

TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 17, 2018 11:00 A.M. Kinexus, Lighthouse Room, 499 W Main St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Sub-Committee Members Present	
Name	Representing
Brian Berndt	Berrien County Road Department
Chris Cook	City of Benton Harbor & Village of Stevensville
Tim Zebell	City of St. Joseph
Sue Wyman	Cornerstone Alliance
Dick Stauffer	Lincoln Charter Township
Johnathon Fisk	St. Joseph Charter Township
Alex Little	TCATA

Others Present	
Name	Representing
Heather Cole	Be Healthy Berrien
Kevin Stack	Berrien County Road Department
Juan Ganum	City of Bridgman
Jim Sturdevant	MDOT Planning (entered meeting at 11:30 AM)
Brandon Kovnat	SWMPC (entered meeting at 11:30 AM)
Ryan Fellows	SWMPC
Kim Gallagher	SWMPC

1. **Call to Order/Purpose/Introductions**

Gallagher called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM. Gallagher reviewed the purpose of the meeting was to review projects submitted for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to make a recommendation to the Technical Advisory Committee, which in-turn advises the Police Committee, who makes the decision. She also reviewed the definitions of some of the terminology that might get used, such as advanced construct (borrowing funds from future years) and conversions (taking of funds to use in a previous year).

Berndt noted the TIP required fiscal constraints – meaning that funds must be spent in the year given or they will be returned to the State of Michigan. Stauffer emphasized the importance of not losing funds. Gallagher noted that it has been many years since TwinCATS lost funds.

Cook started a discussion on the scoring methodology used on the submitted projects. He said he thought the scoring system was not perfect. For example, sometimes 3R projects were recorded as 4R projects. He said judgment needed to be applied on Complete Street points on exempt projects. More consideration is needed on crash reduction factors scoring. Also, which sort of planning document should count for points? He doesn't necessarily believe the scores are right. Zebell offered that next time a peer review session could be held with engineer committee members and SWMPC staff.

2. **Public Comment**

Heather Cole of Be Healthy Berrien presented the Sub-Committee with a letter stating the importance of non-motorized infrastructure and support for Complete Streets.

3. Project Selection

Berndt reviewed with the Sub-Committee already approved projects. He noted that the Hickory Creek Bridge project in Lincoln Township had to be scaled down due to the wetland not being good for sidewalk construction and that the State would not give a permit for it. Paved shoulders would be used instead. He said \$100,000 would be Lincoln Township cost and \$270,000 would be Berrien County Road Department cost.

Sturdevant and Kovnat entered the meeting at 11:30 AM. A recap was given to catch up Kovnat and Sturdevant on the scoring methodology issues. Gallagher noted that the hope was to take opinion out of the process. Kovnat said that clarity was needed on answers stating an increase of asset life expectancy versus just stating life expectancy. Cook noted the difficulty of doing crash reduction factors.

Sub-Committee members reviewed the various projects. Berndt sought balance so that each jurisdiction could be awarded a project. Because the request for Langley Avenue is so large, funding needed to come from two years.

Motion for the Sub-Committee to recommend to the Technical Advisory Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approval of the following TIP projects within the specified years.

2021: Langley Avenue \$650,000; Marquette Woods Road \$325,000 (\$50,000 advance construct from 2023)
2022: Red Arrow Highway south \$656,000; Empire Ave. \$339,000 (\$45,000 advance construct from 2023)
2023: Lake Street \$440,000; John Beers Road \$224,000; Napier Avenue \$256,000; \$50,000 Marquette Woods Road conversion to 2021; \$45,000 Empire Avenue conversion to 2022

The Illustrative List top priorities will be: 1. Washington Avenue; 2. Pipestone Street; 3. Langley Avenue; then remaining application projects per score order.

Brian Berndt – Yes

Chris Cook – Yes

Tim Zebell – Yes

Sue Wyman – Yes

Dick Stauffer – Yes

Johnathon Fisk – No

Alex Little – No

Motion by Cook, second by Zebell.

Vote: 5 yes, 2 no – **Motion approved.**

For the record, Little objected to Empire Avenue being pushed into 2022 rather than the requested 2021. He said his busses were taking damage from Empire Avenue, and that the work could not wait.

Although it is not possible to commit 2024 funds at this time, it is the intent of the Sub-Committee to have the top priority of the Illustrative List be funded in 2024.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM.

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Ryan Fellows, Associate Planner.)