

FY 2012 Annual Report

For the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study
(TwinCATS)

October 2012



Prepared by the
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<http://www.swmpc.org/twincats.asp>

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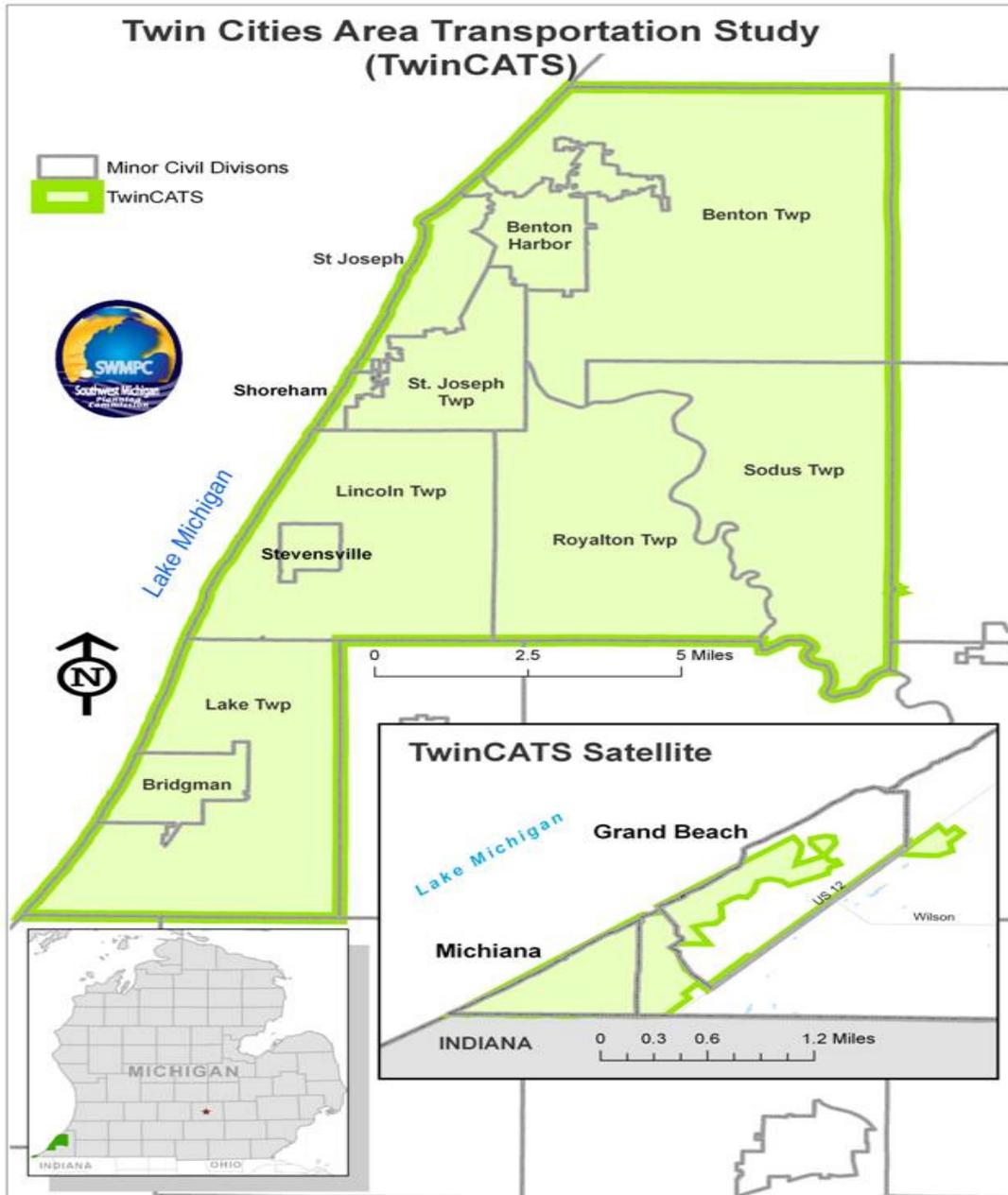
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) annual report, which is a federally mandated activity, is to identify work activities that were approved in the FY 2012 Unified Work Program (UWP) and describes the progress and accomplishments that occurred during the twelve-month period from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. The UWP guides the TwinCATS transportation planning activities for each fiscal year. During that time, program tasks that will benefit member agencies, the region, and the state are undertaken to improve the efficiency of the overall transportation system. This report also identifies revenue sources utilized from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), including the corresponding local match amounts.

