

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND POLICY COMMITTEE COMBINED MINUTES

November 16, 2020 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		A	A			P	P		P	
Berrien Co. Board of	Bill Chickering		x	P	A		A	A			A	P		P	
Berrien Co. Community Dev. Dept.	Evan Smith	x		A	P		A	A			A	A		A	
Berrien Co. Planning Commission	Eric Lester, M.D.		x	P	P		A	P			A	P		P	
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	(vacant)		x					A							
Berrien Co. Road Dept.	Kevin Stack	x		P	A		A	P			P	A		P	
City of Benton Harbor	Ellis Mitchel		x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
City of Benton Harbor	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	A		P	P			P	P		P	
City of Bridgman	Juan Ganum	Alt	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
City of Bridgman	Tim Kading	x	Alt	P	P		A	A			P	A		A	
City of St. Joseph	John Hodgson		x	P	P		A	A			A	P		A	
City of St. Joseph	Tim Zebell (TAC V. Ch.)	x		P	A		A	A			P	P		P	
	Tom McDonald	Alt		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Cornerstone Alliance	Sue Wyman	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Disability Network of SW Mich.	Cindy gray	x			P		P	P			P	P		A	
Hagar Township	(vacant)	x	x												
Kinexus	(vacant)	x													
Lake Charter Township	Gloria Payne	x	x	A			A	A			A	A		A	
Lincoln Charter Township	Dick Stauffer (Pol. Ch.)		x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Lincoln Charter Township	Terrie Smith	x		P	P		P	P			A	A		P	
MDOT – Bureau of Trans. Planning	Jim Sturdevant	x	x	A	A		P	p			P	P		P	
MDOT – Southwest Region	Amy Lipset	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
MDOT – Southwest Region	Brian Sanada	Alt	Alt	A	A		P	A			A	A		A	
MDOT – Trans. Service Center	Jonathon Smith	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Royalton Township	Steve Tilly	x	x	P	P		A	A			A	A		A	
Sodus Township	David Chandler	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Southwest Mich. Regional Airport	Vince Desjardins	x	x	A	P		A	A			A	A		A	
St. Joseph Charter Township	Denise Cook		x	P	A		P	P			P	P		P	
St. Joseph Charter Township	Roger Seeley	x		A	P		A	A			A	A		A	
	Ron Griffin	Alt		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
	Jonathan Fisk	Alt		P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Twin Cities Area Trans. Authority	Paul Gillespie	x	x	P	P		A	P			P	P		P	
Village of Grand Beach	(vacant)	x	x												
Village of Shoreham	Stephanie Clarke	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Village of Stevensville	(vacant)		x												
Village of Stevensville	Chris Cook (Pol. V. Ch.)	x	Alt	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Federal Highway Administration	Andy Pickard	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Federal Transit Administration	Angelica Salgado	x	x	A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Modeling	Katie Beck	x		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
MDOT - Passenger Division	Fred Featherly	x		A	A		A	A			A	A		A	
Northwestern Ind. Reg. Plan.	Scott Weber	x	x	P	P		A	A			A	A		A	
Southwest Michigan Planning	Kim Gallagher	x	x	P	P		P	P			P	P		P	
Southwest Michigan Planning	Brandon Kovnat			p	A		P	P			P	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; John Lanum, MDOT Statewide Planning; Carey Dunbrauer , MDOT Coloma TSC; Suzannah Deneau, Wightman & Associates.

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 August 17, 2020 TwinCATS Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee meeting. Made by Terrie Smith and seconded by Jonathon Fisk. **Motion approved.**

5. **SWMPC Staff Report**

Kovnat mentioned an update to the SWMPC Public Participation Plan, that includes language about virtual/electronic meetings. Recently the Michigan Open Meetings Act (OMA) was amended by the state senate to allow virtual/electronic meetings to occur due to a state of emergency. Previously the virtual public meetings were allowed due to executive orders by the governor.

Gallagher said that the Public Participation Plan could be approved solely by a vote from the SWMPC board.

