

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

May 17, 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		P		P							
Berrien Co. Board of	Ray Bell		x	A		P		A							
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A				A							
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P		P		P							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x												
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P		P		P							
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A		A		A							
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P		P		P							
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A		A		A							
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P		P		A							
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P		P		P							
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P		P		P							
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A		A		A							
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A		A		A							
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x		P		A		A							
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							
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P		P		P							
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	P		P		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P		P		P							
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A		A		A							
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P		P		P							
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	A		A		A							
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A		A		A							
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A		A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P		P		P							
	Roger Seeley	x		A		A		P							
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A		A		A							
St. Joseph Charter Township	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P		P		P							
	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P		P		P							
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P		P		P							
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Mike Schnable	x	x	A		P		P							
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x	A											
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P		A									
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A		A									
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A		A									
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A		A									
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A		A									
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan.	Scott Weber	x	x	A		A									
Southwest Michigan Planning	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P		P									
Southwest Michigan Planning	Brandon Kovnat			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

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

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

2. **Changes to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Approve Minutes from March 15, 2021 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Denise Cook and seconded by Eric Lester . **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

- a) **Timeline for the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development:** Gallagher showed how SWMPC staff sends multiple calls for projects to develop a multitude of transportation programs. She said applications would be released in June with a September due date.
- b) **Traffic Count & PASER updates:** Gallagher explained that PASER and traffic counts were the main data needed for project applications. She said SWMPC would rate 100% of the federal aid eligible roads over the summer. SWMPC also has a limited capacity to rate local (non-federal aid) roads upon request. SWMPC will also be taking traffic counts upon request.
- c) **Land use/new development updates:** Gallagher presented on several developments occurring in the area. Lipset said that any of the developments along MDOT roads would need approval from the Coloma TSC for driveway access and approval from the Lansing signals unit if they wanted to add traffic signals. She said that MDOT has the right to determine where driveways are located.

Gallagher highlighted how the developments were impacted by transportation options with developments in Benton Harbor having better bus access and with industrial development choosing sites based on the US-31/I-94 connection.

Gallagher explained how the stormwater elements of the Orchards Mall redevelopment fit into the Ox Creek watershed and encouraged members to learn more at <https://sustainoxcreek.org/>

6. **Agency Updates**

- a) **Public Transit:** TCATA is address FTA's comments on their Public Transit Safety Plan. They will bring that plan to TwinCATS at the next meeting for the committee to vote to support TCATA's safety targets. She added that TCATA had applied for a grants to purchase an electric bus.
- b) **Local Road Agencies**
 - Berrien County Road Department:** Stack said that the bid for Washington Ave. was awarded to Reith Riley for \$479,877. Stack said that all of his projects were coming in lower than estimated.

City of St. Joseph: Zebell said that Langley was in Phase 1b. Langley is closed to through traffic.
 - a) **MDOT:** Smith added that the work on M-139 over Buckthorn had tree clearing completed and work can begin after July 4th. The I-94 variable speed limit sign project was let with the bid coming in 5.5% above the estimate.

Lipsett provided a update on the I-94/US-31 construction. She said that the bridge removal went smoothly with the temporary closure of I-94. A detour route on Benton center was resurfaced. Lipsett said that in MDOT was planning on repairing I-94 exit 23 to Britain Avenue and also form I-196 to M-140. She said this would be two major work zones close together. An alternative would be to push back one of the projects. She asked the group whether they would prefer to have a longer delay in a single year or to have construction over more years. The general consensus was to “get it over with sooner” Lipsett said she was prosing to work with Indiana and Ontario to have signs early so long distance travers could make detours.

7. New Business

- b) **Approval of projects to utilize Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds:** Kovnat said that a project review subcommittee is recommending to split HIP funds between two projects which are on the illustrative list. Both projects extend form the limits of projects already programed in the TIP. Zebell added that the portion of Broad street was taking extra damage from the construction on Langley.

Motion for the technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the split of Highway Infrastructure funds as presented and amended the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program accordingly. Made by Terrie Smith and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Made by John Hodgson and seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion Approved.**

- c) **MDOT Amendments:** there were no updates to add beyond what is contained n the Packet.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the MDOT project Amendments to 2020-2023 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 Denise Cook and seconded by Chris Cook. **Motion Approved.**

- d) **Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Work Plan:** Gallagher said that the Unified work Program (UWP) is the annual list of work activities for the SWMPC staff does for TwinCATS. she said most of the items in the UWP were federally required. The main focus for FY 2022 will be the development of the 2023-2026 TIP. staff will also begin work with MDOT on updating the travel model for the next Long Range Plan.

Gallagher presented some of the comments made by MDOT about the UWP. One item was to replace the term “non-motorized” with the more specific terms pedestrians and bicycle. This recognizes the actual mode of transportation and does not any user in relationship to automobile users.

Sturdevant asked that the motion to approve the UWP include the changes recommended by MDOT review

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy committee approve the resolution in support of the TwinCATS Fiscal Year 2022 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 Eric Lester and seconded Denise Cook. **Motion approved.**

e) **2023-2026 Project Scoring Methodology:** Gallagher said that a scoring methodology is needed to show how the Committees uses performance measures when choosing projects. Kovnat explained the prosed changed from the scoring methodology used in 2020-2023. Zebell said he had several comments and suggested a separate meeting to discuss them.

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

Boughner said that MDOT had committed 95% of the federal urban fund already. Kovnat said that this wouldn't effect twiNCATS because all of the project are obligated.

9. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

DRAFT