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS). An MPO study area is an urbanized area that is designated by the U.S. Census and is determined by population density. This urbanized area can consist of one municipality or multiple municipalities. Within the MPO structure, there are two committees responsible for making transportation related decisions: the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee. Each municipality within the MPO study area has at least one representative on each of the MPO committees. MPO transportation planners supply information for the Technical Advisory and Policy Committees and serve as liaisons between local, state, and federal entities.

The Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) through coordination and technical support of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) provides an organizational structure to identify and guide local transportation planning activities.



The Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) is Benton Harbor-St. Joseph urbanized area, as designated by the United States Census. The Twin Cities Area Transportation Study encompasses twelve jurisdictions located in Berrien County, these municipalities are:

City of Benton Harbor, City of St. Joseph, City of Bridgman, Village of Shoreham, Village of Stevensville, Benton Charter Township, Lake Charter Township, Lincoln Charter Township, Royalton Township, Sodus Township, St. Joseph Charter Township, Village of Grand Beach (satellite), and Village of Michiana (satellite).

Committee Meetings Held

Technical Advisory Committee

The TwinCATS metropolitan planning organization (MPO) holds monthly meetings with member communities to ensure that the goals and strategies developed in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) continue to take shape as outlined in the planning document.

Purpose of TAC Committee

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee shall be to provide technical advice to the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) Policy Committee. TwinCATS is the MPO responsible for coordinating the transportation planning process within the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph urbanized area. The TwinCATS MPO is a subset of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), southwest Michigan's state-designated regional planning organization. Together, they manage all aspects of the continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process.

*Ex-officio means nonvoting member

Committee Members

Chair: Lee Scherwitz	Southwest Michigan Regional Airport/ St. Joseph River Harbor Authority
Vice-Chair: Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph
Aaron Anthony/Alan Smaka	City of Bridgman
Michelle Bennett	Sodus Township
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission
*Bill Brown	Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Chris Cook	Abonmarche Consultants for City of Benton Harbor
*John Egelhaaf	SWMPC
Nora Jefferson	Benton Charter Township
Jason Latham/Darrell Harden	MDOT - Southwest Region
Ray Lenze	MDOT - Statewide Planning
*Stewart McKenzie	FTA
John Olson	Royalton Township
Debra Panozzo	Berrien County Commission
Gloria Payne	Lake Charter Township
Bill Purvis	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
Thad Rieder	Cornerstone Alliance
Brian Shutts	Village of Shoreham
Alan Smaka	St. Joseph Charter Township
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township
Joe Sobieralski/Don Schlipp	Village of Stevensville
Bruno Trapikas	Village of Shoreham
*Rachael Tupica	FHWA
Darwin Watson	City of Benton Harbor
Sarah Woolcock/Erin Kercheval	MDOT Coloma TSC
Representative	Village of Grand Beach

Representative

Village of Michiana

Meetings were held on the following dates with the total Committee members attending and members of the public.

October 17, 2011	13 Committee members+ 1 public
November 21, 2011	10 Committee members + 1 public
December 19, 2011	13 Committee members + 5 public
January 23, 2012	13 Committee members + 4 public
February 27, 2012	11 Committee members + 1 public
March 19, 2012	11 Committee members + 3 public
April 16, 2012	9 Committee members + 1 public
May 21, 2012	11 Committee members
June 18, 2012-Joint Meeting	17 Committee members + 3 public
July 16, 2012	14 Committee members + 5 public
August 20, 2012	12 Committee members + 4 public
September 17, 2012	14 Committee members + 1 public

Note: Two transportation planning staff members are in attendance at every meeting, in addition to the attendees listed above.

Policy Committee

Purpose of the Policy Committee

The purpose of the Policy Committee shall be to provide policy level guidance, direction and necessary approvals to all aspects of the continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process. Deliberations, findings and approvals of the Policy Committee shall be made after due consideration of the recommendations of the TwinCATS Technical Advisory Committee and when necessary, shall be then be recommended to the SWMPC.

*Ex-officio means nonvoting member

Committee Members

Chair: Robert Judd	City of St. Joseph
Vice-Chair: Lee Scherwitz	Southwest Michigan Regional Airport/ St. Joseph River Harbor Authority
Aaron Anthony/Alan Smaka	City of Bridgman
Michelle Bennett	Sodus Township
*Bill Brown	Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
*John Egelhaaf	SWMPC
Tim Fenderbosch	St. Joseph Charter Township
Carolyn Fowler	Benton Charter Township
John Gast	Lake Charter Township
Jason Latham/Darrell Harden	MDOT - Southwest Region
Ray Lenze	MDOT - Statewide Planning
Lawrence Merritt/Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission
*Stewart McKenzie	FTA
Debra Panozzo	Berrien County Commission
Bill Purvis	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
Roger Seely	St. Joseph Charter Township
Joe Sobieralski/Don Schlipp	Village of Stevensville
Jim Soteriou	Royalton Township
Richard Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township
Bruno Trapikas	Village of Shoreham
*Rachael Tupica	FHWA
Darwin Watson	City of Benton Harbor
Sarah Woolcock/Erin Kercheval	MDOT Coloma TSC
Representative	Village of Grand Beach
Representative	Village of Michiana
Representative	Cornerstone Alliance

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WORK ACTIVITIES

Each year, the SWMPC is responsible for a variety of tasks under five categories: program management, database management, long range planning, short range planning and other planning. Accomplishments in each of these categories are described below.

Program Management

The goal of the Program Management category is to effectively administer and manage the urban transportation planning program.

1. Participated in seminars, workshops, and classroom-type courses designed to develop technical skills and broader perspectives on transportation-related subjects.

- *Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA)* - The Michigan Transportation Planning Association is a voluntary association of public organizations and agencies which are responsible for the administration of transportation planning activities throughout the State of Michigan. <http://www.mtpa-mi.org/default.asp>
 - October 18, November 15, December 15, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 12, September 18.
 - SWMPC also was elected as Chair of the MTPA Committee for 2013 and 2014.
 - Michigan Transportation Planning Association Annual Conference July 31-August 3, 2012
- *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Training Opportunities* - Staff utilize free training opportunities offered by MDOT to stay abreast of new research and state requirements. These trainings provide the staff that opportunity.
 - Freight Workshop-November 2011
 - Legal issues with trails and non-motorized activities-December 2011
- *Other Transportation Related Training Opportunities* - Staff are expected to stay current on new research and transportation topics that impact the development of planning documents and projects in the study area.
 - October 2011
 - Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference
 - Healthy Communities Learning Institute
 - US Census: Factfinder webinar
 - Michigan Association of Planning Annual Conference
 - Michigan Rail Summit
 - November 2011
 - Healthy Communities, Strong Regions, A Prosperous America
 - CATA Statewide Rideshare
 - March 2012

- Michigan Traffic Safety Summit
 - Rural Transit Planners Workshop
 - PASER Training
 - State of Michigan Rural Public Transit Annual Meeting & Training
 - April 2012
 - Michigan Land and Prosperity Summit
 - Asset Management Annual Conference
 - National Association of Development Organizations Annual Conference
 - May 2012
 - Community Transportation Association Conference
 - Transit Policy and Procedures Workshop
 - August 2012
 - Michigan Main Street Training
 - September 2012
 - FHWA/FTA MAP-21 webinar
 - Climate Change in Michigan Workshop
 - Transportation for Michigan Community Forum
 - Chicago-Detroit Passenger Rail Corridor Meeting
 -
- *Other Local Meetings Attended* - Staff are called upon to assist community led organizations and municipalities in the discussion of transportation related topics.
 - WesTrain meeting-A regularly occurring meeting of the primary transportation planning and economic development organizations along the Pere Marquette Amtrak rail line.
 - Southwest Michigan Traffic Safety Committee-This committee explores the issues of safety on roadways throughout southwest Michigan and the group is comprised of engineers, state and local police, transportation planners, legislators, and is sponsored by AAA of Michigan and the Office of Highway Safety Planning.
- *MPO Awareness* – Staff make an effort to engage communities within the MPO to keep them up to date on what the MPO is and how their community benefits from the region receiving this designation.
 - Lincoln Charter Township
 - Village of Grand Beach
 - City of St. Joseph

2. TwinCATS Walk and Roll Plan

The TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committees formed a subcommittee with the intent to identify and build a system or network for local and regional connectivity for safe transportation for all users. Users

included pedestrians, individuals with disabilities, novice cyclists, serious cyclists, transit riders and through the use of sidewalks, bike lanes, shared lanes, paved shoulders, and off-road pathways. A plan was completed in 2011 and can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/walkbiketwincats.asp>.

- Held 6 Subcommittee meetings to discuss Walk and Roll progress.
- Developed and adopted a Complete Streets Policy for TwinCATS MPO.
- Development of Top Ten List of areas with the greatest need of non-motorized facilities in the TwinCATS MPO area selected by local jurisdictions.

3. SWMPC Website

The SWMPC regularly maintains several websites and updates them as new information is ready for viewing.

- Maintained the SWMPC website for transportation information dissemination.
- Continued SWMPC website updates.
- Maintained a 2013 Long Range Transportation Plan website.
- Updated the monthly committee meeting pages.
- Updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) web page.
- Created Legislative Updates website.

4. Committees

The SWMPC transportation planning staff is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the TwinCATS MPO.

TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committees

- Provided staff support to the TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committees.
- Reported on TwinCATS activities to the federal and state agencies and to the SWMPC, as appropriate.
- Prepared for, facilitated, and generated minutes for monthly TwinCATS TAC and Policy Committee meetings.
- Conducted an annual review of membership and participation for the Technical Advisory and Policy committees.
- Established a schedule of public meetings as an ongoing element of the planning process for public information and input.

5. Public Participation Efforts

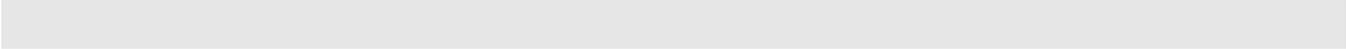
SWMPC engage in specific public participation efforts as outlined in the Public Participation Plan which can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/participation.asp>.

- Actively implemented public involvement activities through community meetings, distribution of committee and planning information to radio, television and newspapers.

- Monthly communication with the press through press releases and via telephone about current transportation issues.
- Maintained a database of strategies and outcomes of public participation measures.
- Used appropriate visualization techniques to describe plans and perform other public participation activities as required by SAFETEA-LU.
- Updated the Transportation Participation Plan as required by SAFETEA-LU, including community outreach to address air quality conformity, Title VI, and Environmental Justice requirements.
- Monthly email messages to interested citizens regarding transportation trainings, meetings, and topics related to transportation planning.
- Actively partnered with other agencies such as the Disability Network’s Transportation Advocacy Group and others to obtain greater participation in, and information about, the diverse needs of the population.
- Consulted as appropriate with state, local, and private agencies, and Native American Tribes responsible for economic growth, land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, historic preservation, and human service transportation providers to enhance the transportation planning process.
- Actively implemented public involvement activities through community meetings and distribution of committee and planning information to radio, television and newspapers.
- Communicated with the press monthly through press releases and via telephone about current transportation issues.

Products of Program Management Tasks:	Status:
1. Created, disseminated, and uploaded Committee meeting information, including agendas, minutes, and handouts	Completed and published
2. Public notice of annual meeting schedule	Completed and published
3. FY 2010 Annual Report	Completed and published
4. FY 2012 UWP	Completed and published
5. Public notices of various transportation activities	Completed and published
6. Regularly updated SWMPC website	Completed and published
7. Annual listing of FHWA and FTA projects on the SWMPC website	Completed and published
8. Annual review of Transportation Participation Plan	Completed and published
9. Wrote SWMPC Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan	Completed and published
10. Conducted yearly evaluation of Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan	Completed
11. Completed quarterly progress reports	Completed

Program Management Funds	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
FHWA	81,883	81,792	91
FTA	25,308	25,294	14



Database Management

The goal of Database Management is to continue to collect and maintain a solid database of information and the technical tools to accurately assess system priorities and to produce an accurate model of the transportation system for use in model updates for corridor studies and other planning endeavors. The SWMPC utilizes a combination of strategies to achieve this goal.

1. Collaboration activities with the Asset Management Council.

The SWMPC actively collaborates with the State Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) to maintain its partnership in the collection and analysis of road surface quality data. The SWMPC executive director is a TAMC board member.

- Collaborated with local entities in meeting the goals of the Asset Management Council established under P.A. 499.
- Scheduled, coordinated, and attended Investment Reporting Tool training.
- Attended PASER road rating webinar and PASER road rating training.
- Sent out a reminder to local communities about investment report for TAMC; answered their questions about the reporting process.
- Conducted PASER ratings on all federal aid eligible roads in the northern half of Berrien County.
- Assisted local communities with information about local road rating eligibility and local asset management plans.
- Sent out a reminder to local communities about investment report for TAMC; answered their questions about the reporting process.
- Conducted PASER ratings on southern half of Berrien County Federal Aid Eligible road network and presented results to TwinCATS committees.
- Rated Benton Harbor and St. Joseph local roads.
- Continued coordinating the development of a local asset management plan with the City of Benton Harbor.

2. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Data Extract

The SWMPC created a data extract document in 2003 to assist communities and citizens in having relevant regional data including the 2000 U.S. Census data at their fingertips. As the SWMPC receives requests for data, the staff at SWMPC has started the process of refreshing and redefining this document to make it more accessible to all communities, agencies, and citizens of the region.

- Determined variables that would be needed for local, county, and regional comparisons.
- Selected and retrieved data files from the U.S. Census Bureau and other online databases.

