

## TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

May 20, 2019 9:30 AM – 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	Carolyn Fowler		x	P	P	P		N							
Benton Charter Township	Kelli Smith	x		N	N	N		N							
Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners	Bill Chickering		x	P	P	P		N							
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		N	N	N		P							
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P	N		P							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x	V	V	V		V							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Brian Berndt		Retired	P	P	A									
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	X				P		P							
City of Benton Harbor	Darwin Watson		x-a	A	A	A		N							
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P							
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	x	x	N	P	P		N							
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	N	N		N							
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x-a		P	P	P		A							
City of St. Joseph	Tom McDonald	Alt						P							
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	N	N	N		N							
Disability Network of SW Mich.	(vacant)	x		V	V	V		N							
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x	V	V	V		N							
Kinexus	(vacant)	x		V	V	V		N							
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	N	N	P		N							
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P	P		P							
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	N	P		P							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P	N	P		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P	A		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brain Sanada	Alt	Alt			P									
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P	N		P							
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P	N		P							
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	N	N	N		N							
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	N	N	P		P							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	P	P		P							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x-a		A	A	A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Ron Griffin	Alt						P							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P	P									
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	(vacant)	x	x	P	P	P		V							
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x	V	V	V		V							
Village of Shoreham	Bob Lawrence	x	x	P	P	P		P							
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x-a	V	V	V		V							
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P	P		P							
Berrien Co. Coord. Trans. Coalition	(vacant)	NV	NV	V	V	V		V							
Federal Highway Administration	Andrea Dewey	NV	NV	N	N	N		P							
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	NV	NV	N	N	N		N							
MDEQ - Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	NV		N	N	N		N							
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	NV		P	N	N		N							
MDOT - Multi-Modal	(vacant)	NV		V	V	V		V							
MDOT - Passenger Division	(vacant)	NV		V	V	V		V							
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan. Comm.	Scott Weber	NV	NV	N	P	N		N							
Regional Interagency Consumers Cte.	(vacant)	NV	NV	V	V	V		V							
Southwest Michigan Planning Comm.	Kim Gallagher	NV	NV	P	P	P		N							
TCATA Local Advisory Committee	(vacant)		NV	V	V	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**

Policy Committee Chair Dick Stauffer called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the group in introductions. SWMPC Staff present: Brandon Kovnat and Ryan Fellows.

Tom McDonald, director of Public Works for the City of St. Joseph announced that he was appointed as an alternate member by the St. Joseph City Commission.

**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 March 18, 2019 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**5. Staff Report**

Ryan Fellows announced that the meeting was being recorded. Rerecording was requested by a former committee member and will continue unless the committees votes otherwise.

Brandon Kovnat presented on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) call for projects for 2021. More information and applications can be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625\\_25885\\_40552---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625_25885_40552---,00.html). The deadline for applications in August 9, 2019

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

None.

**7. Airport Updates**

Vince DesJardins gave an update on the airport's stormwater inspection. They are using cameras in storm pipes and are halfway finished. The results will be used for the airport improvement plan.

**8. Public Transit Updates**

Alex Little is no longer working at TCATA. They are searching for a new director. Bill Purvis, the former director is assisting part time.

**9. Special Studies**

A) **Countywide Transit Study:** Evan Smith said that Berrien Bus was working on new routes.

B) **Napier Corridor Study:** A Lane reconfiguration will occur on Napier Avenue. A sidewalk will be built in 2022 using CMAQ funds.

**10. Road Project Updates & Amendments**

**Berrien County Road Department Project updates**

- Roosevelt Path: Obligation expected in August 2019 with construction in late fall until July 2020.
- Napier Avenue: Hoping for July letting
- John Beers Rd: Hoping for July letting

Kovnat mentioned that there was an administrative cost change (less than 25%) to John Beers.

