

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

*TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES*

February 11, 2019 9:30 AM – Kinexus, Lighthouse Room, 499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

<b>TWINCATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBERS (2019)</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>POL</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Benton Charter Township	Carolyn Fowler		x	P	P										
Benton Charter Township	Kelli Smith	x		N	N										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Bill Chickering		x	P	P										
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		N	N										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P										
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x	V	V										
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Brian Berndt (TAC Ch.)	x		P	P										
City of Benton Harbor	Darwin Watson		x-a	A	A										
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook	x	Alt	P	P										
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	x	x	N	P										
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	N										
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell	x		P	P										
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	N	N										
Disability Network of SW Mich.	(vacant)	x		V	V										
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x	V	V										
Kinexus	(vacant)	x		V	V										
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	N	N										
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P										
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	N										
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P	N										
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P										
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P										
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P										
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	N	N										
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	N	N										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	P										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x-a		A	A										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P										
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Alex Little	x	x	P	P										
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x	V	V										
Village of Shoreham	Bob Lawrence	x	x	P	P										
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x-a	V	V										
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook	x	Alt	P	P										
Berrien Co. Coordinated Trans. Coalition	(vacant)	NV	NV	V	V										
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	NV	NV	N	N										
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	NV	NV	N	N										
MDEQ - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		N	N										
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	NV		P	N										
MDOT - Multi-Modal	(vacant)	NV		V	V										
MDOT - Passenger Division	(vacant)	NV		V	V										
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	NV	NV	N	P										
Regional Interagency Consumers Cte.	(vacant)	NV	NV	V	V										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	P	P										
TCATA Local Advisory Committee	(vacant)		NV	V	V										

Pol. Ch.: Policy Chair; TAC Ch.: TAC Chair; Alt: Alternate; x-a: Alternate available; NV: Non-voting; P: Present; N: Not present; A: Absent-Alternate attending; V: Vacant; O: Observer (Alternate present but not voting because regular member is also present).

1. **Call to Order / Introductions**

Technical Advisory Committee Chair Brian Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the group in introductions. In addition to members, also present is Ryan Fellows (SWMPC).

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

Agenda approved by consensus without any changes.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2019 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Brian Berndt. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

None.

6. **Community Land Use and Zoning Member Updates**

Lincoln Charter Township has a new hotel being built along Marquette Woods Road, with a Starbucks being built across the street.

7. **Airport Updates**

None (Vince Desjardins not present).

8. **Public Transit Updates**

Alex Little said TCATA survived the cold spell and are continuing on.

9. **Special Studies**

**A) Countywide Transit Study:** Kim Gallagher reported that the Michigan's Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council gave a presentation to the League of Women Voters on the countywide transit study.

**B) Napier Corridor Study:** Brian Berndt replied that the BCRD assessment for the recommended lane re-configuration was still ongoing.

10. **Old Business**

None.

11. **New Business**

**A) Discussion of Unprogrammed STBG Funds in 2019:** Kim Gallagher notified members that there were unprogrammed STBG funds, which could be applied to increase the distance covered in the Napier Avenue project.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the following changes to the 2019 Napier Avenue Project:

	Original	Amendment
<b>Limits</b>	St. Joseph River to 3,700 feet east	St. Joseph River to Colfax Ave.
<b>Length (miles)</b>	0.87	0.942
<b>Federal costs</b>	\$335,000	\$537,500
<b>Local match</b>	\$74,000	\$118,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$409,000</b>	<b>\$656,300</b>

Made by Tim Zebell, second by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

- B) Adoption of 2019 Safety Targets:** Kim Gallagher presented the State of Michigan 2019 Safety Targets. Per the FAST Act, all MPO's are required to approve safety targets. MPO's may create their own safety targets with their own scientifically based methodology and data, but so far all MPO's in the state have been using the State of Michigan's targets. The goal for safety is always toward zero deaths and no accidents. However, the safety targets are not a reflection of what is desired, but what experts predict will happen given predicted increases of traffic and other factors. Adoption of these targets is tied to using crash reduction factors or other metrics for regional project selection as a way to increase the likelihood of funding projects that improve safety.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2019 Safety Targets. Made by Juan Ganum, second by Alex Little. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Steve Tilly, second Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

- C) 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program – Transit Projects:** Bill Chickering noted that a TCATA local match estimate increase of \$140,000 is very ambitious. Alex Little said the figures were based on using \$42,000 from CDBG and projected increases from fares, the millage, advertising revenue, and a variety of other sources.

Kim Gallagher noted that the mobility management work was entirely funded from state and federal sources without any match. She also noted that In May the entire TIP would be approved.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the presented 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program transit projects. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Bob Lawrence. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook, second Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**D) 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program – MDOT Projects:**

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the presented 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program MDOT projects. Made by Tim Zebell, second by Alex Little. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Steve Tilly, second Jonathon Smith. **Motion approved**

**E) 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program – CMAQ Projects:**

Kim Gallagher congratulated Brian Berndt on a well-run meeting for Berrien County CMAQ.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the presented 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program projects. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Tim Zebell. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Denise Cook, second Alex Little. **Motion approved**

**12. State and Federal Updates**

Amy Lipset reported that FHWA and FTA were ready to approve the TwinCATS Long Range Transportation Plan, but they are waiting for review by EPA before final approval. Congressman Upton's office has been contacted for assistance in keeping the review process on target. The TwinCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is also close for federal approval, but there are concerns about another federal government shut-down, which would interrupt the work flow.

Jonathon Smith noted that the State of the State address is coming up, which might include new transportation initiatives being announced. Amy Lipset said the US-31 project might be mentioned during Governor Whitmer's address.

**13. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Ryan Fellows explained that TwinCATS has a new attendance sign-in sheet and procedure. Now all TwinCATS members from the Bylaws are listed on the attendance sign-in sheet. This will make attendance reporting easier and less time consuming. Also, everyone can quickly see how many positions are vacant and member's attendance year-to-date.

**14. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2019, at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ryan D. Fellows, Associate Planner, SWMPC.*