

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

February 10, 2020 – Kinexus, Lighthouse Room, and 499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

TWINCATS MEMBER ORG./POSITION	MEMBERS (2019)	TAC	POL	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Benton Charter Township	Richard Royal				P										
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Bill Chickering		x	P	A										
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	P										
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P										
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P	A										
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A										
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	A										
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A	A										
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P	P										
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	P										
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P	A										
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A	A										
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A										
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x			P										
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A											
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P										
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	P										
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A	A										
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P										
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A	A										
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P										
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P										
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A										
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	P										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	A										
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		A	P										
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A	A										
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P										
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P	P										
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Stephanie Clarke	x	x	P	P										
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P										
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A										
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A	A										
EGLE - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	x		A	A										
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A										
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	A										
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	x	x	P	P										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	P										
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Brandon Kovnat			p	A										

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt - Alternate

P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is vacant.

1. **Call to Order / Introductions**

Policy Committee chair, Dick Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Eric Lester and seconded by Jonathon Fisk. **Motion approved.**

5. **Staff Report**

Kim Gallagher informed the committees about an upcoming event sponsored by the Michigan's Great Southwest Sustainable Business Forum that will discuss the impacts of high lake levels. Jonathon Smith updated the committees on MDOT's study regarding flooding on BL 94 in downtown Benton Harbor. Smith stated that MDOT is working with hydrologists to investigate raising the portion of BL 94 that currently floods during high wind events (storm surge). John Hodgson reported that St. Joseph invested \$450,000 in shoring up the land around the water treatment plant. He also added that he was in discussion with EAGLE about installing river gauges below the dam. Dick Stauffer stated that the Lincoln Township beach is closed until further notice because the parking lot had been lost to erosion.

6. **Transit Updates**

Evan Smith gave a presentation on the Berrien Bus Flex Route Pilot program. Dick Stauffer commented that service only two days a week could not serve employment trips. Cindy Gray commented that the new service is very difficult or does not work at all for people who previously used Berrien Bus. Eric Lester asked if Uber, at a discounted rate, could be used for trips Berrien Bus could not provide. Smith stated that Uber could be used for last mile trips and he would bring it up to the Berrien Bus Pilot Service Committee in the near future.

Paul Gillespie informed the committee that ridership on Yellow Route, which began service on January 15th, was increasing. He also mentioned that all of TCATA's buses are now outfitted with tablets that provide drivers with passenger manifests.

7. **MDOT amendment**

Gallagher gave a brief overview of the Rebuilding Michigan road bonding plan. She explained that some MDOT projects which were originally programmed with federal funds will now be 100% state funded using a bond. Eric Lester asked if the federal funds that were being replaced by state bond funds would still be used in the TwinCATS area. Amy Lipset answered that the federal funds would be used in the Southwest Region on various trunkline projects, but not necessarily in the TwinCATS area.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment from MDOT as submitted. Made by Terry Smith Tilly and seconded by Johnathon Fisk. **Motion approved**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Eric Lester and seconded by Tim Kading. **Motion approved**

8. **State and Federal Updates**

Amy Lipset informed the committee that Jim Sturdevant processed all of the January TwinCATS amendments.

9. **Privilege of the floor**

None.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 16, 2020 at 9:30 AM.**

Minutes compiled by Kim Gallagher, SWMPC senior Transportation planner

DRAFT