

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

August 20, 2012

9:30 A.M.

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Bill Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Ray Lenze, MDOT - Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor John Olson, Royalton Township Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Donald Schlipp, Village of Stevensville Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph
TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:	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) Larry Merritt, Berrien County Road Commission Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Robert Rusch, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Brian Shutts, Village of Shoreham Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Rachael Tupica, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Sarah Woolcock, MDOT – Coloma TSC
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Trevor Thomas Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani
OTHERS PRESENT:	Joanne Johnson, Disability Network of SWMI Matt Kodis, Michigan Works John Preston, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Scherwitz called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and led the group in introductions. Gautam Mani introduced himself as the new transportation planner at SWMPC who will take Trevor Thomas' place once he departs in September.

2. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Berndt with support by Stauffer to approve the minutes of the TAC Committee meeting minutes from July 16, 2012.
Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were received.

4. STAFF REPORT:

- **Michigan Transportation Planning Association Annual Conference**
Flowers discussed the annual transportation conference that took place in Holland, MI and was focused on sustainability. Mani discussed the mobile workshop tours of the lithium ion battery facility in Holland and the roundtable discussion that took place with energy suppliers. He also mentioned sessions regarding MAP-21, climate change, and roadway materials that would promote a more sustainable transportation future.
- **Trevor Thomas Departure**
Flowers mentioned that the August 2012 meetings would be Thomas' last TwinCATS Committee meetings. Thomas arrived several minutes later and the group thanked him with a strong round of applause for all that he contributed to the region over the past several years.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Walk and Roll**
Flowers reported that the Committee has taken a short break to work on the development of the Top Ten list of projects and how to make use of that list in the development of projects for the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- **Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)**
Joanne Johnson reported that members of RICC will be attending the MDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan update meeting on Wednesday August 22, 2012 from 5:00-7:00p.m. at Michigan Works in Benton Harbor.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
No updates were provided to MPO staff.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
No updates were provided to MPO staff.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

Fiscal Year	Job Number	Agency	Project Name	Update Information	Date of last update	Bid Savings
2010	NA			All projects have been completed	12-Mar	

2011		Berrien County Road Commission	John Beers Road CMAQ sidewalk	Completed	July 2012	
		Berrien County Road Commission	Napier and Colfax CMAQ traffic signal	Completed	June 2012	
	113024	Berrien County Road Commission	Benton Center Rd. and Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	100086	Berrien County Road Commission	Lincoln Ave, Lincoln Rd to Maiden Ln	Completed	12-Mar	
	113023	Berrien County Road Commission	Pipestone Rd and River Rd	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	California Rd City of Bridgman to Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	111247	Berrien County Road Commission	Napier Ave. 200' section west of I 94	Completed	12-Mar	
	108921	MDOT	US 31 freeway signing upgrade	Completed	June 2012	
	88086	MDOT	I 94 under John Beers Rd bridge work	Completed	June 2012	
	112949	MDOT	I 94 at I 196 and M 140 culvert inspection and bridge work	Completed-	June 2012	
	113014	MDOT	M 63 from I 94 to Midway Ave	Completed	June 2012	
	NA	MDOT	I 94BL (Main Street) resurfacing from Fair to Urbandale	Completed	12-Mar	
	109704	MDOT	I 94 BL Glenlord Rd to Pearl St	Completed	12-Mar	
	108174	MDOT	I 94 WB over Lake St, Galien River, I 196 NB and SB over I 94 JN	Completed	12-Mar	
	109087	MDOT	I 196 under Red Arrow Highway	Completed	12-Mar	
	NA	St. Joseph	S State St and Kingsley Ave	Completed	12-Mar	
	NA	Village of Stevensville	John Beers Rd reconstruction and sidewalk	Completed	12-Mar	

