

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TAC and Policy Committee Combined Minutes

August 15, 2016 9:30 A.M.

Kinexus, Anchor Rooms A&B

Attendance		Committee	
PERSON	REPRESENTING	TAC	POL
Carolyn Fowler	Benton Charter Township		x
Cali Berg	Benton Charter Township	x	
Bill Chickering	Berrien County Commission	x	x
Bill Hodge	Berrien County Planning Commission	x	x
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Commission	x	x
Chris Cook	City of Benton Harbor	x	x
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph	x	x
Joanne Johnson	Disability Network Southwest Michigan	x	x
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Township	x	x
Jonathan Smith	MDOT Coloma Office	x	x
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Statewide Planning	x	x
Steve Tilly	Royalton Township	x	x
Vince DeJardins	Southwest Michigan Regional Airport	x	x
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township		x
Denise Cook	St. Joseph Charter Township	x	
Katie Beck	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis		
Rob Maffeo	MDOT Urban Travel Analysis		
Jonathan Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township		
Ron Griffin	St. Joseph Charter Township		
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC Staff		
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC Staff		
Committee Members Absent			
Tim Lynch	Berrien County Road Commission		x
Deb Kavanaugh	Hager Township		x
John Hodgson	City of St. Joseph		x
John Gast	Lake Charter Township		x
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman	x	x
David Chandler	Sodus Township	x	x
Stewart McKenzie*	Federal Transit Administration	x	x
Andrea Dewey*	Federal Highway Administration	x	x
Darwin Watson	City of Benton Harbor		x
Cathy Tilley	Cornerstone Alliance	x	x
Bill Purvis	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority	x	x
Fred Featherly	MDOT Passenger Division	x	
Evan Smith	Berrien County Planning Commission	x	
Gloria Payne	Lake Charter Township	x	
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	x	
John Olson	Consultant	x	
Scott Webber*	NIRPC	x	x

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Brain Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and Dick Stauffer led the group in introductions.

2. CHANGES TO THE POSTED AGENDA:

None. Motion to approve Agenda as is made by Tim Zebell, 2nd by Steve Tilly

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Bill Hodge with support Carolyn Fowler to approve the minutes of the June 20th TAC meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**
- Two corrections to the June 20th Policy Committee minutes, a date correction and a change of name
- A Motion was made by Steve Tilley with support by Carolyn Fowler to approve the minutes of the June 20th Policy meeting with the correction. **Motion passed.**

5. STAFF REPORT

Kim Gallagher explained that FHWA asked for an amendment to the 2040 Long Range plan to add in explanation of the I-94 & Business loop Interchange reconstruction. Because this project is adding ramps it is considered a capacity expansion. SWMPC will keep the committees updated on the amendment progress.

6. Walk and Roll Committee

Kim Gallagher gave an update on the Napier Avenue Corridor Study. It is being 100% funded through federal and state funds with no required local match. The official award letter will arrive in September and work will begin in October. The first step is creating the RFP which is reviewed by MDOT passenger division. Walk and Roll committee will meet in October to assist with the RFP

Brandon read a letter sent by Heather Cole from Be Healthy Berrien (see attached).

7. COMMUNITY LAND USE AND ZONING UPDATES

Kim Gallagher explained that this section is for committee members to update SWMPC and other members about development happening in their own community. Any development that will affect traffic should be shared. This is important for the creation of the travel demand model and programming future transportation projects.

Dick Stauffer discussed the recently approved Fenner condo project on Maiden lane in Lincoln Township. This is a Planned Unit Development and required a zoning variance. Construction has begun for an onsite water retention pond. The project will be 78 units in 39 buildings. Small lots and no playground make this a good fit for seniors but the project is not age restricted.

8. PUBLIC TRANSIT

- **SWMPC update**

Kim gave an update on the countywide service plan, saying that the contract is still awaiting MDOT approval. There is a backlog with MDOT and we are hoping to get the contract approved this week.

Kim gave a brief overview of SMART Mobility. Partnership with University of Michigan transportation research group. It will complement the county wide transit service plan. SMART has done similar work in larger cities, where they look at the nodes and various multimodal transportation methods being utilized. The main local contact on this project is Benton Harbor mayor Marcus Muhammad.

- **TCATA Updates**

Since Bill Purvis was absent Kim gave the TCATA update. Last meeting TCATA was close to closing doors due to a missed grant. They have received funding and are stable for now. Ridership and fare revenue is down. But ridership on the fixed route service is up.

