

# TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 16, 2025

9:30 am

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**In Person:**     **Kinexus - Michigan Works! Anchor Room A**  
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**Web:**            <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9489277047?pwd=RzkydlFacGFHNkVWeURpak1kSEcxUT09>

**Audio:**        Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 948 927 7047  
Passcode: 000619

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### AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of May 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes (*Action*) pg. 2
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Agency Updates
7. MDOT Project Amendments (*Action*) pg. 6
8. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at [kovnatb@swmpc.org](mailto:kovnatb@swmpc.org) or calling (269) 925-1137 x 1524. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Kim Gallagher at (269) 925-1137 x 1518 or by email at [gallagherk@swmpc.org](mailto:gallagherk@swmpc.org)

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
 Monday, May 19, 2025

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Richard Royal ( <i>virtual</i> )	Benton Charter Township	x	x
Paul Gillespie	Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	x	
John Humphry	Berrien Co. Planning Commission		x
Mark Heyliger	Berrien Co. Road Dept.		x
Kevin Stack	Berrien Co. Road Dept.	x	
Tim Drews	City of Benton Harbor	x	Alt
Juan Ganum ( <i>virtual</i> )	City of Bridgman	Alt	x
Alex Austin	City of St. Joseph	x	
Cindy Gray	Disability Network of SW Mich.	x	
Terrie Smith	Lincoln Charter Township	x	
Adrian Stroupe	MDOT – Southwest Region	x	x
Jonathon Smith ( <i>virtual</i> )	MDOT – Trans. Service Center	x	x
Denise Cook (Pol Vice Chair)	St. Joseph Charter Township		x
Roger Seeley	St. Joseph Charter Township	x	
Todd Shurn	Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	x	x
Mike Allard ( <i>virtual</i> )	Village of Shoreham	x	x
Tim Drews	Village of Stevensville	x	Alt
Katie Beck ( <i>virtual</i> )	MDOT - Modeling	x	
Fred Featherly ( <i>virtual</i> )	MDOT - Passenger Division	x	
Kim Gallagher	Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	x	x

**Others in Attendance**

Name	Representing
Jonathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township
Ralph Benson	Lincoln Charter Township
Teresa Greschak	Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority
Dan Sequin	MDOT, Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA)
Jerri Burdue	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
Brandon Kovnat	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

**Committee Members Absent**

Representative	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Ray Bell	Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners		x
Darwin Watson	City of New Buffalo	x	x
Emily Hackworth or Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph		x
Dave Bunte	Chickening Township	x	x
Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)	Lincoln Charter Township		x
Jim Sturdevant or Richard Bayus	MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	x	x
Michelle Heit	New Buffalo Township	x	x
Shannon Christy	Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	x	x
Kacey Dominguez	Village of Stevensville		x
Andrew Pickard	Federal Highway Administration	x	x
Cecilia Crenshaw	Federal Transit Administration	x	x

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
Monday, May 19, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Policy Committee Vice Chair, Denise Cook, 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 March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The draft minutes contained an error in who chaired the meeting, which will be corrected.

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2025 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting with the correction. Made by Kevin Stack and seconded by Tim Drews.

**Motion approved.**

**TwinCATS Travel Demand Model Presentation**

Dan Sequin, Transportation Planner with the MDOT Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA), gave a presentation about the development of a new Travel Demand model for the TwinCATS area which will be used in the next TwinCATS Long Range Plan. He explained how the model uses demographics, employment data, and road characteristics to predict travel patterns. The base year of the Model will be 2023 with forecast years in 2030, 2040, and 2050. The Local agencies were asked to review the base year data. Any major employment or housing developments that have occurred since 2023 or planned for the future will be modeled in the forecast years. The base data review is due to MDOT by September 19 2025. MDOT will then develop the future year forecasts, which will be approved by TwinCATS in March 2026.

**2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Gallagher gave a brief overview of the TwinCATS 2026–2029 TIP, explaining the development process and highlighting its anticipated impact. The TIP is currently under MDOT review, and minor revisions may be requested. Once approved by TwinCATS, the TIP will go to the SWMPC board for approval on June 17 before being submitted to FHWA.

**Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee** to recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the TwinCATS FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including any minor changes requested by MDOT or the public, and submit the TIP to the SWMPC board for approval at their June 17 meeting. 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 John Humphry and seconded by Mark Heyliger. **Motion approved.**

### **Local Road Agency Updates**

Alex Austin gave an update on the City of St. Joseph 2025 projects:

- **Botham Avenue:** the project was awarded to Hoffman Brothers construction. The preconstruction meeting was held, and work is scheduled to begin in Late July or early August, which is earlier than originally anticipated.
- **Cleveland Avenue:** the project was bid on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the low bid from Reith Riley. The City Commission will vote to approve the award on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and Construction will start July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kovnat added that the Cleveland project bid came in below the programmed amount. Since the project is using an Advanced Construct with repayment in 2026, the bid-savings can be reprogrammed for use on another project in 2026. Discussions on how to use the remaining funds will take place in late summer/early fall when agencies have a more accurate cost estimate for their 2026 projects.

### **Transit Updates (TCATA)**

Terea reported that TCATA is raising fares for the first time in 15 years. Regular fares will increase from \$1 to \$2, while reduced fares will go from \$0.50 to \$1. TCATA has also installed card readers on buses for make payments more convenient for riders. She also announced that TCATA has issued a request for proposals from third-party providers to manage the system.

Kim gave a brief overview of TCATA's transit performance measures. The safety targets are included in the agency's approved safety plan, while the State Good Repair Targets are included in the agency's asset management plan.

**Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee** to recommend that the Policy Committee support the Transit Safety Targets contained within the TCATA Public Transportation Safety Plan and support the State of Good Repair Targets contained within the TCATA Transit Asset Management Plan. 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 John Humphry and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

### **MDOT Project Updates**

*See packet page 6-7 for MDOT project updates.*

Jon Smith provided additional information on upcoming MDOT projects. He discussed the I-94 construction areas and encouraged everyone to use MI Drive for up-to-date closure and delay information. He noted that the M-139 project may be split over two construction seasons due to its size. A public meeting for the M-63/Main Street project in St. Joseph is scheduled for June 2nd.

### **Bridge and Pavement Performance Measures Targets**

*See packet page 8-11 for details on the performance targets.*

Kovnat presented the adjusted transportation performance targets for bridge and pavement conditions.

**Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee** to recommend that the policy committee approve the resolution for TwinCATS to adopt and support the statewide adjusted 4-year performance targets set by MDOT for the Percentage of Pavements of the Interstate in Good Condition (PCM), Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Good Condition (PCM), and Percentage of NHS Bridges in Poor Condition. 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 Mark Heyliger and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

**TwinCATS FY 2026 Unified Work Program**

Gallagher gave an overview of the Unified Work Program (UWP), which outlines the work SWMPC staff will complete for TwinCATS in FY 2026. She mentioned that 81.85% of funding comes from FHWA, with the 18.15% match provided by jurisdiction with the Twi CATS area based on population.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TwinCATS FY 2026 Unified Work Program (UWP) including any minor changes requested by MDOT. 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 John Humphry and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

**Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment**

Adrian Stroupe shared that there was a new pilot program under the Transportation alternatives program which will focus on broader community benefits including financial and health impacts. Seven communities were selected for the pilot, one from each MDOT region. The Village of Bronson was selected for Southwest Michigan, due to its poor health rankings. The project will identify gaps in their non-motorized network focusing on access to healthcare.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10 :38 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday June 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes taken by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner*

# MDOT Amendment Requests

For projects within the TwinCATS Area – June 9, 2025

**Fiscal year:** 2025

**Phase:** PE & CON

**Job Number:** 223415

**Project:** Capital Preventive Maintenance - Crack seal, Chip seal, fog seal

**Location:** I-196 from I-94 north to M-140, including ramps

**Cost:**

	Federal IM	State	Total
<b>PE</b>	\$44,824	\$4,980	\$49,804
<b>CON</b>	\$1,673,391	\$185,932	\$1,859,323
<b>Total</b>	\$1,718,215	\$190,913	\$1,909,127

**Amendment:** Adding additional chip seal location on I-196 BL/M-140/La Grange Rd near South Have for due to funding availability based on current estimates. While the location is outside of the TwinCATS area, the amendment requirement is based on total project length

Current Total Proejct Length	Proposed Total Proejct Length
17.098 miles	18.759 miles

**Fiscal year:** 2025

**Phase:** CON

**Job Number:** 222028

**Project:** Guardrail extension on I-94 north of Westbound exit ramp 16 (Red Arrow Hwy near Bridgman)

**Amendment:** Cost increase based on latest estimates

	Current		
	Federal HSIP	State	Total
<b>CON</b>	\$48,594	\$5,400	\$53,994

Proposed		
Federal HSIP	State	Total
\$83,498	\$9,278	\$92,775