

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date & Time: Monday, October 20, 2025 at 9:30 am

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

Zoom Link: [TwinCATS Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Audio: Call in Number: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 921 578 9818
Passcode: 288785

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of September 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes (*Action*) pg. 4
5. SWMPC Staff Report
6. Local Agency Updates
 - 6.1. Construction Updates
 - 6.2. Planned Projects pg. 9
 - 6.3. Community Updates (Developments, Land Use Changes, new Plans, Policies etc.)
7. Transit Updates
 - 7.1. Twin City Area Transportation Authority
 - 7.2. Berrien Bus
8. MDOT Updates
 - 8.1. Current and Planned MDOT Projects – *Jon Smith* pg. 11
 - 8.2. Southwest Region Updates – *Adrain Stroupe*
 - 8.3. Statewide Updates – *Jim Sturdevant/Danniel Brooks*
9. Approval of Base Year Employment, Housing, and Population data for the 2055 LRP (*Action*)
Available at: <https://www.swmpc.org/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=504>
10. Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Comments can be sent prior to the meeting to Brandon Kovnat at 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

TwinCATS Meeting Attendance for Fiscal Year 2025

TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	POL	Representative	Oct. 2024	Jan. 2025	Mar. 2025	May. 2025	Jun. 2025	Aug. 2025	Sep. 2025
City of Benton Harbor		X	Alex Little							
City of Benton Harbor	X	Alt	Tim Drews	P		P	P	P	P	P
City of Bridgman		X	Juan Ganum	V			V	V		P
City of Bridgman	X		VACANT							
City of New Buffalo	X	X	Darwin Watson							
City of St. Joseph		Alt	Tim Zebell	P	V	V			P	
City of St. Joseph	X		Alex Austin	P		P	P	P	P	P
Village of Grand Beach	X	X	VACANT							
Village of Michiana	X	X	VACANT							
Village of Shoreham	X	X	Mike Allard	V	P	V	V	V		V
Village of Stevensville		X	Kacey Dominguez	P	P	V			V	V
Village of Stevensville	X		Tim Drews	P		P	P	P	P	P
Benton Charter Township	X	X	Richard Royall	V	V	V	V		V	V
Chikaming Township	X	X	Dave Bunte							
Hagar Township		X	VACANT							
Hagar Township	X		VACANT							
Lake Charter Township		X	VACANT							
Lake Charter Township	X		VACANT							
Lincoln Charter Township		X	Dick Stauffer		P			P	P	P
Lincoln Charter Township	X		Terrie Smith		P	V	P		V	
New Buffalo Township	X	X	Michelle Heit							P
Royalton Township	X	X	Steve Tilly							
Sodus Township	X	X	VACANT							
St. Joseph Charter Township		X	Denise Cook	P		P	P	P	P	
St. Joseph Charter Township		Alt	Jonathon Fisk		P	P	P	P	P	P
St. Joseph Charter Township	X		Roger Seeley	P	P	P	P	P	P	

P = In person; V = virtual

TwinCATS Meeting Attendance for Fiscal Year 2025

TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	POL	Representative	Oct. 2024	Jan. 2025	Mar. 2025	May. 2025	Jun. 2025	Aug. 2025	Sep. 2025
Berrien County Commisison		X	Ray Bell							
Berrien County Comm Dev.	X		Paul Gilespeie		P	V	P	P	P	P
Berrien County Planning Comm.		X	John Humphry			P	P	P	P	P
Berrien County Road Dept.		X	Mark Heyliger	P	P	P	P			V
Berrien County Road Dept.	X		Kevin Stack	V	P		P			V
TCATA		X	Todd Schurn				P			
TCATA	X		Rufus Adams							
TCATA	Alt		Oliver Lindsay		V					
SWMI Airport	X	X	Shannon Christy							
Cornerstone Alliance	X	X	VACANT							
Disability Network	X		Cindy Gray			P	P	P		P
Kinexus	X		VACANT							
MDOT, Coloma	X	X	Jon Smith	V	V	V	V			P
MDOT, Planning	X	X	Jim Sturdevant	P	V	V		V	V	P
MDOT, Planning	Alt	Alt	Richard Bayus	P						
MDOT, Southwest Region	X	X	Adrian Stroupe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
MDOT, Southwest Region	Alt	Alt	Josh Grab							
NIRPC	X	X	Scott Weber							
EGLE, Air Quality	X		Breanna Bukowski							
MDOT, OPT	X		Fred Featherly		V	V	V	V		
MDOT, SUTA	X		Katie Beck				V			
MDOT, SUTA	X		Hannah Qoronfleh					V	V	V
FHWA	X	X	VACANT							
FTA	X	X	Evan Gross							
SWMPC	X	X	Kim Gallagher	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
SWMPC	Alt	Alt	Brandon Kovnat	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

