

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

May 18, 2020 Conference Call

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

Pol. Ch.- Policy Chair; TAC Ch. - TAC Chair; Alt – Alternate; P - Present; A- Absent; A blank spot means the position is
 Others Present: Anita Boughner, MDOT Statewide Planning.

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 April 20, 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Kovnat gave an update on the census response rate. There was a discussion on what communities were doing to promote the census.

Kovnat presented on the drop in traffic due to COVID-19. In April 2020 traffic was about half of what it was in April 2019. This reduction in driving has led to a reduction in gas tax collected. Gallagher said that staff was going to send out more information about the transportation effects of COVID-19 in the coming weeks.

6. **Agency & Project Updates**

Transit

Gillespie gave an update on the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA). He said TCATA has approximately a 60% reduction in ridership. He mentioned that he submitted a grant request to FTA use funding from the CARES Act.

Local Road Agencies

Chris Cook said that he received a response from SHPO regarding Benton Harbor's Empire Avenue project; He expects a July letting.

Stack said that the work on Napier Avenue from the river to Colfax would begin after July 4. The second section of Napier, Colfax to M-139, would be constructed in the fall. He said that the delay is because MDOT projects are taking priority for contractors over local agency projects. Both sections will be converted from four lanes to three lanes. Stack added that this would add a 4-5 ft. shoulder.

Kevin said that the resurfacing of Marquette Woods was still awaiting SHPO clearance. He said there was an issue with the application when SHPO relocated their office.

Stauffer said that requests for bids for the Roosevelt Road Path would open on July 10.

MDOT

Sturdevant said that MDOT staff received a partial furlough of ten days for May through July. MDOT staff are forbidden from conducting any official business on these specific days.

Lipset said that MDOT was still moving forward with all of the Rebuilding Michigan Bond Program projects and the backfill projects.

7. **New Business: 2021 TwinCATS Unified Work Program**

Gallagher gave a brief overview of the TwinCATS Fiscal Year 2021 Unified Work Program (UWP). She explained that the UWP documents all the activities staff would undertake in Fiscal Year 2021 for TwinCATS. Many of the items in the UWP are required by federal regulations. Gallagher acknowledged that working on the impacts of COVID-19 would be a big focus in 2021. For transit, this means helping find ways to ensure vulnerable people can still access vital services. For roads, this means looking for alternative funding sources for maintenance.

Gallagher briefly explained some of the services staff provide to communities such as pulling crash data, mapping community data, working on recreation plans, asset management planning, and collecting traffic counts.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution in support of the TwinCATS Fiscal Year 2021 Unified Work Program. This will include technical corrections requested by MDOT or FHWA . Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the resolution supporting the TwinCATS FY 2021 Unified Work Program and submit the UWP to the SWMPC board. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

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

There was a discussion about conducting future meetings via video calls. Gallagher said she would send a poll on whether to use video calls or continue with the conference call only.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner