

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
 Monday, January 27, 2025
 Meeting Attendance

Committee Members in Attendance

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Richard Royal (<i>Virtual</i>)	Benton Charter Township	X	X
Paul Gillespie	Berrien County Community Development Department		X
Mark Heyliger	Berrien County Road Department		X
Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department	X	
Tim Zebell (<i>Virtual</i>)	City of St. Joseph		X
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township		X
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	X	
Jim Sturdevant (<i>Virtual</i>)	MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning	X	X
Adrian Stroupe	MDOT Southwest Region	X	X
Jonathon Smith (<i>Virtual</i>)	MDOT Coloma Transportation Service Center	X	X
Denise Cook	St. Joseph Charter Township		X
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township	X	
Oliver Lindsay (<i>Virtual</i>)	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority		
Mike Allard	Village of Shoreham	X	X
Kacey Dominguez	Village of Stevensville	X	X
Fred Featherly (<i>Virtual</i>)	MDOT – Office of Passenger Transportation	X	
Kim Gallagher	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission		X

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing
Jonathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township
Ralph Benson	Lincoln Charter Township
Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Committee Members Absent

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Ray Bell	Berrien County Board of Commissioners		X
(Vacant)	Berrien County Planning Commission		X
Tim Drews	City of Benton Harbor	X	X
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman		X
Alex Austin or Greg Grothaus	City of St. Joseph	X	
Cindy Gray	Disability Network of SW Mich.	X	
Steve Tilly	Royalton Township	X	X
David Chandler	Sodus Township	X	X
Shannon Christy	Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	X	X
(Vacant)	Village of Grand Beach	X	X
Tim Drews	Village of Stevensville	X	
Christian Nicholaides	Federal Highway Administration		
Evan Gross	Federal Transit Administration		
Katie Beck	MDOT Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis		
Scott Webber	Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission		

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, January 27, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Changes to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2024 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Kacey Dominguez. **Motion approved.**

SWMPC Staff Report

Gallagher announced that she has sent agencies an application to request funding for collecting PASER data on non-federal aid roads. She reminded attendees that the funds can cover data collection time, vehicle use, and training. PASER collection on non-federal aid roads can be funded once every three years.

She also mentioned the state announced funding for culvert condition assessments. Requests from SWMPC exceeded the available funds, and Berrien County was awarded \$15,000.

Local Road Agency Updates

Tim Zebel gave an update on the City of St. Joseph 2025 projects.

- **Botham Ave project** : Scheduled for the February letting.
- **Cleveland Ave project**: The GI package will be completed by mid-February, to get on the May letting.

Gallagher announced that two projects in the TwinCATS area received state funding from the Shared Streets & Spaces Grant (SSG).

- The City of Bridgman awarded \$158,000 to add additional amenities to the Bridgman Courtyard, which is former parking lot that was converted into an outdoor public gathering space. The SSG grant cover items such as seating, bike racks, a bike repair station, and shade structures.
- The City of Benton Harbor was awarded \$200,000 for sidewalk improvements along Empire Avenue.

Transit Updates (TCATA)

Gallagher discussed a letter TCATA sent to jurisdictions within the urban area regarding potential service expansion. Currently, TCATA serves only a small portion of the urban area and would require funding from communities to expand. There may also be discussions on restructuring the authority, and the possibility of contracting with a third-party provider to operate bus services.

Oliver Lindsey discussed TCATA's federal and state funding, noting that TCATA receives approximately \$1.2 million annually in federal funds, with the state providing matching funds for capital expenses and funding the Red Route. However, he emphasized that local funding remains crucial for operations.

Gillespie reported that the Berrien Bus Local Advisory Committee supports forming a countywide transit authority. He also discussed differences in insurance costs and coverage between Berrien Bus and TCATA. If a new authority is created, it will not be subject to the same liability that TCATA has, and could reapply to join the Statewide Transit Insurance Pool.

MDOT Project Updates

See Meeting Packet Page 6 for MDOT project updates

Smith discussed the upcoming MDOT projects and announced upcoming design meetings. He reported that MDOT did not receive the MPDG rural grant for M-139, which may require them to reduce the project limits.

MDOT Project Amendment

See Meeting Packet Page 8 for amendment details

No questions or comments were made about the proposed amendment.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project amendment to the TwinCATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as contained in the meeting packet. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Mark Heyliger. **Motion approved.**

Approval of 2025 Statewide Safety Targets

See Meeting Packet Page 9 for details on the 2025 Statewide Safety Targets

Kovnat gave a presentation on the FY 2025 Statewide Safety Targets, stating that the information is very similar to the presentation he gave in 2024.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee support the Statewide Safety Targets for FY 2025 as set by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Made by Terrie Smith and seconded by Roger Seeley. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Kacey Dominquez and seconded by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

Approval of Local Agency Road Projects for Inclusion in the 2026-2029 TIP

See Meeting Packet Page 20 for the list of proposed 2026-2029 projects

The proposed 2026-2029 projects were presented, along with an overview of the selection process. The fiscally constrained project list was developed by the Project Review Subcommittee on November 18, 2024, based on project scoring criteria, agency priorities, and estimated funding. Projects not selected for 2026-2029 were added to an illustrative list in case additional funding becomes available or another project is canceled.

The next step in the 2026-2029 TIP development will be approval of transit projects, CMAQ-funded projects, and MDOT projects at the next TwinCATS meeting. The full TwinCATS 2026-2029 TIP document, which includes all federally funded transportation project within the TwinCATS area, will be voted on in May 2025. public comment on proposed projects will remain open until final TIP arrival.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve adding the projects as presented to the TwinCATS 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Roger Seeley and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Mark Heyliger and seconded by Kacey Dominquez. **Motion approved.**

Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 18, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Minutes taken by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC transportation planner