The Red route is Job Access Reverse Commute funded and goes down to exit 23. The bus has been using fast food locations as stops, being kicked out and then looking for another option, TCATA was just kicked out of Long John Silver's lot and is considering options for a permanent stop along the road. Currently there is a temporary stop south of Marquette Woods. They are considering the Merritt Engineering property on Red Arrow at Locust Street. First priority is to get a sign permit from MDOT, then to create a permanent shelter. Kim explained that businesses don't want liability or damage caused by buses on their parking lots.

Bill Hodge asked if the final stop would involve purchasing property or an easement along the road. Kim said it will be an easement in MDOT road right-of-way.

9. Project Status Reports

St. Joseph

Tim Zebell: Lakeview is functionally complete and just has some check list items to finish.

City of Benton Harbor

Chris Cook: Pavement markings are set for a November letting. The local cost will be \$52,000 making the total amount \$74,847. Construction is ongoing for the traffic signal on Pipestone at Wall St.

Berrien County Road Commission

Brian Berndt: Traffic Signal on Pipestone at Meijer entrance will have an October letting.

MDOT

Jonathan Smith: M-63 construction is done. I-94 still has bridge work and paving to complete. 60% has been done so far. The project is on schedule.

No work has begun on 2017 projects

10. OLD BUSINESS

Jim Sturdevant announced that the 2017 Unified Work Plan has been approved.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Katie Beck gave a presentation on travel demand models and the process she will use to create TwinCATS new model for the 2045 Long Range Plan. The base year of the model is 2014 which is the year of the most recent American Community Survey. SWMPC staff may have to ask local communities about existing land use in 2014.

Questions about if the model predicts traffic calming. The model only uses the speed limit and traffic volumes to predict speed. Another question was about modeling transit use. Katie replied that the model only predicts if a person will use transit mostly based on demographic characteristics. The model will not assign transit riders to a specific route. MDOT's model will not predict the number of buses on the road.

- **Officer Nominations:**

Kim Gallagher asked about how the committee wanted to handle officer nominations. She explained that the nomination period begins now and is open until voting at the October meeting.

Dick Stauffer nominated Tim Lynch for Policy Committee chair.

Dick Stauffer nominated Vince deJardins for Policy Committee vice chair.

Tim Zebell nominated Brian Berndt to continue as Technical Advisory Committee Chair.

- **State and Federal Updates**

Jim Sturdevant: 2017-2020 TIP is going to FHWA today, looks good.

Jonathan Smith: I-94 Stevensville Ramp exit 22 Grand Mere closure from August 17-October 12.

12. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Thank you to MDOT for the excellent work on I-196

Request from Jonathan Smith to not throw cigarettes out of vehicles. There was a fire at I-94 and I-196

Andrea Dewey from FHWA will be on maternity leave in late August.

Agreement that the combined meeting went well. Request for more tables/seats due to larger attendance,

13. ADJOURNMENT at 10:28 A.M.

Next meeting is July 18, 2016 at 9:30 am at Kinexus/Michigan Works! Anchor Rooms A+B.

Compiled by: Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner & Jerrid Burdue, SWMPC Planning Intern, 2016.



Richard (Dick) Stauffer
Chair, TwinCATS Policy Committee
2055 John Beers Road
Stevensville, MI 49127

Dear TwinCATS Policy Committee members:

On behalf of Be Healthy Berrien, I'm writing to thank you for your consideration of our position regarding the projects in the 2017-2020 Twin Cities Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We appreciate the opportunity to submit public comment concerning the inclusion of complete streets components. Be Healthy Berrien's work aims to reduce and prevent obesity through enhanced community infrastructure that supports physical activity and healthy eating. We believe complete streets initiatives provide long-term, sustainable solutions for improving access to safe places for physical activity, particular for those community members living in environmental justice areas.

Be Healthy Berrien thanks the municipalities/agencies that are implementing complete streets and/or pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvement projects in the 2017-2020 TIP, especially:

- Inclusion of bicycle lanes, improvement of crosswalks, and replacement of ADA ramps on Colfax Avenue
- Construction of 5' wide paved shoulders on John Beers Road
- Creation of a non-motorized path on Lemon Creek Road
- Widening shoulders to 6' paved on Marquette Woods
- Creation of a non-motorized path on S. Roosevelt Road
- Construction of 5' wide paved shoulders on Shawnee Road

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Cole".

Heather Cole
Director, Be Healthy Berrien
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Saint Joseph, MI 49085
269-982-1700 x. 25
Heather.cole@uwsm.org

Be Healthy Berrien is a union of organizations working to reduce obesity in Berrien County through policy, systems, and environmental change