

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

August 15, 2011

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Carlisle, Wightman & Associates Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Erin Kercheval, MDOT - Coloma TSC Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission 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 Joe Sobieralski, Village of Stevensville Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission 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) 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) Alan Smaka, St. Joseph Charter Township and City of Bridgman Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Trevor Thomas
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI Christina Phippen, Mobility Manager with SWMPC

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Cook, seconded by Merritt, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2011 TAC meeting. Motion approved unanimously with no corrections.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Complete Streets Workshop update**

Thomas discussed the workshop that was held in Berrien Springs and was led by Nancy Krupiarz from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. The presentation discussed best practices and how to engage and organize citizens.

- **Complete Streets Policy Update**

Darrell Harden from MDOT presented information on Public Acts 134 and 135 (pertaining to state Complete Streets policy), talking specifically about what these acts mean for MDOT. Pursuant to the acts, MDOT must

1. Adopt a complete streets policy by August of 2012,
2. Develop a model policy for local communities,
3. Prepare a 5 year program for non-motorized programs according to Act 51,
4. Consult with local agencies.

Harden will provide the presentation to SWMPC staff, and SWMPC staff will provide the presentation on the website.

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Conference**

Thomas discussed the annual MTPA conference that he and Flowers attended and discussed the major focus areas of the conference which were: Long Range Planning, Performance Measures, Freight Planning, and Asset Management. These topics were timely since SWMPC Staff will soon begin the process of updating the long range plan.

- **Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference**

Flowers discussed the conference, which will be held in Fort Wayne, IN October 2-5, 2011. Handouts for the conference were offered to attendees.

Committee Reports

- **Walk and Roll**

Thomas discussed the progress of the Walk and Roll Subcommittee, saying that the final plan will not feature a lot of detail about funding projects and the implementation of projects, but will focus on designating road segments that are most important for consideration of non-motorized facilities. The plan will also contain material on current conditions in the region, design suggestions, and importance of interconnectedness within the region and to other regions.

- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition**

Pippen discussed the 3 major projects that the group is working on:

1. Application for reduced fare card and developing the process for the applicants
2. Para-transit services with Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
3. Mi Way website development to access various transportation options based on trip destination

- **Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG)**

Johnson stated that the group co-hosted a webinar from the Easter Seals Project Action on the environmental barriers for transit.

- **Regional Interagency Consumers Committee (RICC)**

Johnson stated that the RICC group is a grassroots group that focuses on transit for people with disabilities and that there will be a transportation workgroup teleconference on August 25.

- **Twin City Dial-A-Ride Local Advisory Committee**

Pippen stated that this group is working on the reduced fare applications along with the Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition.

5. PROJECT UPDATES

▪ 2010 Projects:

- City of Benton Harbor
 - Highland Avenue – construction done
- MDOT
 - I-94 bridge replacement under Britain Avenue, Benton Harbor (JN 104002, CON phase) – no update
 - I-94 bridges repair (JN 107161) – no update

▪ 2011 Projects:

- City of Benton Harbor
 - Graham Ave – construction to begin any day
 - Klock Rd – under construction
- Berrien County Road Commission
 - John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk-final plans are in Lansing
 - Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal-final plans are in Lansing
 - Lincoln Ave seal coat-starting 8-16-2011
 - Benton Center, Red Arrow Highway seal coat-starting 8-22-2011
 - Pipestone, River seal coat-starting 8-17-2011
- MDOT
 - US-31 freeway signing upgrade (jn108921) – submitted ready to let
 - I-94 under John Beers Rd bridge work (jn88086) – October letting
 - I-94 at I-196 and M-140 culvert inspection and bridge work (jn112949) – scoping being completed
 - I-94BL resurfacing from Glenlord to Pearl – done
 - I-94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale – pre-construction
- City of St. Joseph
 - S State St and Kingsley Ave – bidding is done, with actual 2012 and 2013 costs coming in under budget. There is an excess of \$122,000 in federal funds for FY 2012 and an excess of \$173,000 in federal funds for FY 2013. Tim Zebell provided a letter explaining the project costs to committee members.
- Village of Stevensville
 - John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk – letting on August 5th
- TCATA / Twin Cities Dial-A-Ride
 - Had an FTA review -- only 1 area was deficient, and that involved the absence of ADA cards that Phippen is currently working to produce.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

▪ Revised Bylaws

Flowers stated that a final signature was received and that the bylaws will be updated and put on the website.

