

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

January 11, 2021 via Zoom

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

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is

Others Present: Cathy Yates- Benton Charter Township

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Policy Committee Chair, Dick Stauffer, Called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Kim Gallagher took roll call.

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approval of November 24, 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Jonathon Fisk and seconded by **Cathy Yates**. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Gallagher presented on the Fiscal Year 2020 List of obligated projects. The list shows all of the federal surface transportation funds programed for the TwinCATS area. In 2020, the federal government programed over 47 million for the TwinCATS area of which the vast majority at 42 million is for the US-31 extension.

6. **Agency & Project Updates**

- a) **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority:** Gillespie said that the 45 TCATA employees are in the 1b group for the COVID-19 vaccine. TCATA just signed a new union contract, which was last negotiated in 2017. The new contract gives drivers a raise and eliminates the wage difference between full-time and part-time drivers.

Gillespie said that the repair of the TCATA headquarters driveway was completed. The next project is to install security cameras for the property. He said he is still working on the TCATA safety plan.

b) **Local Agencies**

Berrien County Road Department: Stack said that Washington Avenue was in design with environmental submitted. The Napier Bridge is being finalized with a cost that came in slightly higher than programed. The work will include beam repair, deck rehab, and new lighting.

City of St. Joseph: Zebell said that the project had bids come in last Friday at 11% lower than estimated.

Napier Avenue: Stack discussed the use of a road fabric to extend the roadway lifespan. The technique is not new but Napier is the first use by the Berrien County Road Department. He said that this process is for roads with a concrete base and a asphalt surface. In Berrien County, this is mainly heavily traveled roads such as Red Arrow and Pipestone. Jonathon Smith added that MDOT had used the road fabric before with success.

Denise Cook said that design for the Napier sidewalk was underway with Wightman & Associates as the engineering contractor. The preferred design is to do six foot sidewalks on both sides of Napier. The project will require some easements and utility relocation.

- c) **MDOT:** Smith said that tree clearing would begin thin month for the M-139 culvert over Buckhorn creek. The culvert replacement would be in July require a detour.

Lipset gave an update on the current progress of US-31. Most work will pause for the winter and restart in April. Lipset presented an online GIS storyboard for the US-31 project. The tool is an interactive map that will give information about the history of the project, show the current progress, and identify the detour routes.

Lipset gave an update on the Michigan toll road study. She said a consultant was chosen. she is working on traffic models to see how tolls may affect travel. She added that the reduction in travel due to COVID-19 may affect this. They are now beginning to explore potential corridors to study. She added that the study is still in the very early stages.

7. **New Business**

- a) **Pavement and Bridge Performance Targets:** Kovnat presented on the pavement and bridge performance measures. He showed the pavement and bridge history and how targets were selected. Stack added that Berrien County Road Department has a bridge asset management plan and has been able to get projects funded quickly for bridges in poor condition.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee adopt and support the state's pavement and bridge performance targets. Made by Tim Zebell and seconded by Tim Kading. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by Jim Sturdevant, seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

- b) **Berrien County Road Department Guardrail Project:** Stack said that he had nothing to add beyond what was in the packet.
- c) **MDOT Preventative Maintenance:** Kovnat said the overall project was preventative maintenance within the seven county MDOT southwest region. Within TwiNCATS, the project is crack sealing along M-139.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the amendments to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Tim Kading and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by John Hodgson Lester, seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

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

None.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner