

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

July 15, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led the group in introductions. Paul Lott introduced himself as the new MDOT-Statewide Planning representative on the Technical

Advisory Committee, and noted that he was glad to be back working with the MPOs in the Southwest Region again after working here ten years earlier. John Lanum introduced himself as the Policy Committee representative from MDOT-Statewide Planning, having recently joined that section.

## 2. MINUTES:

Flowers advised that committee members make sure to read the minutes carefully, as we had an error recently that resulted in the wrong funding amount being transcribed in the TIP e-file.

- A motion was made by Zebell with support by McAndrew to approve the minutes of the TAC Committee meeting from June 17, 2013.  
**Motion passed.**

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

## 4. STAFF REPORT:

### ▪ **TIGER grants update**

Mani noted that three entities in the Southwest Michigan region had applied for TIGER grants: the St. Joseph River Harbor Authority (through Berrien County), the City of New Buffalo, and the Pokagon Fund. Flowers noted that we had not heard anything about the status of these applications. Lott said that he would check in with FHWA about a timeline regarding grant decisions.

### ▪ **CMAQ Update**

Mani said that Berrien County would be having another CMAQ meeting Thursday, August 8, at 10 AM at the Berrien County Road Commission. Mani said that the purpose of the meeting was to fill large, unprogrammed balances in 2015 and 2016. There is also money left over in 2014 and 2017. Flowers and Mani both reiterated that funding is not guaranteed beyond 2014, but that programming the funds ahead of time would be the best way of making sure that CMAQ funds do not leave the county or our region. Zebell noted that he would be submitting an application for a signal timing project.

### ▪ **Meeting Reminders**

Mani said that a joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting would take place Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM. The reason for the joint meeting is to discuss the results of the climate change study that was done by SWMPC's partners at MSU-Extension and GLISA.

Flowers noted that the joint NATS and TwinCATS meeting would take place September 30 from 1-4:30 PM at Berrien RESA in Berrien Springs. Rail safety and transit provision are both on the agenda, and it is an opportunity to share progress reports in each MPO. This meeting would be **in lieu of** the regularly scheduled meetings that month.

Mani stated that the Greentown workshop on Friday, October 11 in South Bend is open for registration. Mayors, environmental groups, health organizations, and business leaders from

throughout Michigan and Northern Indiana will be attending. This will be a good opportunity to learn about the latest economic development techniques that simultaneously improve health and environmental outcomes.

- **Traffic Count Reminders**

Mani noted that it is not too late to request traffic counts this summer. If a jurisdiction requests a count now, SWMPC's field team will likely get to it by the end of the summer.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani said that the Walk and Roll subcommittee would be getting back together, at the request of committee members. Flowers suggested that the subcommittee meeting take place prior to the regularly scheduled TwinCATS meeting in October. Scherwitz noted that the 8:00 AM meeting time worked well in the past.

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

None.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**

Panozzo stated that the consultants on the consolidation and coordination study were continuing their work, and that the transit agencies in Berrien County had already success with coordination through initiatives like a single reduced fare card for all agencies.

- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**

None.

## 6. PROJECT UPDATES

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Cost Changes	Projected Letting and obligation date
	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	March 2013, still in limbo—bus shelters will be outside Michigan Works and Chemical Bank; May 2013- Proposal for city-operated cameras in shelters still needs to go before TCATA board, locations at Main at 12 <sup>th</sup> St and Triangle Park; <b>July 2013:</b> Under Construction, done by the end of September	July 2013		x

2012							
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design; no change	December 2012		x
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Scheduled for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward; no change; March 2013 Moving Forward for January 2013 letting <b>July 2013: On hold</b>	July 2013		x
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; <b>July 2012:</b> Meeting in Kalamazoo (July) to discuss project design; the bridge was made longer to accommodate a walking path, April 2013 let, and bridge will be replaced in 2014; no change; March 2013: Air Quality Plans 99% complete; submitted for letting; <b>June 2013:</b> Design phase completed.	June 2013		x
		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; December 2012-already been awarded; May 2013- Still going	May 2013		x
		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		x
		Twin Cities Area	Transit vehicle replacement (3	; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match	November 2012		x