P = In person; V = virtual

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
 Monday, September 15, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance

TwinCATS Member Organization	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Tim Drews	City of Benton Harbor	X	Alt
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman		X
Alex Austin	City of St. Joseph	X	
Mike Allard <i>(Virtual)</i>	Village of Shoreham	X	X
Kacey Dominguez <i>(Virtual)</i>	Village of Stevensville		X
Richard Royall <i>(Virtual)</i>	Benton Charter Township	X	X
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township		X
Michelle Heit	New Buffalo Township	X	X
Jonathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township		Alt
Paul Gilespeie	Berrien County Comm Dev.	X	
John Humphry	Berrien County Planning Comm.		X
Mark Heyliger <i>(Virtual)</i>	Berrien County Road Department		X
Kevin Stack <i>(Virtual)</i>	Berrien County Road Department	X	
Cindy Gray	Disability Network	X	
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT, Planning	X	X
Jon Smith	MDOT, Coloma	X	X
Adrian Stroupe	MDOT, Southwest Region	X	X
Hana Qoronfleh <i>(Virtual)</i>	MDOT, SUTA	X	
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC	X	X
Brandon Kovnat	SWMP	Alt	Alt

Others in Attendance: Glen Youngstedt, Lincoln Charter Township

Committee Members Absent

TwinCATS Member Organization	TwinCATS Member Organization	TAC	Pol
Alex Little	Alex Little		X
Darwin Watson	Darwin Watson	X	X
City of St. Joseph	Emily Hackworth or Tim Zebell		X
Chikaming Township	Dave Bunte	X	X
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	X	
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	X	X
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denice Cook		X
Berrien County Commission	Ray Bell		X
TCATA	Todd Schurn		X
TCATA	Rufus Adams	X	
Southwest Michigan Airport	Shannon Christy	X	X
NIRPC	Scott Weber	X	X
EGLE, Air Quality	Breanna Bukowski	X	
MDOT, OPT	Fred Featherly	X	
FHWA	Vacant	X	X
FTA	Evan Gross	X	X

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, September 15, 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 took roll call.

Changes to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of August 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2025 TwinCATS combined Policy and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Made by John Humphry Seeley and seconded by Tim Drews. **Motion approved.**

SWMPC Staff Report

Gallagher reminded the committees to review the employment data that will be used in the 2055 Long-Range Plan travel demand model.

Local Agency Updates

Projects under construction

Tim Drews gave an update on the City of St. Joseph projects:

- **Cleveland Ave:** Will be open to traffic on Wednesday (September 17th)
- **Botham Ave:** Watermain testing is occurring. Detour on Niles Ave will end in early October.

Benton Harbor's Colfax Ave proeject: Drews reported that the curb is being added now, and it will be complete by November.

Lakeshore Trail: Kevin Stack gave an update saying that they are adding asphalt, and it will be completed by winter.

Planned Projects

Red Arrow Highway Proeject: Stack reported that the GI is submitted, with a target of the January Letting.

Roosevelt Path : Stauffer reported that the proeject which was originally funded for 2025 will be moved to FY 2027. Congressional earmark will remain useable until end of 2027. However, the TwinCATS Carbon Reduction Funding will expire.

