

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

June 20, 2011

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<b>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Erin Kercheval, MDOT - Coloma TSC Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Katie Montoya, Berrien County Community Development John Olson, Royalton Township Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
<b>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	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 Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman
<b>SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Suzann Flowers Anna Rahtz Trevor Thomas
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and led the group in introductions.

### 2. MINUTES:

- *A motion was made by Cook, seconded by Zebell, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously with no corrections.*

### 3. STAFF REPORT:

- **Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study update**
  - Rahtz gave a summary of the kickoff meeting with the consultants KFH Group, which was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Michigan Works! Benton Harbor. Around 55 people were in attendance, representing

social service agencies, government agencies, transportation providers, citizens, riders, people with disabilities, and a variety of other groups. The consultants gave an overview of the two-year (or potentially shorter) process they will be going through with the study, and the purpose of it is to evaluate different levels of how the four transit providers can coordinate or consolidate their operations to provide better service to Berrien County residents. It will involve a consensus building process to make sure everyone involved is getting a good business deal and has buy-in to implementing the final plan, whatever it may be. Attendees provided feedback on the challenges that they see in this process, who else needs to be involved, how to get information out to the public and stakeholders, and the issues that need to be addressed in the study.

- Rahtz also added that this is her last TwinCATS meeting because her last day working at the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is June 28<sup>th</sup>, and that Flowers will be stepping in to take her place.

- **Asset Management Update**

- Thomas stated that SWMPC will be conducting PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation Ratings) for the southern half of Berrien County in the summer 2011. He added that he will also be working with the City of St. Joseph and the City of Benton Harbor on local asset management plans. Any municipality can receive funds through the Transportation Asset Management Council to have their local roads rated every three years, and Thomas encouraged the local representatives to contact him if they are interested for 2012.

- **Walk and Roll update**

- Thomas presented the preliminary results of the Walk and Roll survey, which is still open for the rest of June on the SWMPC website. He also summarized the public comments that have been received for the Walk and Roll plan thus far, pertaining to specific streets or intersections of concern but also general comments about the use of non-motorized facilities in Southwest Michigan.
- Thomas added that the next step for the Walk and Roll plan will be to hold a subcommittee meeting in early July, and that he and Flowers are hoping to have a draft plan by early fall.
- Rahtz passed out the booklets of best practices that were distributed at the public meetings.
- Flowers discussed the results of a presentation she had given to the Berrien Unitarian Service Group, a church group for seniors that meets in Lincoln Township. She summarized the comments that the group members had provided about the need for non-motorized transportation and public transportation to access local businesses and other needed services. She added that the group members find it difficult to receive news for local events or efforts happening in Michigan since they can only pick up South Bend and Chicago news channels, and some houses in rural areas cannot get local newspapers delivered.

- **Complete Streets Workshop**

- Flowers stated that a Complete Streets workshop will be held at Andrews University on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 6:30-8:30pm. She added that, in contrast to the Complete Streets workshop held by MSU-Extension on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, this workshop will be free. The focus of the workshop will be to promote and foster citizen advocacy, as well as to provide information about the Michigan Complete Streets legislation and how local governments can get started with writing Complete Streets policies.

- **Rail Update**

- Rahtz stated that MDOT will still be taking comments on the draft statewide rail plan until July 1, 2011. The draft plan is online at [www.michigan.gov/mirailplan](http://www.michigan.gov/mirailplan).
- Thomas commented that in the draft State Rail Plan Update, the reroute of the Pere Marquette through Kalamazoo is included in the "best case" funding scenario, which is considered a long-term or low priority in the plan.

#### 4. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2010 Projects:**

- City of Benton Harbor
  - Highland Avenue – under construction
- MDOT
  - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – under construction
  - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – under construction

- **2011 Projects:**

- City of Benton Harbor
  - Graham Ave – ready for letting in August
  - Klock Rd – being amended
- Berrien County Road Commission
  - No updates
- MDOT
  - US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – ready for letting
  - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – ready for letting
  - I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work (jn112949) – scoping
  - I-94BL resurfacing from Glenlord to Pearl – construction will be completed end of June
  - I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale – submitted for letting
- City of St. Joseph
  - S State St and Kingsley Ave – under construction
- Village of Stevensville
  - John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk – letting in August
- TCATA / Twin Cities Dial-A-Ride
  - No updates

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Unified Work Program approval**

- Rahtz passed out copies of the draft TwinCATS FY 2012 Unified Work Program.
- *Motion by Montoya, seconded by Cook, to recommend that the SWMPC board approve the FY 2012 UWP, on the condition that changes are made based on suggestions from committee members. Motion approved unanimously.*