	Original		New Costs
Federal	\$350,000		\$335,000
Local	\$129,000	→	\$74,415
Total	\$479,000		\$409,415

**MDOT project Updates:**

Road/Project Name	Limits/Location	Work Description	Status
I-94	Under Glenlord Road and Cleveland Avenue	Deep overlay, substructure repair, beam repair	Construction in progress.
M-139	At Tanglewood/Anna and M-43 at 16th Ave.	Install passing flares	Construction in progress.
M-63	Over St. Joseph River	Epoxy overlay, scour, mechanical & electrical	Construction starts September 5th.
I-94 BL	Over St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor	Epoxy overlay, joints, mechanical, electrical	Construction starts September 5th.
M-139	Hinchman Road to north of the St. Joseph River	Mill and one course hot mix asphalt overlay	Construction in progress.
M-139	Over Buckhorn Creek, north of Rocky Weed Rd.	Culvert replacement and road reconstruction	Design in progress.
M-60 E	Signal Corridors in Berrien, Cass, and Kalamazoo Counties	Traffic Signal Modernizations; connected vehicle installations.	Design in progress. June 2020 Let.
I-94	I-94 from I-196 to US-131 – Van Buren County	Variable Advisory Speed Limit System along I-94 in Van Buren Co.	Design in progress. Feb 2021 Let.

**US 31 Update:** Amy Lipset said they are on schedule, currently updating the environmental review.

Lipset said there was an updated design for the cloverleaf at US-31 and I-94. Lipset presented a video showing an animation of how the design will look. There is also going to be work on BL 94/main street approaching I-94. The road will be converted to three lanes, and the interchange at Crystal & Main will be removed. A roundabout may be considered. Bob Lawrence said that he used to work in that area, knows that it is currently unsafe, and believes a roundabout would be an improvement.

**TIP Amendments for MDOT:** MDOT presented the following amendments:

FY	Project Name	Project Limits	Work Type	Phase	Federal Cost	State Cost	MDOT Job #	Proposed Change
2019	Southwest Region Longitudinal Pavement Markings	Benton Harbor Area	Traffic Safety	PE	\$518 HSIP	\$58 M	203024	Phase Abandoned
2019	Southwest Region Longitudinal Pavement Markings	Benton Harbor Area	Traffic Safety	PE	\$900 HSIP	\$100 M	203025	Phase Abandoned

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the amendment as presented. Made by Terry Smith, second by Steve Tilly. **Motion approved.**

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

## 11. Old Business

None.

## 12. New Business

**Approval of 2020 projects:** Kovnat explained that for the 2020-2023 TIP to be approved, year 2020 has to match year 2020 in the 2017-2020 TIP. Kovnat mentioned that TCATA had made changes to their projects since the last approval in February.

Dewey added that once the 2020-2023 TIP is submitted for federal review no changes to 2020 projects can occur until the new TIP is approved. In case the 2020-2023 TIP is not approved by October 1, 2019, the 2020 projects can still proceed under the current (2017-2020) TIP.

Kovnat explained that although the committees were approving All 2020 jobs, this does not reflect whether these jobs are awaiting federal approval. If a 2020 project required federal approval, the vote to approve/reaffirm 2020 projects will constitute the MPO approval for an amendment. However, if a job does not require MPO approval then the project obviously will not be included in the amendment package.

**Motion** for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the presented list of 2020 projects. Made by Steve Tilly, second by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

**Motion** for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by Eric Lester, second by Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

**Unified Work Program (UWP):** Kovnat briefly explained that the UWP is the annual work program for MPO staff. He outlined the work categories and tasks. Kovnat also showed the estimated funding available for staff to accomplish the tasks

**Motion** to approve the TwincATS FY 2020 Unified Work Program, subject to MDOT review. Made by Jim Sturdevant, second by Steve Tilly. **Motion approved.**

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

**Election of Technical Advisory Committee Vice Chair:** Fellows said that the TAC chair was Brian Berndt, who recently retired. Tim Zebell, the TAC vice chair automatically would become the chair if he accepts. A new election for the vice chair would need to occur. Fellows asked committee members to consider if they would like to serve as vice chair or nominate someone else.

The election for a vice chair was tabled.

## 13. State and Federal Updates

Sturdevant said that the 2020-2023 TIP would be approved at the next meeting. He also mentioned that there was many changes in positions at MDOT office of statewide planning. There are also several job openings.

## 14. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

TwinCATS presented a thank you to Brian Berndt for his many years of service to the Berrien County Road Commission and the TwinCATS committees.

**15. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2019, at 9:30 AM.

*Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Planner.*