Juan Ganum gave an update on Shared Streets & Spaces Grant for the City of Bridgman. The grant is being used for the Sideyard project, which will be an expansion of the Bridgman Courtyard project. Both areas are part of the city's park system. An RFP for the project is expected to be issued soon.

Amendment Request – Add TAP Grant for St. Joseph

See meeting packet page 7 for project details.

Alex Austin explained that the City of St. Joseph applied for TAP funding to support non-motorized improvements that will be included in the M-63/Main Street project.

Smith added that as part of the M63/Main Street Ship and Port Streets will be converted from one-way pairs to two two-way streets. Port Street will be transferred to City jurisdiction after MDOT completes necessary repairs. The right-of-way will be retained, and bike connections to Port Street will be completed later with City funds. The decision was made not to include bike lanes on Main Street/M-63 because cyclists prefer a parallel route instead.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve adding the Transportation Alternatives Program funding for improvements on Main Street/ M-63 in the city of St. Joseph as presented to the TwinCATS 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Jim Sturdevant and seconded by Cindy Grey. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy Committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory committee. Made by Juan Ganum and seconded by John Humphry.

Community Updates

Juan Ganum reported that the City of Bridgman is updating its Master Plan, funded by a \$40,000 MEDC grant, and **is also** preparing a new five-year Parks and Recreation Plan. The City submitted a Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A grant application for improvements to Mathieu and Willard Streets.

Gallagher reported that NFC reclassification applications have been submitted to MDOT. Once reviewed, they will be presented to TwinCATS for approval. will include requests to reclassify the following local roads to federal aid eligible:

- Matheau in City of Bridgman
- Willard St in City of Bridgman
- Clay St in City of New Buffalo
- Marquette Woods in Royalton & Lincoln Townships

Transit Updates

Twin City Area Transportation Authority

Gallagher reported that a formal request was sent to TCATA and Berrien County to designate a new transit agency as the official FTA Section 5307 funding recipient for the Benton Harbor–St. Joseph urban area, recommending that the new entity be a transit authority formed under Public Act 196.

Gallagher mentioned that the Berrien Health Consortium, a group of health providers in the county, is holding discussions on countywide transit and funding. This began due to their concerns about the lack of transit service for many areas in the county, since many health and human services clients are reliant on public transportation.

Gallagher announced that TCATA has released an RFP for a turnkey transit management services, which can be found on mywaythere.org. Gillespie commented that it seems like an issue for TCTA to sign a contract with a company, since it is going to be dissolved.

Berrien Bus

Gillespie mentioned that the Berrien Bus Local advisory committee supports a countywide transit authority, which would serve as the recipient of both the urban 5307 and rural 5311 FTA funding. Said he had been meeting weekly with The county community development director Dan Fette, Berrien Bus co-director Dennis Schuh, and Benton Harbor officials to discuss this. Previously, Benton Harbor was opposed to this due to concerns about losing control, but now they are no longer expressing direct opposition.

Gallagher gave a brief explanation of how a transit authority is created. authority is created. Berrien county would act as the initial sponsor that vote to create the authority. They would then send letters to each city and township, who would have 30 days to opt out. The transit authority would be an independent organization, with the ability to levy a milage.

MDOT Updates

Current and planned MDOT Projects – Jon Smith:

See packet page 8-9 for details.

- **I-94 from exit 23-Brttian Ave:** westbound work is ongoing and should be done before winter.
- **I-94 from I-196 to Hennessy Road:** Exit 39 is now open; Work should be done by winter.
- **M-139:** Final plans will be completed soon. A public meeting next Tuesday (September 23). MDOT has received additional funding for safety improvements .
- **M-63/Main Street in St. Joseph:** the Plan Review, which is 70% of final plans, is expected to be completed soon.

Stauffer raised concerns about the timing of the traffic signal on Lakeshore & Maiden Lane. Smith responded that he had received similar comments already and asked the electrician to check it out.

Southwest Region Updates – Adrain Stroupe

Stroupe reported that there was confusion among the non-motorized users at the intersection of US-12 and Red Arrow due to the newly completed path on Red Arrow. MDOT is working with the Berrien County Road Department and New Buffalo Township to explore installing crosswalks. This effort may align with the proposed reclassification of Clay Street to federal-aid eligible status to continue non-motorized improvements.