- **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 had passed out some research at the April meeting, and there had been discussion about a motion at the June meeting to make the following suggested changes:
  - Change the agenda for the meetings to put the public comment at the beginning rather than the end.
  - Add non-voting representatives to give regular updates at each meeting from the following groups:
    - Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition
    - TCATA Local Advisory Committee
    - Transportation Advocacy Group
    - Regional Interagency Consumers' Committee
- *Motion by Cook, seconded by Zebell, to move the public comment period to the beginning of the agenda, add non-voting members from each of the above four groups, and place a slot on the agenda for each representative to give an update if they have something substantive to update. Motion approved unanimously.*

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

### • TIP Amendments

- City of Benton Harbor
  - Amend in FY 2011, the project named Klock Rd. Amend the length from .91 miles to .42 miles and the limits from "M-63 to Paw Paw Ave" to "North Shore Dr to Paw Paw Ave." Amend the primary work type from Reconstruct to New route/structure (capacity increase). Amend project description from "Reconstruct and widen to three traffic lanes with new curb and gutter from M-63 to North Shore Dr; construct a new two-lane road from North Shore Dr to Paw Paw Ave." to "Construction of a new 2-lane road with curb and gutter, drainage, utility construction, and non-motorized path." Amend state cost (EDA) from \$1,042,850 to \$678,000 and local cost from \$1,381,293 to \$944,000. Job number 89085.
- Berrien County Road Commission (Lincoln Township)
  - Modify in FY 2011 the project named John Beers Rd. Modify project description from "construct 6 foot wide non-motorized paths" to "Construct 6 foot wide sidewalks on both sides of road." Job number 112682.
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
  - Add in FY 2011, the project named Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study for countywide transit operations. Project description is "conduct transit consolidation feasibility study, May 2011 through September 2013." Transit capital. Federal cost is \$147,200 (5304 FTA funds), and local cost is \$36,800 (Other Local Funds from Consortium 4 Community Development).
- *Motion by Woolcock, seconded by Smith, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the above three projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Michigan Department of Transportation
  - Amend in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for bridge work under John Beers Rd. Amend project description from "full paint, joint replacement" to "full paint, substructure repair, joint replacement, shallow concrete overlay, concrete surface coating." Amend federal cost from \$395,139 (bridge program) to \$1,060,200, amend state cost from \$43,904 to \$117,800, and amend total project cost from \$534,047 to \$1,273,004. Job number 88086.
  - Delete in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for carpool lot resurfacing at Nickerson Rd, M-40 at M-43 and I-94 at M-40. (Nickerson Ave. lot is in another project and so project is moving outside of TwinCATS area). Job number 103294.
  - Amend in FY 2011, the project named I-94 for bridge work on I-94 westbound from I-196 to .4 miles east of M-140 and on I-94 eastbound from Hennessy Road to .4 miles east of M-140. Amend length from 1.39 to 7.02 to match limits and amend project description. Job number 112949.
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Cook, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendments to the above three MDOT projects in the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Motion approved unanimously.*
  - Add in FY 2011, the general program account for Pre-Construction Phases. Federal cost is \$20,463 (ST) and state cost is \$54,537.
  - Add in FY 2011, the project named M-63 for resurfacing from I-94 to Midway Ave. Length is 2.14 miles and primary work type is resurface. Project description is "Overband crack seal pre-treatment and two course micro-surface treatment." Construction phase. Federal cost is \$273,493 (NH), state cost is \$60,646, and total project cost is \$570,000. Comments: 61.31% of project is in TwinCATS area, remainder is rural. Job number 113014.
- Berrien County Transportation / Berrien Bus
  - Add in FY 2012, Rural Operating Funds for rural portion of TwinCATS area. Federal cost is \$26,030 (5311 FTA funds).
  - *Schuh added that he had been instructed by FTA that the portion of operating funds to put*

*in TwinCATS should be calculated based on percentage of land area, and that 5311 funds had never been shown in the TIP in previous years. Rahtz added that she had been instructed by MDOT Passenger Transit Division not to show a local match for these funds even though there really is a local match.*

