

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meeting
Minutes
 August 19, 2013
 9:30 A.M.
 Southwest Michigan Regional Airport

<p>TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</p>	<p>John Gruchot, Berrien County Community Development Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville Paul Lott, MDOT - Statewide Planning Kenton McAndrew, City of Benton Harbor Bill Meeks, MDOT Coloma TSC John Olson, Village of Shoreham Thad Rieder, Cornerstone Alliance Lee Scherwitz, Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Tim Zebell, City of St. Joseph</p>
<p>TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:</p>	<p>Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Bill Brown, Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Chris Cook, City of Benton Harbor Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) Fred Featherly, MDOT - Multi-Modal Services (ex officio) Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Erin Jolivette, MDOT - Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT - Southwest Region Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Commission Gloria Payne, Lake Charter Township Bill Purvis, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Representative, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (ex officio) Brad Sharlow, MDOT Planning (ex officio) Alan Smaka, City of Bridgman Sarah Woolcock, MDOT - Coloma TSC</p>
<p>POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:</p>	<p>Carolyn Fowler, Benton Charter Township Tim Fenderbosch, St. Joseph Charter Township Jae Guetschow, Village of Stevensville Bill Meeks, MDOT Coloma TSC Joanne Johnson, Disability Network Southwest Michigan Robert Judd, City of St. Joseph John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning Tim Lynch, Berrien County Road Commission Debra Panozzo, Berrien County Commission John Olson, Village of Shoreham</p>

	Lee Scherwitz, SW Michigan Regional Airport Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township
POLICY MEMBERS ABSENT:	Aaron Anthony, City of Bridgman Thomas Baldwin, Benton Charter Township Mickey Bennett, Sodus Township Bill Brown, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (ex officio) Andrea Dewey, Federal Highway Administration (ex officio) John Egelhaaf, SWMPC John Gast, Lake Charter Township Ron Griffin, St. Joseph Charter Township John Gruchot/Catherine Montoya, Berrien County Planning Department Darrell Harden, MDOT Southwest Region William Hodge, Berrien County Planning Commission Nora Jefferson, Benton Charter Township Erin Jolivette, MDOT Coloma TSC Jason Latham, MDOT Regional Planning Stewart McKenzie, Federal Transit Administration (ex officio) Bill Purvis, TCATA Roger Seely, St. Joseph Charter Township Brad Sharlow, MDOT (ex officio) Terrie Smith, Lincoln Charter Township Jim Soteriou, Royalton Township Darwin Watson, City of Benton Harbor Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC Representative, Cornerstone Alliance
SWMPC STAFF PRESENT:	Suzann Flowers Gautam Mani Kris Martin
OTHERS PRESENT:	Wayne Beyea, Michigan State University Juanita Henry, City of Benton Harbor Matthew Kodis, Kinexus Claire Layman, Michigan State University Adolf Pelzer

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Judd called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and led the group in introductions.

2. MINUTES

- A motion was made by Rieder with support by Olson to approve the minutes of the TAC Committee meeting on July 15, 2013.
Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Panozzo with support by Lynch to approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting on July 15, 2013. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

4. STAFF REPORT:

▪ **CMAQ Update**

Mani said that a CMAQ meeting had been convened on August 8th, and that Berrien County's allocation was now fully programmed until 2017. Flowers reminded committee members to note that the current transportation bill ends in fiscal year 2014, so it is possible that CMAQ funds will not be available. Mani noted that 2017 was a year when a lot of buses were up for replacements due to ARRA funding, and therefore most of the funding that year was going towards buses. Mani thanked committee members who submitted projects to fill the funding gap, and said that TIP amendments for projects within the MPO would be coming once we had an approved 2014-2017 TIP back.

▪ **Local Resolutions of Support for FY 2014 Projects- Due October 1!**

Mani said that TIP local resolutions of support for FY 2014 projects are due October 1, 2013. Flowers said that SWMPC staff would be contacting communities after that date to check in. These resolutions are for any projects that require local match, and must state that the community's local governing body has the local match funds available and will commit to providing them within that fiscal year.

▪ **MDOT Local Agency Programs (LAP) Planning Guide**

Mani stated that the MDOT Local Agency Programs calendar was available, and that final plans for FY 2014 projects must be submitted to MDOT LAP by August 29, 2014. Mani advised that committee members not wait till anywhere near this date, as that would create a chance that the project might not get funded. It would also eliminate the possibility of the MPO committee reprogramming any bid savings for use on other projects. Mani noted Lott's advice that obligating early would allow the project applicant and the MPO at large to take advantage of any additional funding that becomes available at the state level later on in the fiscal year.

▪ **MTPA Updates (Conference Reportback and Organizational Membership)**

Flowers said that the annual Michigan Transportation Planning Association conference in Muskegon was quite successful. The conference discussed freight and port facilities, which continue to be of high relevance in the TwinCATS region. In addition, the conference discussed potential for new data sources, and gave an overview of how Local Agency Programs at MDOT works. The speaker from Local Agency Programs will be coming to our September joint MPO meeting.