Statewide Updates

Jim Sturdevant announced that the Work plan for FY 2026 has been approved, allowing SWMPC staff to be paid. The FY 2026-2029 TIP was approved by FTA and is under review by FHWA with approval expected before FY 2026 begins on October 1, 2026.

Hanna Qoronfleh noted that she had made the final updates to the population and housing data which they will use for the travel demand model. She requested this data be approved at the October TwinCATS meeting along with the employment data.

Privilege of the Floor or Public Comment

Juan Ganum announced that he will be leaving the City of Bridgman to become the Community Development Director for the City of Holland. He reflected on his nearly 30 years of collaboration with SWMPC, beginning with his first job after college as planner at SWMPC, followed serving on the NATS committee while working at the City of Niles, and then as a member of TwinCATS as the City Manager of Bridgman.

Jim Sturdevant announced his retirement. Daniel Brooks will serve as the new statewide planner working with TwinCATS. Committee members thanked Jim for his years of service and congratulated him on his retirement. Kim Gallagher presented Jim with a certificate of appreciation from TwinCATS recognizing his contributions to transportation planning in the region.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10 :30 AM. The next TwinCATS meeting is scheduled for Monday October 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Transportation Planner

Red Arrow Highway

Job Number: 215942

Submitted by: Kevin Stack on behalf of the Berrien County Road Department

Date: 10/08/2025

Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2026
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department
Project/Road Name	Red Arrow Highway
Limits	1000 ft. south of DC Cook to Stevensville Village limits

Work Description

Mill & Overlay, Road Diet, Traffic Signal Upgrade

Programmed Project Cost

TwinCATS FY 2026 STBG	\$1,000,000	37.04%
Local Match	\$1,700,000	62.96%
Total Participating Cost	\$2,700,000	100%

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change
Latest Estimate	\$2,351,167.50	12.92% Lower than programmed
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes:

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Estimated Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Program application submitted		7/7/25	
NEPA form 5323 Submitted		1/23/25	
NEPA approval received	8/21/25		Awaiting SHPO approval
SHPO approval received	8/20/25		Awaiting results of Ph I Arch Survey
Grade Inspection package submitted		7/7/25	
Grade Inspection meeting date		8/6/25	
Final ROW Certification submitted	9/05/25		
Complete Biddable Package submitted	9/19/25		Anticipated 10/17/25
Letting Date	01/09/26		Anticipated January 2026
Construction Start	4/1/26		April 2026

Additional Comments on project Status:

The project is targeting a January letting, depending on results of the Ph I Archeological survey work and approval from MDOT of the forthcoming report.

Red Arrow Highway

Job Number: 224968

Submitted by: Kevin Stack on behalf of the Berrien County Road Department

Date: 08/11/2025

Project Details

Fiscal Year:	2026
Responsible Agency	Berrien County Road Department
Project/Road Name	Red Arrow Highway Non-motorized Path
Limits	Bridgman north city limits to Stevensville south village limits

Work Description

Construct a 10 ft. non-motorized path on the west side of Red Arrow Highway

Programmed Project Cost

FY 2026 Statewide TAP	\$3,096,048	80%
Local Match	\$774,012	20%
Total Participating Cost	\$3,870,060	100%
Non-Participating	\$29,000	
Total W/ Non-participating	\$3,899,060	

Revised Project Costs

	Amount	Percent Change
Latest Estimate	\$3,768,560	
Accepted Bid		

Explanation for cost changes:

Project Timeline

Project Milestone	Estimated Date	Actual Date Completed	Comments
Program application submitted		7/7/25	
NEPA form 5323 Submitted		1/23/25	
NEPA approval received	8/21/25		Awaiting SHPO approval
SHPO approval received	8/20/25		Awaiting results of Ph I Arch Survey
Grade Inspection package submitted		7/7/25	
Grade Inspection meeting date		8/6/25	
Final ROW Certification submitted	9/05/25		
Complete Biddable Package submitted	9/19/25		Anticipated 10/17/25
Letting Date	01/09/26		Anticipated January 2026
Construction Start	4/1/26		April 2026

Additional Comments on project Status:

The project is targeting a January letting, depending on results of the Ph I Archeological survey work and approval from MDOT of the forthcoming report.