- Coded selected variables to be mapped in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and other graphic editing packages.
- Displayed selected variables in different graphic representations that will be more useful to a diverse group of government agencies, non-profit groups, businesses, and private citizens.
- Developed narrative text to aid interpretation and promote greater understanding of the regional trends and conditions.
- Compiled detailed appendices and source information for the data, to allow groups and individuals to perform their own analyses on the raw data to best suit their specific needs.

3. Long Range Transportation Plan

The Long Range Transportation Plan provides a region wide vision of transportation planning for the next twenty years. There are many activities done throughout the duration of the plan that are updated on a regular basis.

- Assisted MDOT by providing the requested data and information for the development of the projections of Travel Demand in the NATS area in preparation for Long Range Transportation Plan 2040.
- Assembled model 2010 base year data into legible Transportation Analysis Zone maps and distributed to NATS committee members for verification. Changes were transmitted to MDOT.
- Analyzed and upgraded computing capabilities and training in support of transportation planning process.
- Maintained and updated critical management documents (i.e., LRP, TIP, UWP) on SWMPC website.
- Continued to collect, compile, analyze, and maintain socioeconomic (SE), land use, transportation, and transit data and information necessary for planning in the region.
- Compiled employment data updates into maps and spreadsheets and facilitated NATS member employment data review at NATS monthly committee meeting.
- Approved the Travel Demand Model data for the future years of the 2013-2040 TwinCATS Long Range Plan.

4. SWMPC Traffic Count Program

The SWMPC provides a service to municipalities and others interested in learning more about the travel volumes and patterns on their roadways.

- Reviewed and directed the urban traffic count program.
- Conducted traffic counts for the three-county area and began process of uploading them to the SWMPC website.
- Continued refining traffic count database for SWMPC website.

- Conducted traffic counts for the HPMS program.
- Maintained the SWMPC asset management website http://www.swmpc.org/asset_mgmt.asp.

5. TwinCATS Walk and Roll

- Digitized non-motorized path proposals, compiled pedestrian and bicycle crash data, and compiled non-motorized origination and destination data for Walk and Roll committee.
- Continued to update Walk and Roll maps with existing and proposed non-motorized facilities.
- Compiled database of road segment information for Walk and Roll plan.

6. Additional Tasks Completed

SWMPC Transportation staff is involved in activities that relate to the multi-modalism of transportation planning. Regional public transit and coordination with local road commissions are activities that are seen as important to the planning for regional transportation.

- Updated TransCAD software and attended training on using TransCAD software.

Products of Database Management Tasks:	Status:
Updated SE data	Completed
Traffic count data	Ongoing
PASER results (report and maps)	Reports completed and published

Ongoing Tasks:

- Use traffic count data to begin to model critical areas within the metropolitan area.
- Develop specific locations to monitor seasonal traffic pattern changes within the MPO.

Database Management Funds	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
FHWA	27,242	27,242	0
FTA	8416	8416	0

Long Range Planning

The goal of the Long Range Planning category is to research the new federal focus areas of livability, sustainability, climate change, and greenhouse gas reduction and to develop strategies to incorporate them into the transportation planning process.

1. Long Range Transportation Plan

The Long Range Transportation Plan provides a region-wide vision of transportation planning for the next twenty years. There are many activities done throughout the duration of the plan that are updated on a regular basis.

- Drafted goals, objectives, and performance measures for long range plan.
- Engaged high school students and teachers in the long range plan development process.
- Monitored and discussed at monthly committee meetings the impacts of projects through the MPO.
- Performed air quality conformity analysis in cooperation with MDOT for pertinent parts of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Monitored and assisted communities with incorporating non-motorized transportation in their community plans and projects.
- Cooperated with MDOT in encouraging public input in the planning of MDOT-managed transportation projects. Provided internet links to MDOT websites and announcements. Communicated MDOT activities in SWMPC quarterly publications.
- Continued to provide resources to NATS committee members related to long range planning topics such as non-motorized transportation and the status of the TwinCATS Walk and Roll Plan.
- Maintained website for the 2013 Long Range Transportation Planning Process at www.swmpc.org/2013lrp.asp.
- Researched potential impacts of climate change on Southwest Michigan and developed strategies for addressing climate change, including planning work for Transportation and Environment workshop.
- Reviewed long range transportation plans from surrounding regions and continue to perform literature review of other MPO long range plans.

2. Non-Motorized Transportation

The SWMPC has been involved in the development and advancement of non-motorized transportation as an integral part of a connected transportation network.

- Coordinated non-motorized transportation subcommittee.
- Adopted TwinCATS Walk and Roll Plan.
- Adopted TwinCATS Complete Streets Policy.

- Participated in regional and local planning initiatives for non-motorized paths; provided information and regional coordination to local interests.