	NA	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Bus shelters	Will be located at MI Works and at the Triangle Park near the old Mercy Center-purchased, working with Abonmarche on where to set them-the City now wants cameras near the bus shelters and they would cost about \$10,000 a piece. Looking for other funding to purchase cameras. July 2012: Still waiting on permission from MDOT to install Main St. shelter. May have to install in Michigan Works parking lot, though this would make route less efficient.	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacements-3	Moving project to 2012;	12-Feb	
2012	114537	St. Joseph	Napier Avenue-from Langley to Niles Ave	construction July 2012, bid savings of \$18,000; Advance construct dollars; July 2012: Construction has begun; should be completed by the 31st	August 2012	18,500
	112088	St. Joseph	Lake St.-from Broad St. to Park St	April let; fall construction; \$14,000 over cap; July 2012: Construction to start after Labor Day; project is let, will start after Labor Day and completed by mid November	August 2012	
	115066	St. Joseph	Traffic signal modernization at Napier and Langley	July 2012: September let, with construction starting in spring '13	August 2012	
	107686	St. Joseph	South State St. from Granada Ave to Wallace Ave	Completed		
		Benton Harbor	Klock Rd (from North Shore to Paw Paw)-	Move to 2013	12-Mar	
		Benton Harbor	Broadway Ave. (from Pipestone St. to Empire Ave)-	July-September Letting; July 2012: September let date, with approval needed from Joe Harris in	August 2012	

				Benton Harbor; already obligated (delay would just push construction back to 2013); funds obligated construction summer 2013		
	100087	Berrien County Road Commission	E. Britain Ave and Highland Ave	Completed	August 2012	10,000
	113585	MDOT	I-94 Red Arrow Highway to Livingston Rd	PE Phase-design	12-Mar	
	103293	MDOT	I-94 at Nickerson Ave in Benton Township (roadside facility)	Schedule for October letting; returned to region to funding to move forward	August 2012	
	110779	MDOT	I-94 EB and WB over Hickory Creek (bridge)	design phase; July 2012: 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	August 2012	
	110931	MDOT	I-94 Empire Rd. over I-94, Rural Carmody Rd over I-94 (bridge)	design moved back to 2013	12-Mar	
	109093	MDOT	I-94 under M-63 (bridge)	Completed	August 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New line haul route	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain)	July 2012	
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	No update	12-Mar	

Scherwitz brought up the CSX crossing being closed from August 20-27 at Paw Paw Avenue.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Unified Planning Work Program
Flowers stated that the public comment period lasted 10 days and no public comments were received to discuss with the Committee.

A motion was made by Stauffer with support by Gruchot to approve TwinCATS FY 2013 UWP.
Motion passed

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Socio-Economic Data for Long Range Plan**

Thomas discussed that there were some numbers displayed in the data that was received from MDOT and that some neighborhood transportation analysis zones had huge spikes or dips from 2010 to 2015 and then flattened out. Thomas brought this up to Brad Sharlow at MDOT who does the modeling for the long range transportation plan and they developed a strategy to deal with those anomalies. Thomas will be finalizing those numbers and placing the information on the website for the Committee members to review. The final approval of those numbers will be placed on the September agenda for the Committees to vote upon and get to MDOT to start the modeling.

- **TIP Amendments**

There were not TIP amendments to process this month.

- **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

- **Federal**

Flowers mentioned that at the MTPA Conference there was not much guidance given on the new MAP-21 legislation. She mentioned that when information is received it will be relayed to the Committee members.

- **State**

Senator John Proos attended the meeting and provided an update regarding the state legislature. He mentioned the lame duck session and outlined what he thought would be the total working days for the Legislature beginning September 4. He also mentioned that he was not sure the focus that transportation would have in the fall schedule. He will be working with other members to get the 1-year federal match bill that he sponsored to be extended beyond one year at a time.

9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

-Thomas thanked the Committee members for making his time here so enjoyable.

-Jolivette stated that Paul South had returned from Afghanistan and would be moving to the MDOT Southwest facility as a contracts manager. Pete Pfiffer will be the interim manager at the Coloma TSC office.

10. ADJOURNMENT at 10:06 a.m.

Motion by Zebell with support by Stauffer to adjourn the meeting.

- Next meeting is **September 17, 2012 at 9:30am**

Compiled by: Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, Transportation Planners, 2012