plan process would make projects that contribute to implementation of the plan more competitive in applying for safety. Gallagher said that safety funds could be used on any roadway, including local ones, and that local agencies could submit more than one project.

Gruchot inquired about what types of projects were eligible. Turning Lanes, traffic lights, and signage are just examples of some types of projects that would qualify. Jolivette commented that it is often difficult to show Return on Investment for safety projects, and that MDOT routinely moves projects from the safety template to the CMAQ template because it is sometimes easier to use those funds. Jolivette urges those interested to contact Lansing for project ideas. Gallagher noted that the deadline for applying for Safety Funds for FY 2017 was on August 14 of this year.

## **5. PUBLIC TRANSIT**

- **SWMPC Transit Updates**

Kim Gallagher reported that SWMPC had been notified that it had received a grant to develop a Countywide Fixed Route Transit Service Plan for Berrien County. The next step is to begin writing a request-for-proposals so that the project can go out for bid.

- **TCATA Updates**

Purvis reported that TCATA is still waiting for computers/scheduling software, and that the Liquid Propane bus conversions had been obligated. The bids for the propane tank had been accepted.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Johnson reports that RICC will have a draft plan soon for the next fiscal year October 2015-September 2016. RICC will continue to advocate for countywide transit service.

## 7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

None

## 8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Obligation Thermometer** – Mani said that the State was out of obligation authority and that it would only receive more once a federal funding extension past May 31 was passed by Congress and signed by the President. Welch added that once obligation authority is received, projects that had proceeded as Advance Construct would have priority for funding.

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
2012							
	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	July 2013		

				letting <b>July 2013:</b> <b>On hold</b>			
		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 awarded; <b>November 2013:</b> not funded	November 2013		
		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	11/2012 Purvis	December		

			manager grant	stated that this will be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this	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			
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>May 2015:</b> Tree removal has occurred	May 2015		
2015		Berrien County	Marquette Woods Road Restore and Rehab/Sidewalks	<b>May 2015:</b> Project let; trees removed and poles replaced.	May 2015		
		Berrien County	Napier Avenue at Pipestone St Traffic Signal	<b>May 2015:</b> Submitted for obligation; awaiting statewide obligation authority	May 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>May 2015:</b> Will be constructed this summer.	May 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	May 2015		
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Jolivette reported that M-63 from M-139 to I-94 is being resurfaced and traffic will be restricted to one lane for about two weeks. Heavy maintenance will take place on I-196 at I-94. There will also be maintenance on the outside lane of I-94 westbound for I-196 to Britain that will cause lane closures and delays.

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

▪ **Approval of the 2016 Draft UWP**

Mani said that the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program describes all of the MPO's expected work activities in FY 2016, which runs from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Mani highlighted changes to this year's work program as compared with past years. Some of the major changes include:

- A region-specific list of transportation issues affecting the TwinCATS MPO.
- Countywide Service Planning Grant support is a work activity
- Implementation of the Local Road Safety Plan, including monitoring of data, is now a work activity.
- MPO staff will develop project selection criteria and continue to participate in development of performance measures.
- MPO staff will update the public participation plan in consultation with committee members.

Mani said that the only major anticipated change to the UWP would be made by SWMPC Executive Director John Egelhaaf and involves the cost allocation plan and indirect cost rate.

Mani encouraged public comment, the period for which ends on May 31.

A motion by Welch with support by Gruchot to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program, with corrections as noted, subject to the end of the public comment period and modifications to SWMPC's cost allocation plan.

▪ **Federal Highway Administration Updates**

None

▪ **MDOT Updates**

Welch reported that MDOT was still waiting on obligation authority that would only come with an extension of MAP-21 past May 31. Congress was debating a funding extension through July 31.

Welch also said that different state proposals were being looked at after Proposal 1. One proposal

being discussed would raise some road revenue by eliminating the Complete Streets Advisory Council.

- **News Items of Interest**  
None

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

Payne reported that the City of Bridgman will be paving Red Arrow from I-94 to the Siemans Ford Dealership this summer. This was a project that was obligated last year using Roads Risk and Reserve (RRR) funds from the State of Michigan.

Johnson said that the Disability Network will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with a Community Celebration on Friday, July 24 in Kalamazoo, and a Statewide Celebration on Thursday, September 17 in Lansing. The Disability Network will be arranging a charter bus to the Lansing event. For more information go to [www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org). Also the Disability network is still accepting job applications for summer internship for youths 16 and older.

Jolivette said that this would be her last MPO meeting for approximately three months, as she will be on maternity leave very soon. Jolivette said that the TSC would hopefully be sending someone to the MPO meetings, and even if they do not, MPO members should still contact the TSC with any support needs that they have.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT at 10:29 AM.**

Next meeting is June 15, 2015 at 9:00 AM in Anchor Rooms A+B at Kinexus (Michigan Works!).

*Compiled by: Patrice Rose, SWMPC Administrative Assistant, 2015.*