3. Freight

The movement of goods throughout our region is an area of study for the MPO.

- Worked closely with local officials and stakeholders to monitor freight related issues within the metropolitan area.
- Worked closely with state and federal transportation partners to further integrate freight planning into the transportation planning process.

4. Passenger Rail

SWMPC is actively engaged in discussions regarding the importance of passenger rail service in the region. Moving people safely and efficiently throughout the state by passenger rail service is one way that transportation planning strives to be truly multi-modal.

- Collaborated with the Michigan Association of Rail Passengers (MARF) in the dissemination of passenger rail subject topics.
- Collaborated with Berrien and Cass Counties to develop strategies to maintain and improve passenger rail service in the TWINCATS area.
- Presented information on the status of high-speed rail in Michigan.

5. Air Transportation

The SWMPC planning region is home to several airports and ensuring that the airports can function as part of the movement of people and goods.

- Provide planning assistance in the development of long and short-range strategies.

6. Additional work tasks

SWMPC Transportation staff is involved in activities that relate to the multi-modalism of transportation planning. Coordinating with local road commissions are activities that are seen as important to the planning for regional transportation, along with providing technical support requests.

- Researched potential impacts of climate change on Southwest Michigan and developed strategies for addressing climate change, including planning a “Transportation & Environment” workshop.

Products of Long Range Planning Tasks:	Status:
Updated Public Participation Plan	Completed
Updated socioeconomic data	Completed
Co-Hosted Climate Change in MI Workshop	Completed

Ongoing Tasks:

- Delineate linkage between local land use policies and activities and the transportation system. *In progress. Will be addressed in more detail in FY 2013 as the Long Range Plan will be completed.*
- Work closely with local officials and interests to inventory and monitor freight routes and intermodal facilities within the metropolitan area. *This task will be addressed in more detail in FY 2013 as the Long Range Plan will be completed.*
- Gather input from freight stakeholders and integrate freight planning into existing transportation planning processes. *This task will be addressed in more detail in FY 2013 as the Long Range Plan will be completed.*

Long Range Planning Funds	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
FHWA	30,766	26,738	4,028
FTA	8,434	8,434	0

Short Range Planning

The goal of the Short Range Planning category is to monitor and coordinate regional work activities identified in the 2011-2014 TIP, in addition to other studies and reports required by changing circumstances.

1. 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the four-year project document that details transportation projects funded by FHWA and FTA to be constructed in the region.

- Published 2011 annual listing of obligated projects.
- Monitored projects for the TIP and LRP for air conformity.
- Tracked progress of projects in TIP.
- Monitored the financial constraint document for FY 2011-2014 TIP.
- Monitored the status of FY 2011 TIP projects as they affect the FY 2011-2014 TIP.
- Monitored and revised the FY 2011-2014 TIP in accordance with the current LRP to address changes in local circumstances and local priorities in transportation.
- Processed the following amendments in the FY 2011-2014 TIP (for a complete description of which specific projects changed during these months, see the corresponding TwinCATS Policy Committee Meeting minutes at www.swmpc.org/twincats.asp):
 - **October 2011**-No amendments were requested.
 - **November 2011**-FY 2011 amended 1 Illustrative list local project; FY 2012 amended 4 local projects.
 - **December 2011**-FY 2012 amended 2 MDOT projects and added 1 MDOT project.
 - **January 2012**-FY 2013 amended 1 local transit project.
 - **February 2012**-Approved Southwest Michigan Regional Airport projects to be reflected in the TIP and Long Range Plan; FY 2011- moved 1 MDOT project to FY 2012; FY 2012 added 3 MDOT projects, added 1 SWMPC project, and added 1 local project; amended 1 local project, moved 1 MDOT project from Illustrative list to FY 2012, amended 2 MDOT projects, deleted 1 MDOT project, amended 1 transit project; FY 2013 added 4 transit projects, and amended 1 transit project, FY 2014 added 1 MDOT project, added 1 local road project
 - **March 2012**- No amendments were requested.
 - **April 2012**- No amendments were requested.

- **May 2012**-FY 2012 added 2 MDOT projects, amended 5 MDOT projects, FY 2013 added 1 MDOT project, amended 1 MDOT project, moved 1 MDOT project out of 2011-2014 TIP; FY 2014 amended 1 MDOT project
- **June 2012**-FY 2012 added 1 MDOT project, amended 1 MDOT project; FY 2013 added 3 MDOT projects; FY 2014 added 2 MDOT projects.
- **July 2012**- No amendments were requested.
- **August 2012**- No amendments were requested.
- **September 2012**-FY 2012 amended 1 MDOT project.

2. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

This program provides a flexible funding source for state and local governments to fund transportation projects and programs to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and its amendments. CMAQ funding supports transportation projects that reduce mobile source emissions in areas designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as in nonattainment or maintenance of national ambient air quality standards.

- Monitored CMAQ funding with the passage of new federal transportation legislation MAP-21.
- Assisted local agencies with CMAQ questions.

3. Non-Motorized Transportation

The SWMPC has been involved in the development and advancement of non-motorized transportation as an integral part of a connected transportation network.

- Monitored local initiatives and legislative actions that have possible impacts on non-automobile oriented means of transportation, such as rail, air and bicycle trails.
- Provided data, technical assistance, and planning services to local initiatives for incorporating non-motorized system(s) into the transportation system.

5. Other Tasks

- Coordinated regional transportation strategies with community transportation needs, development and land uses and assisted in the development of local plans, strategies and actions to integrate regional goals and local goals.
- Worked with MDOT, the Berrien County and Cass County road commissions, and the local units of government on the development of local inputs to the State Asset Management Plan.
- Continued to coordinate, monitor, and follow-up on transportation issues with transportation studies such as corridor studies, local traffic impact studies, and/or site plan review.

Products of Short Range Planning:	Status:
Amendments and administrative changes to the TIP, as needed	Completed and submitted
Regularly updated TIP and Fiscal Constraint tables	Published
Public participation notices	Completed

Short Range Planning Funds	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
FHWA	15,552	14,089	1,463
FTA	4,806	4,08	(1)

Other Planning Activities

The goal of Other Planning Activities category is to be responsive to the needs of the local area in meeting safety-conscious planning, non-motorized activities, and various unanticipated transportation-related planning activities as work arises.

1. Revenue Assistance

As revenues to local communities continue to shrink, the SWMPC works with agencies on how to utilize other funding sources to fund transportation related projects.

- Assisted local communities in researching grant opportunities for funding transportation-related projects.
- Researched revenue sources for communities to meet growing funding gap.
- Researched transportation funding / state budget issues, including complete streets rule for Transportation Enhancement funding.

2. Transit

Reduction of demand response trips in TCATA service area.

- Analyzed data to look at the feasibility of adjusting or creating new fixed route service(s) that will alleviate the long waits for demand response service to seniors and people with disabilities by taking the strain off a transit system that is over capacity providing demand response to people who could otherwise utilize fixed route service.
- Provided maps of potential new and revised routes to TCATA management for consideration.

MyWayThere.org

Assisted in the expanded use of technology, specifically, the creation of a new website called MyWayThere.org that serves as a gateway to transportation options in Berrien County by providing links to transportation tools such as a trip planner and a searchable database to allow people, case managers and agencies to find transportation options in Berrien County.

Berrien County Transportation Coalition

Assisted in the facilitation of Berrien County Transportation Coalition bi-monthly meetings to bring about the following work products:

- Regional Reduced Fare Card for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Standardized Operating Policies for future adoption by all Berrien County transit agencies. Policies include: Requesting rides, Same day service requests, Personal care attendants, Pets and service animals, Transporting children, Mobility devices, Canceling rides, No-shows, Subscription trips, Inclement weather.
- Continue pursuing opportunities for coordination between consumers, human service agencies and transportation providers

- Gather Senior Center transportation service information to begin the coordination process between the nine senior service agencies in the region that provide transportation to seniors.
- Continue developing and aggregating useful disability resources for the website Mywaythere.org
- Assisted State and local government bodies to build the capabilities and capacity of human service and other service networks to address their customers' mobility needs by participating and providing input/feedback on transportation needs/issues in collaborative local or regional coordinated public transit/human services transportation planning processes.

Technical Assistance

- Assisted TCATA in final preparation of Para-Transit Application to satisfy compliancy issue on FTA triennial review on for consideration by TCATA board of Trustees.
- Attend monthly Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority Board meeting to advocate and promote change in internal and external operations to increase service efficiency and accessibility options for people with disabilities, low-incomes, and seniors.
- Attended the following Local Advisory Committee meetings to present and document needs of seniors and people with disabilities.
 - Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority and Berrien Bus

Berrien County Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study

- Scheduled and conducted meeting with advisory committee on June 6, 2012. Presentation included review of Technical Memorandum #1, discussion of various opportunities and issues identified through the evaluation of the four current transit providers, and review of next steps.
- In conjunction with Technical Memorandum #1, continued analysis and discussion of possible alternatives and options that will be documented in second technical memorandum.

3. Passenger Rail

SWMPC is actively engaged in discussions regarding the importance of passenger rail service in the region. Moving people safely and efficiently throughout the state by passenger rail service is one way that transportation planning strives to be truly multi-modal.