- *Motion by Montoya, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the above three projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Michigan Department of Transportation
  - Amend in FY 2012, the project named I-94 for bridge work on I-94 eastbound and westbound over Hickory Creek, 2.1 miles northeast of Stevensville. Amend total project cost from \$1,588,608 to \$1,698,370 to account for increase in design costs. Job number 110779.
  - Amend in FY 2012, the project named I-94 for resurfacing of carpool lot at Nickerson Ave in Benton Twp, lot 711005. Amend total project cost from \$33,000 to \$35,000 to account for increase in design costs. Job number 103293.
  - Add in FY 2012, the project named I-94 WB for resurfacing from Red Arrow Hwy (Exit 16) to Livingston Rd. Length is 3 miles, primary work type is resurface, and project description is "mill existing and multiple course HMA (hot mix asphalt) overlay." Preliminary engineering phase. Federal cost is \$1,800,000 (IM), state cost is \$200,000 and total project cost is \$15,000,000. Job number 113585.
  - Add in FY 2012, the general program account for CPM CSM (Capital Preventive Maintenance Capital Structural Maintenance) Bridge Trunkline. Federal cost is \$573,725 (ST) and state cost is \$143,431.
  - Add in FY 2012, the general program account for CPM (Capital Preventive Maintenance) Road Trunkline. Federal cost is \$446,083 (ST) and state cost is \$98,917.
  - Add in FY 2012, the general program account for Pre-Construction Phases. Federal cost is \$49,889 (ST) and state cost is \$12,472.
  - Remove from list and add to Illustrative List in FY 2012, the project named I-94 EB (Eastbound) for resurfacing from Sawyer Road to .5 miles north of Red Arrow Hwy. Federal cost is \$15,165,000 (IM), state cost is \$1,685,000, and total project cost is \$17,950,000. Job number 79871.
  - Add in FY 2013, the project named I-94 WB (Westbound) for resurfacing from Red Arrow Hwy (Exit 16) to Livingston Rd. Length is 3 miles, primary work type is resurface, and project description is "mill existing and multiple course HMA (hot mix asphalt) overlay." Right of way phase. Federal cost is \$45,000 (IM) and state cost is \$5,000. Job number 113585.
  - Add to Illustrative list in FY 2013, the project named I-94 for resurfacing from Red Arrow Highway for 1.6 miles north. Federal cost is \$7,650,000 (IM), state cost is \$850,000, and total project cost is \$9,300,000. Job number 90362.
- *Motion by Zebell, seconded by Woolcock, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the above nine MDOT projects in the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Motion approved unanimously.*
- City of Benton Harbor
  - Amend in Illustrative list in FY 2012, the project named Riverview Drive for resurfacing. Amend limits from "adjacent to Whirlpool" to "Main St to Empire Ave." Length is .85 miles. Project description is "Resurface, minor drainage." Amend federal cost from \$195,000 to \$196,440 (STUL) and local cost from \$48,750 to \$43,560. Total project cost is \$240,000.
  - *Concerns were raised about whether this project would be completed before the Senior PGA in summer 2012, as well as concerns about how the median island is plowed and maintained.*
- City of St. Joseph
  - Delete from Illustrative List, the project named Kingsley Avenue for reconstruction from

South State St. to Niles Ave. Comments: this project has been rolled into St. Joseph's South State and Kingsley project in 2011, and thus is a duplication.

- *Motion by Woolcock, seconded by Zebell, to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment of the above two illustrative projects in the FY 2011-2014 TIP. Motion approved unanimously.*
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority / Twin Cities Dial-A-Ride
  - *Rahtz noted that the projects named New Line Haul Route and New Expanded Hours in FY 2012 had been modified prior to the meeting. The federal cost and state cost were modified based on new budget estimates.*
- **MDOT 2012-2015 projects update**
  - Woolcock stated that she will give an update on MDOT projects at the August meeting, incorporating the new deferred list of projects.
- **Travel Demand Model data**
  - Thomas stated that he is working with Brad Sharlow on finalizing the socioeconomic data for the travel demand model for the next long range transportation plan. The base year for the data is 2010. He promised to make the draft data available electronically and on paper as soon as possible so that the committees could approve the data at the August meeting.
  - Concerns were raised about the amount of time that would be allowed for such a detailed review, and Thomas replied that he had not yet received the data from Brad Sharlow but would get it out as soon as possible.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

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

### ● **MPO Population Threshold**

- Thomas presented a resolution that is being circulated by metropolitan planning organizations in response to an unofficial leaked draft of new transportation legislation from the US Department of Transportation, which would raise the threshold of population for a metropolitan planning organization. A region would have to be made up of at least 200,000 people to constitute a metropolitan planning organization, and so TwinCATS would no longer exist. There is no grandfather clause mentioned in the draft legislation.
- Lenze noted that this is unofficial and very draft language, and that MDOT is abstaining from voting on such a resolution.
- Motion by Cook, seconded by Merritt, to approve the resolution to propose keeping the existing threshold of 50,000 people for a metropolitan planning organization. Motion approved unanimously (MDOT abstains).
- Rahtz noted that she would like the staff performance evaluations that had been sent out by email to be returned by June 27<sup>th</sup>. She added that these evaluations would help her in the future as well as letting Thomas and Flowers know how the staff can better serve the member agencies.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:31 A.M.**

- Next meeting is **July 18, 2011 at 9:30am**