▪ Unified Work Program

Thomas stated that the FY 2012 Unified Work Program was approved by the SWMPC Board and has been submitted to MDOT and FHWA for final review.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

▪ TIP Amendments

○ MDOT

- Adding to FY 2012, project name I-94 (JN 113585), from Red Arrow Highway (exit 16) for 3.0 miles easterly to Livingston Road. I-94 WB exit and entrance loop at exit 16. PE phase work for a federal cost of \$1,800,000 and state cost of \$200,000 for a total phase cost of \$2,000,000. Total project cost is \$15,000,000.
- Adding to FY 2013, project name I-94 (JN 113585), from Red Arrow Highway (exit 16) for 3.0

miles easterly to Livingston Road. I-94 WB exit and entrance loop at exit 16. ROW phase work for a federal cost of \$45,000 and state cost of \$5,000 for a total phase cost of \$50,000. Total project cost is \$15,000,000.

- *Motion by Zebell and second by Rieder to add these projects into the 2011-2014 TIP. **Motion passed.***

- **City of St. Joseph**

- Modifying FY 2011 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Modifying FY 2012 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Federal and Total Phase Costs from \$191,000 to \$69,000 and changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Modifying FY 2013 project S State St and Kingsley Ave, changing Federal and Total Phase Costs from \$173,000 to \$0 and changing Total Project Cost from \$1,482,354 to \$1,187,354.
- Adding to FY 2012, project name Napier Ave (Niles Avenue/M-63 to Langley Avenue). Resurface 0.29 miles. Construction cost of \$532,000 and a total project cost of \$638,600. This project would be moved from the Illustrative List and added to the 2012 TIP.
- Zebell led a discussion of the merits of this project, providing a written letter dated August 15, 2011 explaining that the State Street and Kingsley projects in FY 2012 and FY 2013 came under budget by a total of \$295,000 and stating St. Joseph's desire to use these funds as the federal match for the amended Napier Ave project, which initially had a federal match of \$435,600.
- Cook supported the proposed amendment, citing the logic of moving the funds saved by one project in St. Joseph to another St. Joseph project. Merritt voiced concern about the idea of moving funds based solely on jurisdiction, saying that in the future he would like to see a full discussion of the range of Illustrative List projects before one is amended into the TIP.
- *Motion by Harden and second by Purvis to amend the State St and Kingsley Ave projects and to move the Napier Ave Project from the illustrative list, adding it to the 2012 TIP. **Motion passed.***

- **MDOT 2012-2015 projects update**

No update

- **Travel Demand Model data**

Thomas handed out sheets giving official 2010 base-year housing and population data that, upon approval, will be input to the next Travel Demand Model performed by MDOT for the TwinCATS area. The sheets were split by jurisdiction and contained a front map key and a back table displaying official housing and population totals by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), as well as preliminary 2010 base-year employment data. Thomas requested that committee members respond with any errors they think might be present in the totals, and to be prepared to vote on approval for the base-year totals during the October, 2011 committee meeting.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

- Rachael Tupica stated that at the end of September the transportation authorization will expire along with the federal gas tax that funds the highway trust fund. She mentioned that if people wanted to inform their congressional leaders of the importance of this funding source that they should contact them directly.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 10:35a.m. Motion by Harden and second by Zebell.

- Next meeting is **September 19, 2011 at 9:30am**