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated October 9, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Currently Under Construction

Lincoln, St. Joseph, and Benton Township

Project: I-94 from exit 23 to Britan Ave. – Reconstruction (JN 131843 & 132824)

Status: I-94 WB work in progress. I-94 WB entrance Ramp at Exit 27 (Niles Avenue) is closed but should be open in the coming few weeks but the exit ramp is open. Exit 29 (Pipestone Road) entrance and exit ramps are closed. Exit 30 (Napier Avenue) entrance ramp is closed but the exit ramp is open.

Est. Con: Jul. 10, 2023 – Nov. 30, 2026

St. Joseph and Lincoln Township

Project: I-94BL/Lakeshore Dr. at Maiden Lane – Signal upgrade (JN 209414)

Status: Signal is operational.

Est Con: Dec. 17, 2023 – TBD

Benton Township

Project: I-94 from Pavement Change east of I-96 to Hennessey Road – HMA Overlay (JN 128907)

Status: Construction is underway including Hennessey Road bridge work. Maintaining 1 lane of traffic on EB pavement and 1 lane on WB pavement. Targeting Opening of lanes in mid-November.

Est Con: Mar. 01, 2025 – Aug. 15, 2026

Benton Harbor/St. Joseph

Project: I-94BL/Main Street over St. Joseph River – Rehabilitate hydraulic Cylinders (JN 221347)

Status: Remaining cylinders requiring rehabilitation will be completed this coming winter.

Est Con: Dec. 16, 2024 – Apr. 01, 2026

Projects Scheduled for Construction in FY 2026

Benton Township and City of Benton Harbor

Project: M-139 from 0.44 miles south of I-94 to I-94 BL/Main St – Reconstruction (JN 210875)

Status: Design is in progress. Final plan packaging in progress for mid-November turn-in for the January 2026 letting. 2026 mainline construction work will consist of M-139 and I-94 BL north of Pipestone Road and 2027 mainline construction work will consist of M-139 work from Fairplain Drive to Pipestone Road including both Napier Avenue and Pipestone Road work for the county.

City of St. Joseph

Project: M-63 (Niles Ave) @ Lincoln Ave, M-63 over St. Joseph River Bascule bridge (Blossomland) – Signal Modernization (JN 211989)

Status: Design in progress. Targeting 02/06/2026 letting.

Various Location in Berrien County

Project: I-94 & US-31 Bridges – Capital Structural or Preventive maintenance (JN 214931, 214992, 215028)

Status: Turned in for targeted letting of 09/04/2026.

Bridgman

Project: I-94 WB North of Exit 16 – Guardrail Extension (JN 222028)

Status: Turned in for targeted letting of 11/07/2025.

Michigan Department of Transportation Projects

Within the TwinCATS Planning Area

Updated October 9, 2025 by Jon Smith, MDOT Coloma TSC Engineer – smithj29@michigan.gov

Projects Scheduled for Construction in FY 2027

City of St. Joseph

Project: M-63 & I-94BL from Central Avenue to the Blossomland and Bicentennial bridges – Reconstruction (JN 213168)

Status: Design in progress. At the plan review milestone. 5th stakeholder meeting and public meeting held 06/02/25. Recently had a discussion on transit needs within the project limits on Port Street.

Lincoln Township

Project: I-94 west of exit 22 – Construct crash investigation sites (JN 211804)

Status: Environmental reviews in progress and design will begin soon.

Hagar Township

Project: I-196 over at Riverside Rd., Central Ave., and Red Arrow Hwy – Bridge Rehabilitation (JN 211253 & 211558)

Status: Design in progress.

Stay up to date with MDOT: news, projects, report a pothole, traffic alerts, five-year plan at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/drive>