		Transportation Authority	total)	buses but nothing else			
2013	89085	Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	1/2013- continues to be in limbo due to negotiations with Harbor Shores; no plans yet; 5/2013- Needs to use up EDA funds this year, ultimately Harbor Shores' choice as to whether project moves forward. July 2013: Lawsuit between Harbor Shores and New Products- 1 year left to use funds	July 2013		
	112091	Berrien County	Hollywood Road	1/2013: Pre-engineering complete- need 1.3 million. Depending on availability of STP funds, project will get funding in 2013 and 2014. 2/2013- Project will be a go in 2014, pending project selection process, and will be using STP funds in that year; GI package being submitted by May 1; May: GI package ready to submit <b>June 2013:</b> GI meeting has taken place, GI package will be submitted, and there may be possible bid savings. <b>July 2013:</b> Waiting on MDOT approval of administrative modification	July 2013		
	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	Bridge Replacement-CON phase-AC project; 11/2012 starting in 2013 bridge replacement will be in 2014; no change; CON August –end of September crossover and temporary widening June 2013: Construction will begin in July, end in October—2 lanes will be closed.	June 2013		
	119786	MDOT	M-63over St. Joseph River in St. Joseph	Bridge Repair			
		Berrien County	Napier and Union	Traffic Signal; <b>July 2013</b> : GI comments, August 23 <sup>rd</sup> deadline for ROW.	July 2013		
		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 be available for 2013 but not sure if funding will be there for 2012; SWMPC handling this	December 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			

Scherwitz asked about MDOT’s progress on electronic signs. Jolivette noted that those signs were increasingly in place near the state line, and that they were working on one potentially at Napier and Territorial.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **TIP Amendments**

Mani noted that there were a total of six MDOT projects being added this month, though four of them were separate phases of the same two jobs. In addition, one MDOT project was being

modified. Locally, TCATA was adding five projects that use TwinCATS' 5339 allocation in 2013. Flowers asked about the administrative vehicle purchase with 5339 funds. Purvis noted that staff uses such a vehicle quite frequently for work purposes during the day, and that the current vehicle is experiencing problems.

Zebell noted that there was an error in the 14-17 TIP, for the 2017 Hilltop Road project. The project limits should be M-63 to BL-94 (Lakeshore Drive). Mani said he would make this change in the TIP and all related documents.

A motion by Berndt with support by Smith to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the July amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP pending the end of the official public comment period on July 19.

- **FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UWP)**

Mani noted that SWMPC staff had made edits, and SWMPC's Executive Director had updated the financial information. Mani said that indirect cost rates would be updated between now and submittal, but that this was an issue between SWMPC and MDOT, and that it would not affect the substance of the document for the purposes of the TwinCATS committees.

A motion by Olson with support by Zebell to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the FY 2014 UWP.

- **FY 2014 Meeting Dates**

October 21, November 18, and December 16, 2013 and January 27, February 24, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, 2014.

Mani noted that these dates were the third Monday of every month, and that TAC meetings would be at 9:30 AM. Mani said that the only two meeting dates that deviated from this pattern were in January and February, when MLK Day and President's Day holidays pushed these meetings back to the fourth Monday of the month.

A motion by Smith with support by McAndrew to approve the FY 2014 meeting dates for the TwinCATS TAC Committee.

- **LRP, TIP, and UWP Resolutions of Support**

Mani wanted to inform committee members that he would be having Robert Judd, Policy Chair, sign resolutions expressing the Policy Committee's approval of the three documents, just as has been done with other documents and initiatives in the past.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal –**

Kodis noted that a new transportation secretary had been sworn in, Anthony Foxx, former mayor of Charlotte, NC.

- **State –**  
Lott said he would strive to bring materials from the Friday legislative emails that MDOT staff receive to future MPO meetings.

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

Panozzo noted that the US-12 Heritage Route World's Longest Garage Sale would be taking place August 9-11, which provides a good opportunity to get great bargains and explore US-12. Information can be found at [www.us12heritagetrail.org](http://www.us12heritagetrail.org)

Jolivette noted that the Coloma TSC had a new office manager who previously worked at INDOT and that he would be coming to meetings over the next few months.

Scherwitz noted that he was willing to offer a tour of the airport to anyone who wanted one, particularly those who are new to the area or the committees.

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

- Next meeting is **August 19, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. (Joint TAC and Policy Meeting)**

*Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2013*

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