- Continued the coordination of the Westrain coalition through 2 meeting facilitations.
- Collaborated with the Michigan Association of Rail Passengers (MARPP) in the dissemination of passenger rail subject topics.

- Collaborated with Berrien and Cass Counties to develop strategies to maintain and improve passenger rail service in the TWINCATS area.
- Presented information on the status of high-speed rail in Michigan.

4. Other Activities

- Identified opportunities to initiate safety data information collection and to conduct and/or coordinate outreach activities among interested parties. Expanded efforts to establish safety as a priority element in the transportation planning process.
- Assisted in the development of the City of Benton Harbor’s Complete Streets strategy.

Products of Other Planning Tasks:	Status:
Berrien County Transit Study Implementation Plan	65% complete

Other Planning Funds	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
FHWA	6,752	6,383	369
FTA	3,161	3,160	1

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The table that follows displays the revenue received for transportation planning from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Authority (FTA). The “Budgeted in UWP” numbers are reflective of the estimated transportation planning costs as outlined in the Unified Work Program for FY 2012 for each program element. The table then shows the dollars spent on each program element. The last column demonstrates the SWMPC ability to be good stewards of federal funds as reflected in money being saved in each program element.

**Please note that figures displayed in this table are not final and are subject to audit.*

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Program Element	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
Program Management	81,883	81,792	91
Data Management	27,242	27,242	0
Long Range Planning	30,766	26,738	4,028
Short Range Planning	15,552	14,089	1,463
Other Planning	6,752	6,383	369
Total	162,195	156,244	5,951

Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

Program Element	Budgeted in UWP	Spent	Under/(Over)
Program Management	25,308	25,294	14
Data Management	8,416	8,416	0
Long Range Planning	8,434	8,434	0
Short Range Planning	4,806	4,807	(1)
Other Planning	3,161	3,160	1
Transit Pass Through	1,932	1,932	0
Total	50,125	50,111	14

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Web page visits

The following table shows web page visits in fiscal year 2012 for the transportation pages on www.swmpc.org. The table shows the total number of views for FY 2011 (October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011) as a means to compare the difference in activities that the SWMPC focuses on. Web pages are added and removed as projects begin and end. Therefore, some web pages may not have existed in FY 2011 to compare to FY 2012.

Pages	Page views in FY 2012	Page views in FY 2011	Average time spent on page in FY 2012	Average time spent on page in FY 2011
TRANSPORTATION Transportation.asp	855	812	:54	0:41
TwinCATS MAIN PAGE twincats.asp	879	699	:54	0:47
TRANSPORTATION DOCUMENTS twincats_docs.asp	317	290	2:26	2:47
Documents located on this page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation Improvement Program ○ Long Range Plan ○ Unified Work Program ○ Annual Report 				
Midwest Rail Initiative mwri.asp	130	93	1:31	1:47
2013 Long Range Plan 2013lrp.asp	194	34	:51	2:46
TwinCATS Walk and Roll walkbiketwincats.asp	227	291	4:39	3:52
COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
FY 2012 fy_2012_twincats.asp	881	NA	3:47	NA
FY 2011 twincats_fy_11.asp	NA	732	NA	2:51
PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION				
Rail regionalrail.asp	234	183	1:09	0:59
Transit swmitransit.asp	174	327	1:59	0:37
Transit Study transit_study.asp	181	792	2:58	3:40
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION	235	207	:39	0:57

trailwaysefforts.asp				
U.S. Bicycle Route 35 usbr35.asp	521	212	3:10	2:05
SMART Plan smart_plan.asp	2,613	343	2:03	2:19
Michigan Bicycle Laws mibicyclelaws.asp	13	514	NA	4:28
Bicycle Safety bicycle_safety.asp	10	78	:21	2:29
DATA				
Asset Management asset_mgmt.asp	108	190	2:17	1:16
Traffic Counts traffic_counts.asp	884	774	:58	0:59
Traffic Count Database traffic_count_db.asp.asp	513	475	2:54	3:00
CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY cmaq.asp	188	206	1:51	2:11
OTHER				
Calendar of Events calendar.asp	626	702	1:23	1:07
Transportation Library trans_library.asp	42	125	2:05	2:59
In the News inthenews_2.asp	458	468	2:13	1:30
Legislative Updates legupdate.asp	91	NA	2:11	NA
Participation Plan Participation.asp	224	65	3:26	1:39

Other measurable indicators

Number of Facebook fans	156
News articles (Herald Palladium, Benton Spirit, South Bend Tribune)	13