Flowers also said that MTPA was having a discussion regarding membership in national organizations that advocate for MPOs and regional councils. In particular, they were discussing membership in the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Flowers said that discussions of a transportation bill reauthorization were already happening. The TwinCATS MPO was in danger of being eliminated during the discussion of MAP-21, as were other small MPOs. Flowers stated that the committee needed to be aware that MTPA members were searching for organizations that best represent the interests of small MPOs in transportation bill negotiations.

- **“Cheap Fixes” List in Development**

Mani said that SWMPC staff had been in touch with the road commission and others regarding the cost of various treatments such as striping. The goal is to develop a list of fixes that enhance quality of roadway for users, but also take advantage of funding amounts between \$2,000 and \$20,000 that the MPO gets when projects do not go through or when there are bid savings. Mani welcomed contributions to this list, as we want to take advantage of every federal and state dollar that comes into our MPO.

- **Legislative Tours in Spring/Summer 2014**

Flowers stated that SWMPC staff had been working on a tour, similar to one done in Grand Rapids, for legislators, to show them transportation dollars at work, as well as the immense need that still exists for more transportation investments and potential exploration of new sources of revenue. Flowers said that state legislators as well as Congressman Upton would be invited, and that we would attempt to schedule the tour so that legislators can make it outside of the campaign season and legislative session.

- **Joint MPO Meeting September 30, 2013**

Flowers reminded committee members that the joint MPO meeting would take place at Berrien RESA in Berrien Springs from 1-4:30 PM on September 30. Flowers passed around an RSVP list.

- **Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Update**

Flowers stated that at the most recent Southwest Michigan Traffic Safety Committee meeting, the topic of school bus safety was discussed. In particular, drivers who still pass stopped school buses or exhibit symptoms of “road rage” have become serious issues. In addition, the meeting discussed traffic crash hot spots and how data can be used to identify and help communities remedy them. These are things that we are already doing through the Walk and Roll plan in the TwinCATS region.

- **Adjusted Census Urban Boundary/Hagar Township Updates**

Flowers noted that the adjusted census urban boundaries (ACUBs) were being held up by the Governor because he wanted to see how these boundaries could best align with his Regional Prosperity Initiative. Flowers said that the MPO would proceed with incorporating Hagar Township into the planning process, although they could not officially become members of the MPO until the boundaries were approved. Mani also noted that if the boundaries continue to be held up, they would default to the Census designated urban area. This would mean that any adjustments that the MPO committee made would be null, creating huge funding issues for a lot of 2014-2017 projects. Flowers urged committee members to talk to their state legislators to put pressure on the Governor to approve the minutes.

- **Safe Routes to School Training**

Flowers and Mani will both be attending the Safe Routes to School training in Kalamazoo on Wednesday, August 21.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Walk and Roll**

Mani said that the Walk and Roll subcommittee would be reconvening before the regular October TwinCATS meeting. Mani will get an invitation out to subcommittee members and update the list to reflect committee members who have left since the prior meeting.

- **Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)**
None.
- **Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (BCCTC)**
KFH consultants will be coming to present at the September 30 joint MPO meeting.
- **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) Local Advisory Committee (LAC)**
Panozzo noted that these meetings had been cancelled the last two times they were scheduled.

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 th St and Triangle Park; July 2013: 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	July 2013		x

				January 2013 letting July 2013: On hold			
	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; no change; March 2013: Air Quality Plans 99% complete; submitted for letting; June 2013: Design phase completed.	June 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	New expanded hours	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); September 2012: 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	July 2012: Continued through 2013 (2014 funding seems less certain); ; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else July 2013: JARC funding cut in half, project will proceed.	July 2013		x
		Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	Transit vehicle replacement (3 total)	; 11/2012 after 2013 the state will match buses but nothing else	November 2012		x
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	August 2013		

				project moves forward. July 2013: Lawsuit between Harbor Shores and New Products- 1 year left to use funds. August 2013- lawsuit ongoing- probably means that project will not go through.			
	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 June 2013: GI meeting has taken place, GI package will be submitted, and there may be possible bid savings. July 2013: 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	August 2013		

				of September crossover and temporary widening June 2013: Construction will begin in July, end in October—2 lanes will be closed. August 2013 Construction beginning today.			
	119786	MDOT	M-63over St. Joseph River in St. Joseph	Bridge Repair			
		Berrien County	Napier and Union	Traffic Signal; July 2013 : GI comments, August 23 rd deadline for ROW.	July 2013		
		TCATA	Replacement 3 buses CMAQ project	2013 applications are due to the state in December; July 2013 : 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			

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Statewide TAP Competitive Process**

Mani encouraged committee members who had competitive non-motorized projects to apply for the statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocation. Flowers said that the Transportation Alternatives Program was put in place to provide some non-motorized funding after cuts under MAP-21. These funds can be used to fund sidewalks, trails, and paths. Although TwinCATS does not get its own allocation of TAP funds, projects that are well developed and would provide a great benefit would be eligible to go through the statewide competitive process. Mani encouraged committee members to look at this funding source especially if they had projects that were not eligible for CMAQ funds due to the high level of restrictions on the CMAQ program.