6. **Agency & Project Updates**

a) **Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority:** Gillespie said TCATA closed its office based on the latest guidance from the governor. They are currently working on their safety plan, which should be finished by the end of the week. The report will include safety targets, which TwinCATS will vote to support.

b) **Local Agencies**

Berrien County Road Department: Stack said construction was finishing up for the season. He said that the project on Washington Avenue was planned to stop at Maiden Lane because that was all the funding could cover. The project on the Napier bridge is ready to be submitted for bidding. The project will include beam repair, painting, sidewalk & railing repair, and epoxy coating. During the bridge repair one lane will be closed at a time.

City of St. Joseph: Zebell said that the Langley project was obligated for a January bidding. He said that there was actually less tree that had to be removed than for the Morton path. He hoped to be able to relocate utilities to the west side of the road with the path and then plant more trees on the east side of Langley.

c) **MDOT:** Jonathon Smith said that FY 2021 state appropriations for non-freeway repairs was reduced, and they have to push the repair of M-63 North of the St. Joseph River back. He introduced Carey Dunbrauer, who is the new projects and contracts manager for the Transportation Service Center. She will be the alternate representative for Jonathon Smith.

There was a question about repairs on I-94 from exit 23 to the St. Joseph River. Lipset said that this would be a full reconstruction in 2023 from the river all the way to Napier Avenue. The

timeline was made to occur after the US-31 extension was complete. Lipset mentioned that the project would include adding a right turn entry-ramp on M-63 to I-94 eastbound.

Lipset said that work was progressing to ensure traffic flow during the next season's major construction. On I-94 BL/Main Street, the roundabout at Crystal Avenue is being paved and work is progressing toward Euclid. The Bridge on Britain Avenue to go over the extension of US-31 is being built.

7. **New Business: Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

- a) **Safety Performance Targets:** Kovnat discussed traffic safety in the TwinCATS planning area and Berrien County. He showed a map of the ramps on I-94 with the most truck crashes and mentioned planned projects that might reduce future crashes.

Lipset added that the proposal for the I-94 Pipestone exit was being changed. Initially the plan was to align the exit ramp to the light at Mall Drive. A property that was needed could not be acquired by MDOT. Therefore MDOT revised the plan to move the I-94 westbound exit ramp closer to the I-94 westbound entrance ramp. This should reduce the conflict with turns occurring at Mall Drive.

There was a question about if we knew where those who were drink and driving originated (bars, homes etc.). Gallagher said that there had been some mapping of the location of bars versus the location of crashes on US-12. Lanum added that another MPO had contact their law enforcement to discuss where they saw drunk crashes as a way to assist in preventing crashes.

Kovnat then presented Michigan's 2021 safety performance targets. He explained that the targets are the forecast for the 2021 based on a model developed by the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). The targets represent the status quo scenario; the goal is to do better than the targets. Kovnat further explained that TwinCATS has the option of selection specific MPO level targets or to agree to support the state targets.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee adopt and support the state's 2021 safety targets. Made by Chris cook and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

Motion for the Policy committee to approve the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion made by Jim Sturdevant, seconded by Eric Lester. **Motion approved.**

- b) **TCATA:** Gillespie said that the driveway at the TCATA headquarters needed emergency repairs. The issue is the storm drain backing up and causing erosion under the driveway, which necessitates rerouting the storm drain to the city's storm drain and tearing out and replacing the driveway. He proposed to use saving from the purchase of the wrecker and fence to pay for the repairs. He said the actual cost might be different but needed the full amount reallocated just in case.

- c) **MDOT:** Lipset said that the large change in the Right-of-Way cost was to acquire property at the M-63 & I-94 ramp to build the right turn onramp mentioned during the MDOT update. The construction for the ramp will be funded 100% by the state.

Motion for the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the policy committee approve the amendments to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Made by Chris cook and seconded by Terrie Smith. **Motion approved.**

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

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

None.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2020 at 9:30 AM. It was noted that unless there is a pressing need, TwinCATS will cancel its December Meeting.

Minutes compiled by Brandon Kovnat, SWMPC Associate Transportation planner