- **TIP Amendment Policy and Bylaw Review**

Flowers pointed committee members to the MPO TIP amendment policy and MDOT's guidance on MPO. Flowers stated that we need to have firm guidelines on what SWMPC staff can submit to MDOT as minor administrative modifications and which require formal MPO committee consultation. In particular, when there are clerical errors in the TIP, SWMPC staff might be able to make those changes more quickly and resubmit to MDOT. In addition Flowers wanted MPO committee members to review the bylaws as to how many members from each jurisdiction of TwinCATS are on the TAC and Policy Committees. This seemed like a good moment to review both documents. They will be brought up as an action item in September/October.

- **Pipestone Interchange Public Comment**

Mani pointed to handouts showing the four alternatives discussed for the re-alignment of the Pipestone interchange at the public meeting on August 8. MDOT project manager Kyle Rudlaff did say that MDOT would accept public comments until Friday, August 23, and that information was available on the comment sheet. Meeks noted that the roundabout alternative had been formally eliminated due to strong public opposition, and that about 35 people had attended the public meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Climate Adaptation Final Report**

Mani introduced Claire Layman and Wayne Beyea of Michigan State University, who had been partners of SWMPC staff in conducting an opportunities, threats, and attitudes assessment around climate change in the TwinCATS area since January. This was a presentation of the final report, although Beyea and Layman will accept comments on the document until the end of the week.

Beyea discussed the process and partnerships with SWMPC staff and with GLISA, a climate research organization at U-M. Beyea pointed to several infrastructure issues relevant to the TwinCATS area that prompt the need for greater consideration of climate threats in planning currently, including washed out roads, car pile ups during severe winter precipitation, and water level fluctuations. Beyea discussed trends on a federal level that indicate an increased interest in climate planning, including statements from DOT and the Obama administration.

Layman discussed the timeline of the project and the goal of the public meeting, which was to welcome and reach out to people who have a wide variety of views on climate change. Layman also discussed the climate data that was presented by GLISA at the public meetings. The clearest trends for the Southwest Michigan region are decreased average snow depth and increased average temperature. The trend is less certain regarding precipitation, and Layman acknowledged that precipitation continues to be a lingering question for climate researchers.

Layman discussed the public process, and how members of the public determined the four focus areas of Land Use and Development, Tourism and the Economy, Public Health and Water, and Agriculture and Food. Of those areas, Public Health and Water was identified as the highest priority at the second meeting, mirroring national trends.

Beyea discussed how best practices attempted to serve both as a resource to local communities and as a means for the TwinCATS MPO to make transportation decisions. Stakeholder interviews identified In particular, an audit showed the highest priorities based on areas on which the MPO could have an impact, and other areas where data is still needed for both the MPO and the local communities.

For more information, including a draft of the final report, Mani encouraged committee members to go to <http://www.swmpc.org/climatechange.asp>. Mani said that this would be a document that SWMPC would be revisiting in consultation with the committee quite consistently, as we are the first MPO to undertake this kind of work. Mani encouraged committee members to submit comments to him by the end of the week.

Panozzo asked what the TwinCATS MPO committee could do with this document moving forward. Scherwitz advised that it should affect transportation planning decisions in the same way that PASER ratings and traffic counts currently do. Mani said that the maps in particular would be useful to communities to identify their most vulnerable infrastructure and potentially prioritize those areas, should they so choose.

▪ **Legislative Updates-Federal and State**

○ **Federal –**
None.

○ **State –**
Lott said that the Regional Prosperity Initiative, which would re-align the state's region, was under heavy discussion, including a meeting in Kalamazoo later today (Monday, August 19). Lott said that the impacts on transportation could be very significant. Kodis commented that the regional re-alignment was along the same boundaries that had already been proposed for economic development organizations.

Lott also said that legislation concerning transportation revenues could still be forthcoming in the fall, potentially in November.

8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Judd thanked Flowers for the handouts regarding possible revenue proposals. Judd noted that while Indiana had a lower gasoline tax, they were raising transportation revenues through much higher registration fees. Judd suggested that shifting gas taxes to registration fees was highly regressive (i.e. more burdensome on lower income individuals), and that legislators should take this into account when crafting revenue proposals.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:04 a.m.

- Next meeting is **September 30, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. (Joint NATS and TwinCATS meeting @ Berrien RESA in Berrien Springs)**

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